

ALEKS Preparation, Placement and Learning (PPL)

City Colleges of Chicago requires an ALEKS mathematics placement assessment to determine readiness for various courses. The ALEKS Placement Assessment covers material from Basic Math through Pre-calculus and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. After the assessment, a targeted Prep and Learning Module is available for you to review and learn material, and to improve placement and eventual course outcomes.

All students are strongly encouraged to spend several hours using the ALEKS Prep and Learning Module. Even if you have achieved placement in your desired course, time spent in ALEKS will better prepare you for your upcoming course and ultimately lead to better grades.

First of all, RELAX. This is an “assessment,” NOT A TEST. The difference is that an assessment is designed to determine what you know. At the end of the ALEKS Placement Assessment, you will have a much better sense of your strengths and weaknesses in math. You will then have a chance to work on those weaknesses. There is really no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on the assessment. The most important thing is that you take the assessment seriously and give it an honest effort so that the assessment truly reflects your level of knowledge and math preparedness.

Be honest about your skill level. There is no benefit to cheating on the placement assessment – your only reward will be that you are forced to take a class that is too difficult for your current level of mathematical knowledge. Therefore, while you are taking the assessment, do not consult any other source for help (friends, family, internet searches, etc.). The purpose of the placement assessment is to give an accurate measure of your current mathematical skills so that you will be successful in your mathematics courses.

The City Colleges of Chicago is committed to the ideals of truth and honesty. In view of this, students are expected to adhere to high standards of honesty in their academic endeavor. Cheating of any kind is a serious violation of these standards.

ALEKS PPL Math Assessment FAQs

Who has to take the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

All new students whose programs of study require math – this includes students who are planning to complete an Associate’s Degree and/or transfer to a four year institution, as well as students in some Advanced Certificate programs. If you have questions about your program of study, please talk to an advisor.

Is there a fee for using ALEKS?

Use of ALEKS is included in your student fees. If you do not enroll in your math course within 12 months and need a new account to complete the placement assessment, you will be charged a fee.

Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

Yes, you may take up to 5 placement assessments. However, to make each attempt worthwhile, it is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module in between placement assessments so that you can improve your skills.

Are ALEKS Placement Assessments proctored?

No. You can take the placement assessment, work in the Prep and Learning module and retake the assessment online at any time, at home, at a Chicago Public Library or at one of the colleges. If you prefer to take the assessments in a quiet testing lab, you may also schedule a time to do that by contacting the Testing Center at one of the colleges.

Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment immediately?

You can but there is generally no benefit to re-taking the assessment immediately after completing a prior attempt. Unlike the SAT or ACT, you cannot improve your results by simply re-taking the assessment without spending time in the Prep and Learning Module to refresh material that you may have forgotten or to learn new material.

Must I work in my ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between placement assessments?

You do not need to between the 1st and 2nd placement assessments but it is highly recommended. You will need to spend 5 hours between the 2nd and 3rd placement assessments and 3 additional hours between the 3rd and 4th placement assessments, and 3 hours before the 5th. You are not required to complete more than 2 placement assessments.

Are placement assessments timed?

No, you are free to complete the assessment at your own pace.

How long will a placement assessment take to complete?

Placement assessments require approximately 90 minutes to complete, but the amount of time will vary by student. There will be a maximum of 30 questions.

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, you may not use a calculator.

What happens if I do not complete a placement assessment in the allotted time?

There is no time limit.

May I use any other resources during a placement assessment?

You may only use a pen or pencil, paper, and the resources provided by ALEKS. You 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 placement and ultimately course failure.

What is my placement result?

Your placement result is your percentage mastery on the best assessment.

Course placement is determined as follows:

ALEKS Score range	Course Placement
Less than 20%	Foundational Studies or Launch
20-29%	Math 90 or Math 98
30-45%	Math 118 + co-requisite or Math 125 + co-requisite or Math 140 + co-requisite or Math 99
46-60%	Math 118 or Math 121 or Math 125 or Math 140 or Math 143 or below
61-100%	Math 141 or Math 144 or Math 146 or Math 204 or below
76-100%	Math 207 or below

How long is my placement result valid?

Your placement result is valid for 12 months.

Can I practice using ALEKS before I begin placement?

ALEKS will begin with a brief tutorial before your placement begins.

How long do I have access to my Prep and Learning Module?

You will have six months of access from the time that you start using your Prep and Learning module.

Is there an additional fee for my Prep and Learning Module?

Access to a Prep and Learning Module is included along with up to 5 placement assessments.

What are ALEKS Progress Assessments?

While working in a Prep and Learning Module, you will periodically complete progress assessments to solidify your gains in knowledge.

Does progress in an ALEKS Prep and Learning Module count toward placement?

No, you must complete a new placement assessment to change your placement result. Click on the placement tab on the upper right of the page from within ALEKS. Only your placement assessment results will be used for course placement.

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.

What if I do not place into the course I wanted?

You can use a Prep and Learning Module to review and learn, and you may take another placement assessment to improve your placement result.

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.

What if I placed into the class I wanted?

Congratulations! Continue to use your Prep and Learning Module to improve your chances for success. The placement result above is the minimum preparation required for your course! Take advantage of the targeted review and learning features in ALEKS to get a better grade in your class.

Where can I get help with ALEKS?

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

http://support.aleks.com/assess_placement