Frequently Asked Questions: ALEKS MATH

What is ALEKS?
ALEKS is an online, non-multiple choice adaptive placement exam. The ALEKS placement exam is used to assist students in determining the appropriate level of placement in mathematics and economics courses, to help ensure students have the demonstrated skills for the greatest likelihood of success.

After completing the first placement assessment, ALEKS will recommend the learning module that is best matched to the student’s current abilities.

How do students take ALEKS?
Students can access the placement exam directly at: go.gwu.edu/mathplacement or they can visit the GW schedule of classes. For additional information on the math placement process students should visit the Math Department website at: https://math.columbian.gwu.edu/gw-mathematics-placement-test

Who must take ALEKS?
All incoming students who are in one of the following GW schools must complete the ALEKS math placement exam:
• Elliott School of International Affairs
• Milken Institute School of Public Health
• School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
• School of Business

All students who plan to register for one of the following courses must complete the ALEKS math placement exam:
• ECON 1001—Principles of Math for Economics
• ECON 1011—Principles of Microeconomics
• MATH 1051—Finite Mathematics for Social and Management Sciences
• MATH 1220—Calculus with Precalculus I
• MATH 1231—Single Variable Calculus I
• MATH 1252—Calculus: Social & Management Sciences
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The chart below details course eligibility by minimum ALEKS placement scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum ALEKS Score</th>
<th>ECON Course Eligibility</th>
<th>MATH Course Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>1220/1051/1252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>1231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If a student completed ECON 1001, do they still have to take ALEKS to register for ECON 1011?

Students who earned a grade of C+ or below must still take ALEKS and attain a score of 61 or higher to enroll in ECON 1011. Students who completed ECON 1001 with a B- or higher can go directly into ECON 1011. They do not have to take the ALEKS placement exam.

How many times can a student take the ALEKS math placement exam?

ALEKS may be taken more than once, with a total of 4 attempts to attain the minimum placement score. Students must wait a minimum of 48 hours and complete a minimum of 3 hours in the Prep Learning Modules between ALEKS attempts. A significant percentage of students who take advantage of the ALEKS Learning Modules improve their scores to move up by one or more course levels. Students who spend at least 15 hours in a learning module show the most improvement in their scores. The ALEKS assessment is highly reliable and scores do not normally change without review and practice between assessments.

How long will the placement exam take?

Students should allow 2 hours of uninterrupted time to complete the assessment. The exam is adaptive so the actual time and number of questions will vary depending on the student. Most students complete ALEKS in approximately 90 minutes. Students will have up to 2 ½ hours from when they begin the placement exam to complete it before they will have to start the exam again.

May students use a calculator or any other resources while taking ALEKS?

Students may only use a pen or pencil, paper and the resources provided within ALEKS. ALEKS provides an on-screen calculator if students need one to complete a particular problem. Otherwise, a calculator may not be used. Students may not receive assistance from friends, family, other websites, textbooks, or any other resource not provided by ALEKS. Using outside resources may lead to improper course placement and ultimately course failure. It is also a violation of GW's academic integrity policy.
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What is the deadline for students to attain the minimum placement score?
While students have until August 18th, 2020 to attain the minimum score necessary to remain enrolled in the desired math/economics course, the University strongly encourages students to complete their first placement exam prior to fall course registration. Students who do not receive the score needed to place into the class they have chosen will have the opportunity to enroll in the ALEKS tutorial and retake the placement exam when they feel ready. They must, however, receive the minimum score required by August 18th, 2020 before 11:59pm EST to hold their seat in their chosen class.

What do students do after they have completed ALEKS?
When students reach the end of the questions, and submit their assessment, a score and a pie chart will appear. The "Placement Result" (overall score) will range from 0 to 100. The system also displays subscores in different math topic areas to let students know how they performed in each area. It is the "Placement Result" score that is used for placement purposes. To determine the minimum score necessary to place into particular mathematics or economics courses, students may look at the notes on the GW schedule of classes or visit the math placement exam website at: https://math.columbian.gwu.edu/gw-mathematics-placement-test.
Once students have completed the ALEKS exam their scores will be sent to GW. These scores will be saved with the rest of the student’s test scores for their advisor to view for course placement purposes.

How do students see their ALEKS score?
When students reach the end of the questions, and submit their assessment, a score and a pie chart will appear. The "Placement Result" (overall score) will range from 0 to 100. The system also displays subscores in different math topic areas to let students know how they performed in each area. It is the "Placement Result" score that is used for placement purposes.

How do the Prep Learning Modules work?
The ALEKS Your Knowledge and Prep Learning Modules provide a personalized tutorial based on the types of problems students answered correctly and incorrectly on the previous assessment. Therefore, the learning modules are available only after students have taken ALEKS the first time. Once a student begins a Knowledge and Prep Learning Module they will have access to it for six months. As students answer questions they will see their MyPie fill up, and ALEKS may reassess them from time to time to ensure they have retained the topic information, but this does not count as one of the four total attempts.
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Is ALEKS ADA compliant?
Because there is no audio associated with the ALEKS content, ALEKS is fully accessible to those who are partially or profoundly deaf. ALEKS does not rely exclusively on color to convey critical information so it is fully accessible to those that are colorblind. Many students who have low vision or are otherwise visually impaired can use products such as Microsoft Magnifier to fully access ALEKS. Students who are incapable of using both a keyboard and a mouse simultaneously due to physical disabilities similarly have no limitations while using ALEKS. Blind students can access certain areas of ALEKS through the use of screen reader technology. Students who need to access an ADA compliant version of ALEKS should contact Disability Support Services for assistance.

What does a student do if they need department or technical assistance?
If you experience problems with ALEKS, please contact Professor Murli Gupta in the Math department at mmg@gwu.edu. Answers to frequently asked technical questions can be found at: http://www.aleks.com/faqs/technical. Students who need further technical assistance with ALEKS may contact ALEKS support at https://www.aleks.com/support/form.