

What is ALEKS?

In an effort to provide a high quality education, CU Denver requires an ALEKS Placement, Preparation and Learning Assessment (ALEKS) to determine readiness for four mathematics courses. ALEKS is a web-based program that uses artificial intelligence to map a student's strengths and weaknesses. The assessment is up to 30 questions and generally takes 60-90 minutes to complete. Upon completion, an individualized Prep and Learning Module is available for students to refresh their knowledge and improve their mathematics skills. Students then have the opportunity to reassess and improve their placement.

ALEKS consists of three parts:

- An Initial Assessment and Placement based on current mathematics skills
- The Prep and Learning Module, an individualized, self-paced online review and tutor
- Access to 4 additional assessment opportunities after 3 hours of review using the customized learning modules

CU Denver encourages each student to spend time in the Prep and Learning Module, even after the desired score is achieved, because time spent in ALEKS will ultimately lead to better preparation and improved grades. Students can consider any assessment as practice, since the highest score across the five attempts is what will be used for placement purposes.

What is the purpose of placement? The assessment results will be used to determine the most appropriate mathematics course for each student required to take MATH 1110, MATH 1120, MATH 1130 or MATH 1401 for their major. These are predominantly required for STEM majors. Students should consult with their advisor to determine which math course is required and whether the assessment is necessary. If so, they should review their results after completing it and enroll in the best class for them based on their scores and their major's degree plan.

This is a "Placement Assessment," not a test. Results will not appear on a transcript or impact GPA. ALEKS is designed to determine what a student knows and what a student needs to work on. At the end of the ALEKS Assessment, a student will have a much better sense of their strengths and weaknesses in math. Students then have a chance to brush up on topics that may have been forgotten or have not been practiced for some time.

Be honest. It is important that the ALEKS Assessment is taken seriously and each student gives it an honest effort so that the scores truly reflect their current level of knowledge and math preparedness. There is no benefit to cheating on the assessment – the only result will be that a student enrolls in a class that is too difficult, or not challenging enough, potentially costing time and money. Therefore, while taking it, students should not consult any outside sources for help (friends/family, internet searches, textbooks, calculators, notes etc...). The purpose of the assessment is to give an accurate measure of a student's current mathematical knowledge state so that they will be successful in mathematics courses. To review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) regarding student honesty.

FAQs

Why must I take the ALEKS Assessment? If your major requires one of the courses in the chart on the next page, placement will determine the mathematics course in which you will have the greatest success. This provides our students with the highest quality education possible. You should consult with your advisor to verify the math course you are supposed to take and then determine if assessment will be required or you have completed prior coursework that will serve as the appropriate pre-requisite. Upon completion of the ALEKS, your scores will be uploaded to the registration system within three business days, after which time you will be able to register for the course that is recommended for you, based on your score and advisor recommendation.

Who can help me decide if I need to take one of the classes that requires ALEKS Assessment? Your advisor can help guide you as you determine which classes are required for you to earn your degree. They can also help you determine whether prior coursework or AP/IB exam credit satisfies the prerequisites as an alternative to the ALEKS. If you are unsure who your advisor is please refer to the [undergraduate advising website](#).

Who is required to complete the ALEKS Assessment? All students who wish to take any of the courses listed below, who have not completed the pre-requisite coursework.

Course #	Course Name	ALEKS Score Range	Prior coursework requisite(alternative to assessment)
MATH 1110	College Algebra	46-60	
MATH 1120	College Trigonometry	61-75	MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 with a C- or higher
MATH 1130	Pre-calculus	61-75	
MATH 1401	Calculus I	76-100	MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 and MATH 1120 with a C- or higher or MATH 1130 with a C- or higher or MATH 1401

When do I take the ALEKS Assessment? Students will need to complete their ALEKS Assessment prior to registering for any of the MATH courses listed above. We recommend completing the assessment prior to attending New Student Orientation, but access to the assessment will remain open throughout the year.

Are ALEKS Assessments proctored? No. Students will access and complete the assessment online at a remote location of their choice, when they decide the time is right. If students need access to a computer or the internet, please contact us at math.placement@ucdenver.edu.

Is there a format available for students needing extended time or accommodations? Yes. Students should contact MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu to learn more and for modified login instructions. If you are not sure whether this aies to you, please visit our [Disability Resources and Services](#).

Is there a fee for using ALEKS? Not for the fall 2019.

Do I need to install any software or plug-ins prior to taking the ALEKS Assessment? No. There are no required plug-ins or applets required with your use of ALEKS and as long as you have access to the internet and are using an updated browser, you should not experience difficulties in taking your assessment. For a list of preferred browsers, please review the ALEKS system requirements on their support site: http://www.aleks.com/support/system_requirements

What topics are covered during the ALEKS Assessment? ALEKS is an online, adaptive system that covers a broad spectrum of mathematics topics. The length of the assessment will vary but can be up to 30 questions. You will see some, but not all, of the math you have learned in high school. It is for placement, not a preview of math courses at CU Denver. It is designed to identify if you are prepared for a course. After you take your first assessment, you will have the opportunity to review and master additional topics to reassess and improve your placement.

