UNLV Mathematics Placement with the ALEKS PPL

If you do not place into the proper 100-level mathematics course for your major, you should take the ALEKS Placement Assessment (PPL) before attending New Student Orientation (NSO), if possible. If you are unsure of the proper 100-level mathematics course for your major, please contact your academic advisor.

Taking the Assessment & Improving Your Placement Score (Please Read All Steps):

- If you feel that you are in need of accommodations for your ALEKS test, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (702) 895-0866 to speak with a Disability Specialist.
- Visit http://my.unlv.edu and Log in using your NSHE ID Number and Password
- Click the red button that says “ALEKS Login” to see where to click, visit: https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/24/ALEKS%20in%20MyUNLV.pdf
- Register and use a credit/debit card to pay for the placement assessment
  - Create a ProctorU Account by visiting https://www.proctoru.com/portal/unlv/gettingstarted
- Schedule a time to take the assessment with ProctorU at least 72 hours in advance
- At your scheduled appointment time, log in to ProctorU
  - The proctor will begin the session and provide further instructions - BE CERTAIN TO CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY FOLLOW THE PROCTOR INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING YOUR ASSESSMENT OR YOUR SCORE MAY NOT BE COUNTED FOR PLACEMENT PURPOSES.
- Complete the placement assessment
- Your scores suggest the most appropriate math course for your measured ability (ALEKS cut scores*). The course you place into may or may not be the course you need for your chosen major. Discuss with an advisor if uncertain.
  - (0 - 45) - Elementary Algebra (MATH 95)
  - (0 - 45) - Intermediate Algebra (MATH 96)
  - (46 - 60) - Fundamentals of College Math (MATH 120) OR College Algebra (MATH 124) OR Number Concepts for Elementary School Teachers (MATH 122)
  - (61 - 75) - Precalculus (MATH 126) or Finite Mathematics (MATH 132)
  - (76 - 100) - Calculus I (MATH 181)
* Scores may be shown as a % (they may also be listed without the % sign). ALEKS Scores measure concepts attained, NOT the number of, or percent of, correct responses given.

Next Steps:

- Please note: the course you place into may or may not be the course you need for your major. ALWAYS consult your academic advisor for guidance on math course placement.
- Keep working in the Preparation and Learning Modules by clicking “continuing” on the Prep Course Page. This will help increase your score if you take subsequent placement assessments and/or increase the likelihood of a better grade in the course in which you place.
- If you wish, you may apply to retake the assessment once you’ve spent 8 hours learning the topics in the modules and waiting 3 days. Visit the following link to apply for an ALEKS retake: https://goo.gl/forms/gB5l4Ts9PTXO4lu03
  - If approved, ProctorU will send you an email to invite you to schedule your next attempt
  - If denied, you will receive an email from mlc.aleks@unlv.edu

About the Test:

**What** is ALEKS?

- ALEKS is a Mathematics Placement Assessment opportunity to advance/increase your mathematics course placement
- ALEKS is an online, adaptive math assessment that will give YOU (and UNLV) a comprehensive picture of YOUR strengths and weaknesses across many areas of mathematics
- ALEKS provides you with targeted learning modules based on YOUR strengths and weaknesses
- ALEKS provides for greater accuracy in course placement
- Cost: $25.00 one time fee payable directly to ALEKS upon sign in and an $18.00 one time fee for proctoring
What is included with the fee?

- Up to 3 proctored placement assessment attempts
- Modules/topics to prepare you for the gateway math course you need for your chosen major
- Access (for 12 months) to **learning modules** beginning when you log into the **learning modules** for the first time
- Assessment scores that are valid for 1 year - the **highest score** earned counts, not necessarily the **last score** earned
- All proctoring software requirements in order to certify the score as countable.

Who is ALEKS for?

- Any UNLV student – students must have an NSHE ID number, a UNLV Rebel Mail and be admitted to UNLV in order to sign on to ALEKS and use the ALEKS score for placement purposes.
- Any incoming freshmen with ACT or SAT math scores that place them into MATH 95 or MATH 96 **(ALEKS should be taken before attending NSO for these students)**
- Any UNLV student who is seeking to increase their math course placement level
- Any UNLV student who wants the placement determined by their ACT/SAT math score 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 – avoid spending time/money in preparatory 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 2 additional times) anytime and anywhere for one fee, provided that the procedures are followed on each attempt to earn a certified valid score.

