

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

What is the ALEKS exam? The ALEKS PPL Calculus Readiness Assessment (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is an assessment of readiness for calculus, 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 1550/1551. (Please note: If you take MATH 1530, MATH 1540 is the second course of the sequence to complete the MATH 1550 requirement and is offered in the Spring Semester.)

Does ALEKS give me credit in Math 1021, 1022, 1023, or any other course? No.

If I want to earn or if I have earned credit in Math 1550 through AP Calculus courses taken 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, unless you want to take Math 1550 at LSU – even 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 or 1550/1551? Fall 2020 or later:

- 76% or higher for Math 1530 (Differential Calculus)
- 76% or higher for 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.

When can I take the ALEKS exam?*

– **Math 1550 during Summer 2020:** Dec. 11, 2019 to June 11, 2020

Purge date—April 21, 2020, 11:59 p.m.

– **Math 1530, 1550, 1551 during Fall 2020:** Feb. 27, 2020 to Sept. 1, 2020

Purge date—July 1, 2020, 11:59 p.m.

My ALEKS score was too low, what other math courses can I take? If you cannot achieve the required ALEKS score, you will be placed in MATH 1021 (College Algebra), Math 1022 (Trig), or Math 1023 (combination Algebra/Trig), in accordance with ACT/SAT scores or other placement data.

(See tables at www.math.lsu.edu/ugrad/PlacementCredit)

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, Math 1022, or Math 1023.

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. Please note: Proctoring will be turned on in the coming weeks and will carry with it an additional fee. More information can be found at <https://www.math.lsu.edu/ugrad/ALEKS>.

* 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 and Math 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