The Office of Undergraduate Education

ALEKS Math Placement Assessment Exam

UT Dallas uses the ALEKS Assessment to optimize the placement of all students in their first math course. The ALEKS Assessment is offered by the ALEKS corporation, an educational knowledge and assessment research company. The assessment is an open format that does not use multiple choice questions; students may find the experience substantially different from many standardized examinations.

The ALEKS Assessment module at UT Dallas costs $40 per student. The module consists of three parts:

1. Initial assessment.
2. Four retests prior to the deadline.
3. Up to 6 months access to the prep and learning module.

Initial ALEKS Assessment

Students will take the initial assessment at the beginning of their ALEKS usage. This assessment will provide the student practice for taking the exam with a proctor. The initial assessment is not used for placement at UT Dallas. Additionally, students may derive a great deal of benefit from the knowledge profile that the initial assessment generates. If a student did not receive the minimum score for the desired UT Dallas mathematics course, the student may use the knowledge profile to identify areas of needed review.

Even if the student did receive the desired minimum score, that student may find it helpful to review materials that the assessment identified as a knowledge weakness. Remember, courses at UT Dallas are challenging and the pace is demanding. Professors expect students to have a thorough knowledge of prerequisite material.

Proctored testing with the ALEKS Assessment

Proctored testing with the ALEKS Assessment will result in the only valid scores for math placement. Each student may take the ALEKS Assessment Exam up to five times including the initial un-proctored attempt. Students must wait at least 72 hours before being able to take the exam again. After the first attempt, a student may complete some of the self-paced ALEKS tutorials. Students are highly encouraged to work in the tutorials to improve their knowledge of suggested mathematical areas.

Remember, students should obtain a final score at least one week prior to attending freshman orientation. Math placement scores are only valid for one year.

PLEASE NOTE: The ALEKS Assessment Module rather than the ALEKS Learning Module should be used for placement purposes. The ALEKS Learning Module will periodically reassess students to determine how much the student has learned. These periodic Learning Module reassessments are not comprehensive of all material and cannot be used for placement purposes. Your advisor will not have access to these scores.

Continuing ALEKS Review and Instruction

Students have access to up to six months of the online prep and review provided by the ALEKS learning module. Students are encouraged to work on areas identified for review and then take another assessment to obtain a desired placement score. After the second attempt students will be required to spend 10 hours in the prep and learning module before attempting the
assessment a third time.

PLEASE NOTE: The ALEKS Assessment Module rather than the ALEKS Learning Module should be used for placement purposes. The ALEKS Learning Module will periodically reassess students to determine how much the student has learned. These periodic Learning Module reassessments are not comprehensive of all material and cannot be used for placement purposes. Your advisor will not have access to these scores.

Paying for the ALEKS Assessment

Students will pay UT Dallas directly for access to the ALEKS Assessment. The $40 fee will be payable through Marketplace prior to accessing the assessment. Please note that the five assessments (including the initial assessment) and the self-paced tutorial are included in the $40 fee.

ALEKS Math Placement Score

1. Your ALEKS score will be incorporated into your UT Dallas student profile and used for placement purposes. Your academic advisor will have access to your ALEKS score.

2. You can view your score by logging into your ALEKS account.

UT Dallas Math Course | Minimum ALEKS Score
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Math 1306 - College Algebra | Minimum ALEKS Score of 35% Required for Placement
Math 1314 - College Algebra | Minimum ALEKS Score of 50% Required for Placement
Math 1316 - Trigonometry | Minimum ALEKS Score of 50% Required for Placement
Math 1325 - Applied Calculus I | Minimum ALEKS Score of 70% Required for Placement
Math 2306 - Analytic Geometry | Minimum ALEKS Score of 70% Required for Placement
Math 2312 - Precalculus | Minimum ALEKS Score of 70% Required for Placement
Math 2370 Intro MATLAB | Minimum ALEKS Score of 80% Required for Placement
Math 2413 - Differential Calculus | Minimum ALEKS Score of 80% Required for Placement
Math 2417 - Calculus I | Minimum ALEKS Score of 85% Required for Placement

Taking the ALEKS Assessment Exam

ALEKS isn’t a traditional exam; it's a tool to help you find the course where you'll have the best chance to succeed. Only proctored assessments are valid for placement into UT Dallas math courses. When taking the initial assessment students should try to simulate a proctored environment. Try to find a quiet and controlled environment. Only a pencil and blank paper or small dry erase board and marker should be within reach. ALEKS provides an online calculator for the student’s use. No other calculator is permitted. Students should use the initial exam to help them become comfortable with this type testing environment.

Students have two choices for taking the acceptable proctored exam. Students may use the online proctoring service, Examity®, or the UT Dallas Testing Center. We recommend students use the online proctor, Examity®. It is more convenient and offers more availability. Access to the UT Dallas Testing Center is limited and students may not be able to take the ALEKS assessment in a timely manner if they only plan to use the UT Dallas Testing Center and do not plan ahead. Students may begin using the UT Dallas Testing Center soon. A direct link for scheduling will be posted here. Please be sure to check back regularly. Should a student wish to use the Testing Center the student should plan far in advance of their orientation and registration opportunities. For more detailed information regarding online proctoring with Examity® please click here.

• You will have 2 hours to complete the assessment.
Have a pencil and plenty of blank scratch paper if using Examity®. The Testing Center provides erase boards and markers.

You may not use your own calculator. ALEKS provides an online calculator.

Click here to register and pay for the ALEKS assessment. Your receipt will contain a link to log into the assessment. (UTD NetID and password login)

ALEKS Math Placement Exam FAQ

- What is the ALEKS Assessment?
- Who is required to take ALEKS?
- What is the cost of ALEKS?
- How do I take the ALEKS Assessment?
- What if I do not obtain the required minimum score for the course I wish to take?
- Is there a penalty for taking the ALEKS assessment more than once?
- In addition to ALEKS, do I need to take the SAT Subject Test in Math?
- What if I already have credit for math from another college or university?
- What if I already have credit for calculus through AP, IB or CLEP exams?
- Is ALEKS timed?
- How do I get technical support for ALEKS?
- Do I need to install any plug-ins prior to taking ALEKS?
- How do I view my score after I've taken the assessment?
- What if I still have more questions about ALEKS?

Note

Web page adapted from University of Illinois Math Placement through ALEKS website and The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences Math Placement through ALEKS website. Permission to adapt the websites was granted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Mathematics and The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences.

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