When and where is the test offered?

- ALEKS is offered online using any computer or notebook, however, a working webcam and microphone are required
- ALEKS can be taken anywhere you have a quiet environment and a strong Internet connection
- ALEKS must be proctored by ProctorU. You must schedule an appointment with ProctorU, a partner of ALEKS

When should I take ALEKS?

- Take ALEKS BEFORE attending your New Student Orientation (if unable to do so, it can may be taken immediately soon after following NSO)
- You may choose to take ALEKS at any time during the semester but avoid taking it within two weeks of semester start.

What is the format of the ALEKS Assessment?

- The computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses. This technique selects appropriate questions for YOU and avoids giving you questions that are too easy or too difficult
- There are 30 questions in total on an assessment. Since 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 current question before you can move on to the next. As much as possible, avoid answering, “I Don’t Know” – the computer can help place you properly by analyzing even incorrect attempts.

How can a student prepare to take the ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment?

- Relax – this is not a test in the usual sense of that word. This is an individually designed assessment of your strengths and weaknesses based on your responses to computer adaptive math questions
- Set aside a 2-hour block of time where you can concentrate and where you will not be interrupted
- Go through the ALEKS tutorial before beginning the assessment
- Answer questions **honestly and to the best of your ability**
- Know that answering incorrectly is different than answer “I don’t know”
- Do not use additional resources – ALEKS includes a calculator tool on questions that need it
Policies and Procedures

Exam Rules:

ALEKS is a PLACEMENT predictor—not an achievement test. Do not study for ALEKS and do not cheat in any manner—either of these would likely result in your being placed in a course that you are not prepared to pass.

Cheating, or evidence of planning to cheat, on the ALEKS PPL will result in being reported to Student Conduct and the immediate removal of any suspicious score. Any subsequent assessments, if allowed, must then be taken on campus in a lab with a proctor.

1. All ALEKS assessments must be proctored
2. You must be the one to take the exam. No other person may take or assist in any way with the exam. No one else may be in the room while the assessment is in progress
3. You will have 2 hours to complete the assessment. You may not exit and re-login to ALEKS before you are finished
4. The test environment should be well-lit and you are to remain in clear view of the camera during the assessment
5. If you have something that could distract you (TV, music, pets, children, etc.), make sure you’ve made provisions for those things to not interfere with your exam
6. You may use the ALEKS calculator when the assessment provides one for you. Any other use of a personal calculator (phone, computer, website, etc.) or any other tools is a violation of exam rules. No other devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) should are permitted to be in your workspace during the assessment
7. You may use blank scratch paper and a writing utensil. Scratch paper should be destroyed after the assessment
8. Students may only take one assessment per day
9. Student may only have one active ALEKS account
10. When using the Webcam to check your environment, you must show a 360° view of your environment and your workspace
11. Students must spend time in the learning modules AND wait three days before applying to retake the ALEKS assessment

All violations of the policies and procedures will result in an un-useable score and any approved subsequent attempts must be taken on campus.

Scores:

1. Scores are automatically recorded in UNLV’s student information system. A score may be used for up to one year for placement into a UNLV Math Course
2. UNLV does not transfer ALEKS scores to other institutions
3. UNLV does not accept ALEKS scores from other institutions. If you have taken the ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment at another college or university, you must re-take ALEKS at UNLV. If you have taken ALEKS as part of your senior experience at a secondary school, then your score MAY count – contact mlc.aleks@unlv.edu for a ruling
4. If the exam rules have been broken on an assessment, that score will be removed from MyUNLV and will not be able to be used for placement. You will be notified via your RebelMail if your score has been removed.

Treat the exam environment like you would for an in-class, closed resource exam (e.g. no headphones, no talking to others, no TV/radio on, no looking around in various directions, focus on the computer screen and the keyboard)

University Policy on 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.

If you experience any issues or have any questions, please contact us at mlc.aleks@unlv.edu
Be sure to use your University RebelMail and include your NSHE ID.