ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment FAQs

What is ALEKS?
• Mathematics Placement Assessment opportunity to advance/increase your course placement
• ALEKS is an online, adaptive math assessment that will give you (and UNLV) a comprehensive picture of your strengths and weaknesses
• ALEKS provides learning modules based on YOUR strengths and weaknesses
• ALEKS provides for greater course placement accuracy
• Cost: $25.00 one time fee payable directly to ALEKS upon sign-in

What is included with the fee ($25.00)?
• Up to 4 placement assessment attempts
• Modules/topics to prepare you for the gateway math course you need for your major
• Access for 6 months to learning modules - beginning when student logs into the learning module for the first time
• Assessment scores are good for 1 year – highest score counts

Who is ALEKS for?
• Any UNLV student – students must have an NSHE number in order to sign on to ALEKS
• ANY UNLV student who is seeking to increase their math course placement level
• Any UNLV student who wants their ACT/SAT math placement re-assessed
• Any UNLV student who wishes to test into a higher level math course – including Calculus
• Any UNLV student who is dedicated to completing their gateway mathematics requirement with the support of the ALEKS learning modules that accompany the diagnostic assessment

Why take the ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment?
• ALEKS provides greater course placement accuracy – don’t spend time in courses you don’t need
• ALEKS is a personal adaptive assessment offered online at your convenience in a self-paced mode
• ALEKS provides help in reaching your goals by Including preparation learning modules for major math requirements
• ALEKS can be taken (and retaken up to 4 times) anytime and anywhere for one fee

When and where is the test offered?
• ALEKS is offered online using your computer or notebook
• ALEKS is offered anytime at your convenience
• ALEKS can be taken anywhere you have an Internet connect

When should I take ALEKS?
• The best time to take ALEKS is before (or immediately after) your initial advising appointment

What is the format of the ALEKS Assessment?
• The computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique selects just the right questions to ask without giving you questions that are too easy or too difficult
• Since the exam is adaptive, you do not have to answer as many questions as you would on a traditional paper-and-pencil test — probably no more than 30
• The questions are chosen based on your answers to previous questions, you must answer every question when it is first given: You cannot leave a question and come back to it later. You must answer the question in the order give before you can move on to the next question

How can a student prepare to take the ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment?
• Relax — this is not a test in the usual sense. This is an individually designed assessment of your strengths and weaknesses based on your responses to computer adaptive math questions
• Set aside a 2-3 hour block of time
• Go through the ALEKS tutorial before beginning the assessment
• Answer questions honestly
  o Answering incorrectly is different than answering "I don't know"
• Do not use addition resources – ALEKS includes a calculator tool on questions that need it

ADDITIONAL FAQs:
Q: Should I take the ALEKS placement exam if I already know the mathematics course I need?
A: Yes! The "obvious" choice for your first mathematics class at UNLV might be an inappropriate choice for several reasons. For example, if there has been a gap of as few as 6 months since your last mathematics course, you may have slipped a bit. Your previous mathematics course(s) may have been taught at a more relaxed pace than you will find in a UNLV classroom, or the title of your previous course doesn't readily compare to the terminology used at UNLV. We believe the ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment is the best way to assess your current math skills and recommend the most appropriate math course for you. By enrolling in the right math course, you increase the likelihood of math success with the least possible expenditure of time or tuition dollars.

Q: If I choose to take both the ALEKS Mathematics Placement and the Math Department Proficiency Exam, which score can I used?
A: The highest score out of the two can be used to determine your course placement.

Q: Is ALEKS required?
A: No, ALEKS is not required. It is highly recommended for students who wish to improve their mathematics course placement or to help remediate knowledge gaps in mathematics.

Q: Will advisors receive my placement information from my ALEKS assessment?
A: Yes, ALEKS scores and related important placement information will be uploaded to MyUNLV.

Q: How long do I have to wait in order to retake the ALEKS assessment?
A: It is recommended that you take enough time to make good use of the learning modules that ALEKS suggests before attempting another assessment. This time would vary for different students. In any case, the system requires that you interact with the learning modules between assessments and wait at least three days before another attempt.

Q: How will I know which math course I place into after taking the ALEKS placement assessment?
A: The ALEKS Placement Assessment will not only generate a picture of student strengths and weaknesses (and a prescriptive map of how to use the learning modules) it will also generate a recommended course placement based on that performance. This score and course placement will be communicated to your major advisor.

**ALEKS CUT SCORE:**

- **(0% - 29%)** Beginning Algebra (Math 95)
- **(30% - 45%)** Intermediate Algebra (Math 96)
- **(46% - 60%)** College Algebra (Math 120/124)
- **(61% - 75%)** Precalculus (Math 126) or Finite Mathematics (Math 132)
- **(76% - 100%)** Calculus I (Math 181)

Scores are shown as a %, they may also be listed without the % sign. Please note, this may or may not be the course you need for your major.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

For access to ALEKS: Log into your MyUNLV and click on the red ALEKS login ~ Purchase access online. If you have additional questions regarding ALEKS, please contact the Math Learning Center at mlc@unlv.edu. Please be sure to use your UNLV Rebel Mail when corresponding with the MLC and include your Student NSHE number. Thank you!