

Everything you need to know about the **ALEKS Exam**

2020–2021

What is the ALEKS exam? *The ALEKS Placement Test (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is an assessment of readiness, testing skills in numeric manipulations, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.*

Do I need to take the ALEKS exam? *You must take the ALEKS if you are taking Math 1530,1550 or Math 1551 (Honors) at LSU.* *Regardless of ACT/SAT scores and other placement measures, students are required to earn a necessary score on the ALEKS if they wish to take Math 1530/1550/1551.*

If you are planning to enroll in MATH 1021/1022/1431 and you do not have an ACT/SAT score, you will need to take the ALEKS Exam to determine your MATH placement.

Does ALEKS give me credit in Math 1021, 1022, or any other course? *A student may take the ALEKS exam during any time while they are a student at LSU and if they score a 61% + they will receive credit for MATH 1021.*

If I earn credit in Math 1550 through AP Calculus courses in high school, through the CLEP or the IB math exam, through LSU's Calculus credit exam, or through transfer credit, do I need ALEKS? *You do not need to take the ALEKS after having earned credit in Math 1550 elsewhere. (See tables at www.math.lsu.edu/ugrad/PlacementCredit.) **Please note:** LSU's Math 1550 (Calculus I) is a 5-hour credit course. Students who have already earned 3 or 4 credit hours in Calculus I have the opportunity to take a credit exam for the full 5-hour course, but should consult a counselor.*

What ALEKS score do I need to earn to register for Math 1530/1550/1551?

- <41% for MATH 1029/1100/Co-requisite section of MATH 1021
- 41%-50% for MATH 1021/1029/1100
- 51%-60% for MATH 1021/1029/1100
- 61%-75% for MATH 1022/1029/1100/1431
- 76% or higher for Math 1530 (Differential Calculus)/Math 1550 (Calculus I)
- 81% or higher for Math 1551 (Honors Calculus I)

How do I prepare for the ALEKS exam? *You may use any resource available: the ALEKS Learning Module (available 6 weeks for practice), books, and other individuals. Once you enter the “Take the Placement” portal you will want to do your own work with books closed. If you use additional help during the exam, you run the risk of placing yourself into a course for which you are not adequately prepared.*

How many times can I take the ALEKS exam? *You can take the exam up to 5 times per semester placement cycle. Each cycle requires a \$25 fee.*

Is the ALEKS Exam Proctored? *An ALEKS PPL score cannot count toward credit or placement in any math course at LSU unless the test was proctored. (Ever since March 3, 2021, ALEKS PPL cannot be taken at LSU without suitable proctoring.)*

Students must take the assessment while utilizing Respondus Monitor. This proctoring program requires students to download the LockDown Browser, available at https://www.aleks.com/support/lockdown_system_requirements. This feature costs the student \$5 (which covers all 5 attempts at ALEKS PPL)

When can I take the ALEKS exam?*

For questions about ALEKS registration/exam dates, contact [Soula O'Bannon](mailto:soula@math.lsu.edu), ALEKS PPL Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, 301B Lockett Hall, 225-578-1617, soula@math.lsu.edu.

I earned an ALEKS score of 82% but do not feel confident about my precalculus skills (trig and college algebra). I know my ALEKS score will let me schedule calculus, but should I? *The ALEKS exam is used to measure math readiness, however if you feel that you are not in command of trig or college algebra, you may consider taking Math 1021 or Math 1022. **Please note:** if you already have credit in any of these courses, please consult a counselor.*

How do I sign up for ALEKS? *Once you have obtained a myLSU ID, you can go to your myLSU account to sign up. See below for detailed instructions.*

* ALEKS scores are good for six months. However, students who have not taken ALEKS by the listed purge date will be removed from Math 1530/1550/1551.

Registration

Step 1: Log into <https://sso.paws.lsu.edu/login>

Step 2: Navigate to the “ALEKS Calculus Placement Test” link, located under the Student Services tab.

- Students can see screen shots previewing the sign-up steps at grok.lsu.edu/article.aspx?articleid=16231.

Step 3: Once logged in and redirected to the ALEKS Corporation, you will be required to submit a \$25 payment via credit card.

- Please notice the distinction between “Learning Module” and actual exam.

**For more detailed information regarding the exam, please visit www.math.lsu.edu/ugrad/ALEKS

