

# ALEKS Assessment – Student Handout

(effective 11/1/2024)

## Do I Need the ALEKS Assessment?

Review the pre-requisites for the course you wish to take and follow the guidelines. New students are encouraged to complete ALEKS prior to orientation. Students who have not already taken ALEKS and wish to enroll in a mathematics course at DMACC for the first time or who need to meet program requirements will be required to take the ALEKS mathematics placement assessment before registering in a math class. Taking the assessment early will give you time to retake the assessment to improve your score.

## Where Do I Take the ALEKS Assessment?

**Preferred option:** Visit [Testing Center Locations](https://testcenters.dmacc.edu) ([testcenters.dmacc.edu](https://testcenters.dmacc.edu)) and choose a DMACC location to take your ALEKS assessment. Carefully review the hours of operation and scheduling requirements.

**Alternative option:** Take the assessment from any location using the Respondus Monitor Lockdown proctoring software. Go to [https://www.aleks.com/support/lockdown\\_system\\_requirements](https://www.aleks.com/support/lockdown_system_requirements) to view system requirements for remote testing. Please note that your PC needs to have Windows 10+ or Mac 12(Monterey)+ and a webcam for the assessment to work. Download and install the required software on your PC. Once the PC is set up, access the assessment by logging into myDMACC and selecting ALEKS Math Assessment in the left navigation menu under Shortcuts. If you have technical issues, contact ALEKS for support:

<https://mh.my.site.com/aleks/s/alekscontactsupport>

Refer to the [ALEKS Information Pages](https://tests.dmacc.edu) ([tests.dmacc.edu](https://tests.dmacc.edu)) for ALEKS Assessment FAQs as well as instructions for taking the assessment at a DMACC location or taking it remotely.

## Test Aids Provided by Proctor

1 Pencil	Scratch Paper	Calculator (built-in online)
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- Assistance from friends, family, websites, textbooks, or any other resource not provided by ALEKS during your assessment is prohibited.
  - Using prohibited resources may lead to improper course placement and course failure. Test misconduct is a violation of DMACC's Student Conduct Policy.
  - Suspicious behavior flagged by Respondus Monitor proctoring software will be reviewed by staff in the DMACC Math Department in accordance with [DMACC Policy ES4670 – Academic Misconduct](#).

## Assessment Tips

The assessment takes an average of 60 minutes to complete with a time limit of 120 minutes. There are a maximum of 30 questions, and it will include some of the math you learned in high school. To see a list of all possible topics covered, visit the [ALEKS website](https://www.aleks.com/highered/pp/ALEKS_Placement_Problem_Types.pdf) ([https://www.aleks.com/highered/pp/ALEKS\\_Placement\\_Problem\\_Types.pdf](https://www.aleks.com/highered/pp/ALEKS_Placement_Problem_Types.pdf)).

ALEKS is **not** a multiple-choice Placement Assessment. It is open-response and requires you to work out solutions with paper and pencil, then enter the answer into ALEKS. Do your best on topics that are familiar but note that you only enter a final answer. Points are not awarded for showing your work.

You may be asked questions on material you have not yet learned or do not remember. It is appropriate to answer, "I **Don't Know**" for these questions. ALEKS interprets this as you do not know how to solve the topic. Wrong answers are weighted more heavily against your score than selecting "I **Don't Know**" as your answer.

ALEKS is adaptive; once you submit an answer, you cannot change it. The assessment chooses your next question based on your previous answers. Carefully check your answers before submitting your response.

## Accessing the ALEKS Assessment

1. Upon arriving at the testing location of your choice, you will be asked to show a current photo ID such as driver's license, DART pass, or student ID.
2. You will then store your belongings in a place where your notes, books, calculator, phone (powered off), ear buds, etc. cannot be seen.
3. If you take the assessment at a DMACC location, you will use a DMACC computer to access the ALEKS assessment; there is no need to bring a laptop. A DMACC proctor will enter a secure password to start the assessment.
4. Select **"Begin Assessment"**
  - If an "Add Class" box appears, you have used your free attempt previously and need to re-subscribe. Follow the [Resubscription Instructions](#) under [Math Placement at DMACC \(tests.dmacc.edu\)](#) and pay the \$15 fee using a debit/credit card.
5. Prior to beginning your assessment, you will complete a survey. The first question of the assessment will be based on your survey responses. Enter the class you remember most; it is not always the last class you took.
6. Next, you will **complete a tutorial** which shows you how to enter different types of answers, how to use the ALEKS calculator, and how to graph. If you need help while you are taking ALEKS, click on the "help" button at the top of the screen.

Students with accommodations for extended time should visit or call the Disability Services Office at 515-964-6234 to arrange to take the ALEKS Placement Assessment.

## Results

Refer to the [Placement Score Table \(tests.dmacc.edu\)](#) to determine your course recommendation based on your ALEKS score. You can retake ALEKS for a higher score up to four times if you need a higher score for course registration. Your highest score will be used for placement.

## Accessing Prep and Learning Modules

After your initial ALEKS Assessment, you can review and master additional topics by using the Prep and Learning Modules which are tailored specifically for you based on your assessment results. You have **12 months** to use the Prep and Learning Modules after your first assessment.

1. Log into myDMACC and select **"ALEKS Math Assessment"** and select **"Begin Math Assessment"**.
2. Select the Active Class box on the left. It will display "Improve Your Knowledge in a Prep and Learning Module".
3. Select **"Get Started"**, and then select **"Start"**.

These modules do not require proctoring so they can be completed at home or wherever there is an internet connection.

## ALEKS Retakes

- **2nd attempt:** 3 hours of the Prep and Learning Modules before retaking the assessment.
- **3rd attempt:** 3 additional hours of the Prep and Learning Module before retaking the assessment.
- **4th attempt:** 5 additional hours of the Prep and Learning module before retaking the assessment.
- **5th attempt:** 8 additional hours of the Prep and Learning Module before attempting the assessment. This is the final attempt permitted by DMACC.

Upon completion of the Placement Assessment, your scores can be accessed by your academic advisor. Your advisor can help you review your scores and provide recommendations for course registration.

At DMACC, your ALEKS score is valid for **18 months** from the completion date.