

## **Mathematics Placement Assessment FAQ**

The Mathematics Placement Assessment makes use of ALEKS Placement, Preparation, and Learning (PPL). ALEKS PPL is a web-based program that uses artificial intelligence to map a student's strengths and weaknesses. The Placement Assessment is up to 25 questions and generally takes 60-90 minutes to complete. After the Placement Assessment, an individualized Prep and Learning Module is available for you to refresh your knowledge on forgotten topics. You will then have the opportunity to reassess and improve your placement.

### **What is the purpose of placement testing?**

The Placement Assessment will be used to determine the most appropriate courses for you as you move forward with college coursework. The Placement Assessment is designed to determine what you know and what you need to work on. At the end of the Placement Assessment, you will have a better sense of your strengths and weaknesses in math. You will then have a chance to brush up on topics that you may have forgotten or haven't practiced for some time.

### **When and where do I take the Placement Assessment?**

The Placement Assessment is offered online, so you can take it whenever you want anywhere you have an internet connection.

### **What is the format of the questions?**

The Placement Assessment questions are open-response, not multiple-choice, and you will need to work out solutions with paper and pencil then enter them into ALEKS. Be sure you have paper and a pencil available.

### **May I use a calculator?**

ALEKS will provide an on-screen calculator if you need one to complete a particular problem. Otherwise, you may not use a calculator.

### **May I use any other resources during a Placement 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 within the assessment. Using outside resources will lead to improper placement and potentially course failure. It is a violation of Lenoir-Rhyne's honor code.

## **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 don't 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 don't know". On any question that you have familiarity with, however, it is important to do your best. "I don't 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 Assessment results. There is no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on the Placement Assessment, it only helps ALEKS understand what you know and don't know.

## **Are Placement Assessments timed?**

Yes, you have 2 hours to complete the Placement Assessment once it has begun.

## **Can I retake the Placement Assessment?**

Yes, you may take the Placement Assessment up to 4 times. However, to make each attempt worthwhile, it is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between Placement Assessments so that you can improve your skills. You are required to spend at least five hours in the Prep and Learning Modules between attempts.

## **Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment immediately?**

You must wait 24 hours between Placement Assessments. There is generally no benefit to re-taking the Placement Assessment immediately after completing a prior attempt. You cannot improve your results by simply re-taking the Placement Assessment without spending time in the Prep and Learning Module to refresh material that you may have forgotten.

## **What do I do if my web browser gets stuck or my computer crashes while I'm taking the Placement Assessment?**

Simply close the browser, or log out and log back in. ALEKS will resume the Placement Assessment exactly where you left off with no loss of your previous answers.

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Information above taken from McGraw Hill ALEKS PPL Placement Webpage Guide.