Topics covered:

- ✓ Real numbers (including fractions, integers, and percentages)
- ✓ Equations and inequalities (including linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and quadratic equations),

- ✓ Linear and quadratic functions (including graphs and functions, linear functions, and parabolas), exponents and polynomials (including integer exponents, polynomial arithmetic, factoring, and polynomial equations), rational expressions (including rational equations and rational functions)
- ✓ Radical expressions (including higher roots and rational exponents)
- ✓ Exponentials and logarithms (including function compositions and inverse functions, properties of logarithms, and logarithmic equations)
- ✓ Geometry and trigonometry (including perimeter, area and volume; coordinate geometry; trigonometric functions; identities and equations).

Can I practice using the ALEKS tools before I begin initial assessment? ALEKS will begin with a brief tutorial to make sure you are comfortable with the math palette tools before your assessment begins. The tutorial shows you how to enter different types of answers, how to use the ALEKS calculator, and how to graph. If you are not sure how to input an answer, or need help while you are taking the assessment, select the **Help** button below the answer pallet tools. Going to the tutorial during your assessment will NOT impact your placement results.

Taking the ALEKS Assessment

What is the format of the questions on ALEKS? It is open-response and requires you to work out solutions with a paper and pencil, then enter them into ALEKS. Be sure to have scratch paper with you. ALEKS is not a multiple-choice assessment.

May I use a calculator while using ALEKS? ALEKS will provide an on-screen calculator if you need one to complete a particular problem. Otherwise, a calculator is not needed nor should be used.

May I use any other resources during the Assessment? You may only use a pen or pencil, paper, and the resources provided within ALEKS. You should not receive assistance from friends, family, other websites, textbooks, or any other resources not provided by ALEKS. Using outside resources will lead to improper placement and potential course failure.

Can I review a question after I've answered it? Because ALEKS is adaptive, once you submit an answer, you cannot change it. Be sure to carefully check your answer before submitting your response.

What if I see questions I do not know? It is likely that you will be asked questions on material you have not yet learned. On such questions it is appropriate to answer, **I do not know**. On any question that you have familiarity with, however, it is important to do your best. **I do not know** is interpreted by ALEKS to mean that you do not know how to solve the topic, and this will be reflected in the placement results. There is no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on the assessment, it only helps ALEKS understand what you do and do not know, and which math course you will be most successful taking.

Are the assessments timed? Yes, you are free to complete the assessment at your own pace, and will have 2 hours to complete it.

What happens if I do not complete the assessment in the allotted time? You will have to start the assessment from the beginning.

I am ready to start my ALEKS Assessment. How do I begin? To access ALEKS you will first need to create an account with ALEKS at http://www.aleks.com/sign_up/class?class_code=GCHLC-DXC9Y. The directions at the end of this document will walk you through creating your account. Once you have created your account you will be asked to take a brief survey and then be given a short tutorial on how to enter answers into the ALEKS placement program. You will have 2 hours to complete the 30 question assessment to the best of your abilities.

Placement Result

What is my placement result? Your placement result (overall score) is a number between 0 and 100. It represents the percentage of topics ALEKS has identified you have mastered.

Where can I see my score? For fall 2019, your ALEKS score can be viewed by re-entering ALEKS using the same access link for which you took the assessment. Refer to the table above to see what scores are required for each course.

- You will receive your score and initial placement immediately upon completion of the assessment.
- Your ALEKS score can be viewed by re-entering ALEKS using the same access link for which you took the assessment.
- Your scores will be verified, and you will be given access to enroll, in the appropriate math class based on your ALEKS score within 3 business days of completion.

How long is my placement result valid? Your placement result is valid for up to 12 months.

What if I do not place into the course I wanted? This is a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the Prep and Learning Modules offered within ALEKS. An individualized study plan will be created based on your performance on the initial assessment. ALEKS will identify what you know and what you are ready to learn next so you can brush up on lost knowledge.

I did not place into the class I wanted. Can I take it anyway? No, you must achieve the minimum placement result to take each corresponding class.

Which math course is required for my program? Students should consult with their academic advisor.

What if I placed into the class I wanted? Congratulations! Continue to use your Prep and Learning Module to improve your chances for success and support your learning. The placement result meets the prerequisite requirement and indicates your readiness for that course. Take advantage of the individualized review and learning features in ALEKS to get a better grade in your class.

