FAQ: ALEKS PLACEMENT TEST
Summer and Fall 2020 Admits
Florida State University Department of Mathematics

What is the ALEKS math placement test?

The ALEKS math placement test is an on-line, skill-based assessment that helps our Math Department in placing you in the appropriate math course in the MAC sequence (if applicable to your major) during your first semester at FSU.

Why do students need to take the ALEKS math placement test?

FSU is committed to supporting and laying the foundation for student success. Mathematics courses at FSU are rigorous courses, and it is important that students register for the appropriate math course based on their current skill level and abilities.

Who needs to take the ALEKS math placement test?

All incoming Freshman students who intend to register for College Algebra (MAC 1105), Analytic Trigonometry (MAC 1114), Precalculus Algebra (MAC 1140), Calculus with Analytic Geometry I (MAC 2311), or Calculus for Business (MAC 2233) as their first mathematics course at FSU (in their first semester or subsequent semesters) will be required to take the ALEKS exam unless they have earned college credit with a C- or better in one of these courses through high school dual enrollment or other transfer credit. However, students earning college credit in one of these courses though AP/IB/AICE/CLEP MUST take ALEKS since the college credit was not awarded with a letter grade.

What if I don’t know which math course I need to take in my first semester at FSU?

Math requirements vary by your career goals and by your major. Your best source of information about WHICH math courses you need to take is the Academic Map for your chosen major, which you can find here: http://www.academic-guide.fsu.edu. Majors that are likely to require one of the above listed math courses include the following: any major in the natural or hard sciences, mathematics or statistics-based majors, computer science, engineering, and any major in the College of Business. If you still need advice, you may email your academic advisor or ace@fsu.edu for more information.

What if a student has incoming credit for prerequisite math coursework?

Students with MAC credit with a C- or better awarded through dual enrollment or other transfer work in a prerequisite math course are not required to take ALEKS because they have already begun their college-level math sequence at another institution.

Students with MAC credit awarded through math AP/IB/AICE/CLEP scores will have that credit posted to the student transcript (as required by state law), but will be required to take ALEKS to ensure they are taking the appropriate math class and/or using the ALEKS Learning Module to get up to speed. Once an ALEKS score is received, then the student should consult with his/her academic adviser during Orientation and the Math Department to determine the most appropriate course of action (i.e., denying test credit and taking a lower level math course or using the Learning Module to prepare for a higher level math course).
When do I need to take the ALEKS placement test?

Students must take the ALEKS test online before registering for any of the math courses listed above. Students should take the ALEKS test before their scheduled orientation date so they are able to register for a math course while on campus for orientation. Compliance with the placement testing requirement will be monitored by the Math Department prior to and during the drop/add period. The Math Department will communicate with students directly regarding any placement testing compliance issues.

How do I take the ALEKS Placement test?

- Click here to access ALEKS.
- You must sign in with your FSUID and password to access the test.
- You will be asked to agree to terms of use for ALEKS.
- Select ALEKS Summer 20-Fall 20-Spring 21 by clicking on the circle with three dots and choose “Apply access.”
- For first time access, select “No, I need to purchase an access code.”
- You will need to purchase online access using a credit card and then receive the 20-character online access code via email. Be sure to save this! You will use that next time you log in.

How much does the test cost?

The cost of the exam is $25 and will be paid directly by the student to ALEKS website via the link provided by FSU. The fee covers the cost of the exam and access to the Learning Module.

What is the Learning Module that is included in the ALEKS math placement product?

After taking the initial assessment, students have access to a learning module that adaptively helps the student to hone rusty but fundamentally sound skills. Students can use the learning module to improve skills and then retake the test, or as a supplemental tool to assist in preparing for and successfully completing a math course. The learning module is available to the student for 6 months after taking the placement test.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the ALEKS math placement test?

If you have additional questions regarding ALEKS, you may contact the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) at ace@fsu.edu or (850) 645-0852. You can also find more detailed information on the Math Department website: https://www.math.fsu.edu/~bellenot/ALEKS/