Can I retake the ALEKS Assessment? Yes, you may take up to 5 ALEKS assessments. However, to make each attempt worthwhile, it is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between assessments so that you can improve your skills. Students will have 3 hours of learning modules between their first and second attempt. Every other assessment attempt after that will consist of 5 hours of learning modules. After 3-5 hours of work in the Prep and Learning Module, students can reassess. There is generally no benefit to retaking the assessment immediately after completing a prior attempt and you cannot improve your results without spending time in the Prep and Learning Module to refresh and relearn material that you may have forgotten.

Prep and Learning Modules

How long do I have access to my Prep and Learning Module? You will have 12 months of access to your Prep and Learning module. Access to the prep course will not begin until you select **start** on the top of your screen. **DO NOT** select the Prep and Learning Module until you are ready to start working.

Is there an additional fee for my Prep and Learning Module? No, access to a Prep and Learning Module is included along with the additional assessments.

Must I work in my ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between ALEKS Assessments? Yes, students are required to work in the Prep and Learning Modules for a minimum of three hours prior to each assessment attempt to increase success. You can retake the assessment up to 4 additional times to improve your score. The highest score will be used for math placement.

What are ALEKS Knowledge Checks? While working in a Prep and Learning Module, you will periodically complete a Knowledge Check to make sure you have mastered the topics you gained in Learning Mode. If you do not show mastery during the Knowledge Check, the topics will be added back into your learning modules so you can review them again.

Does progress in an ALEKS Prep and Learning Module count toward placement? No, you must complete a new assessment to change your placement result. Select the placement tab in the upper right corner of the ALEKS page to start a new ALEKS Assessment.

Can I change to a different Prep and Learning Module later? No, you may only use one Prep and Learning Module. If you are unsure which module to select, use the module recommended by ALEKS or consult with your advisor.

Technical Support

What do I do if my web browser gets stuck or my computer crashes while I'm taking the ALEKS Assessment? Simply close the browser, or log out and log back in. ALEKS will resume the assessment exactly where you left off, with no loss of your previous answers.

Where can I get help with ALEKS?

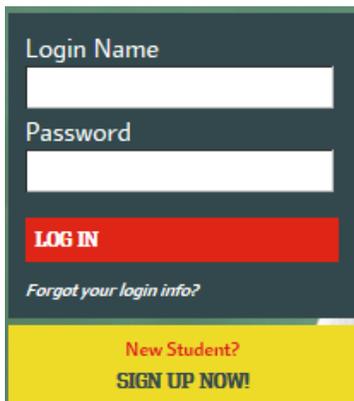
Visit: <http://www.aleks.com/faqs/technical>

Visit: http://support.aleks.com/assess_placement

Email: MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu

Accessing the ALEKS Placement Assessment:

Step 1: Go to http://www.aleks.com/sign_up/class?class_code=GCHLC-DXC9Y and click The yellow “New Student? Sign up now” box.



Login Name

Password

LOG IN

[Forgot your login info?](#)

**New Student?
SIGN UP NOW!**

Step 2:

Verify your enrollment information. If it is incorrect, contact MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu. If your information is correct, click on **Continue**.



ALEKS®

Confirm Class Information

You are about to be enrolled in the following ALEKS class. Check the class details carefully.

Class Code:	GCHLC-DXC9Y
Class:	University of Colorado Denver, Academic Year 2019 - 2020
Subject:	Higher Education Math Placement
Class Dates:	03/07/2019 - 06/30/2021
Institution:	University of Colorado--Denver

Step 3: Select “I have never used ALEKS before...” even if you have an ALEKS account from another school. Complete the registration steps to create a new ALEKS account and click on **Continue**. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provide.

1 CONFIRM COURSE CODE 2 ACCOUNT STATUS 3 STUDENT INFORMATION 4 ACCOUNT CREATION 5 REGISTRATION COMPLETE

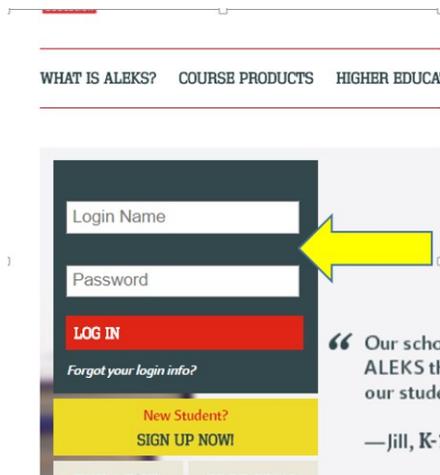
WELCOME TO ALEKS!
Have you used ALEKS before?

I have never used ALEKS before or I do not have an ALEKS login name.

I have an ALEKS login name.

» CONTINUE

IMPORTANT: Be sure to save your new login information so you can revisit your new ALEKS account.



You are now officially an ALEKS student!

You will have access to your ALEKS account for 12 months.