

Math Placement Exam (ALEKS PPL)

Shoreline Community College

What is ALEKS PPL?

ALEKS PPL is an online assessment and learning system that offers placement exams and individualized review to assist in accurate placement. Studying with ALEKS and retaking the exam will allow you to improve your placement score and take the most appropriate class for your success.

Cost, Benefits, and Procedure

An access fee of \$20 will give you 6 months of access to 1 practice test, 4 placement test attempts, and ALEKS-generated learning modules for personalized math review. Below, you will find detailed steps for the placement test procedure.

1. Access ALEKS

Sign Up

- a. Go to www.aleks.com and click “Sign up Now!”
- b. When asked, enter the Course Code [WHAT IS OUR COURSE CODE?]
- c. Confirm your class information ().
- d. Select “I have never used ALEKS before”.
- e. Purchase an access code when prompted by using a credit or debit card.
- f. Fill out the Student Registration Information. Be sure that your student ID number and school email are correct for accurate score reporting.
- g. When registration is complete, you will be sent an email with your username and password.

Each Time You Sign In

- a. Go to www.aleks.com and log in with your username and password.
- b. The first time you login, you will see an animated introduction as well as a Tutorial to acquaint you with the system.

2. Take a Practice Test

Your first test is unproctored and the results do not count for placement into a course at Shoreline Community College. You may take this on any web-enabled computer. This test will inform the ALEKS system about your current knowledge state and will develop your learning module to help you study before your first official placement test.

To take the practice test, click “Get Started”. The test may have up to 30 questions and will take 1-3 hours to complete. You have 24 hours from when you start to complete this test. You may log out, and ALEKS will keep track of your progress. After 24 hours, the test will refresh to new. On the actual placement tests, no calculator is allowed except when provided on-screen by ALEKS. No outside resources other than a writing tool and scratch paper are allowed. We suggest that you follow these rules, even for the practice test.

The practice test and use of learning modules prior to the first placement test is optional and entirely for your benefit. You can opt to skip this practice test and take your first test for placement by contacting the Shoreline Community College Testing Center, scheduling for a testing time, and starting the first exam at that time.

3. Interpret Your Score

Your results from each exam will show on the screen as soon as you are finished. Your ALEKS placement score will be a number between 0-100. Keep in mind that the possible scores span over a wide range of math courses, many of which might not be necessary for your intended program. The table to the right shows the MATH course placement for each ALEKS Score.

ALEKS Score	Places you into:
0-7	ABE Math Foundations
8-13	ABE Math Foundations <u>OR</u> MATH 060
14-29	MATH 070
30-38	MATH 098
39-45	MATH 99/107/146/171 (Note: Math 146 has an English prerequisite too.)
46-60	MATH 111/141
61-79	MATH 142/148
80-100	MATH 151

For placement above MATH 151, contact mathadvising@shoreline.edu.

4. Review Using the Prep and Learning Module

ALEKS will use the results of your test attempts to identify topics and create an individualized learning module to help you review. After the practice test, you can (but are not required to) spend time studying in this prep module. When you feel ready, take the actual placement test. Note that the topics in the prep module spans over a wide-range of math courses. You do not need to master all the topics to retake the placement exam and get higher placement.

After the practice test and between placement tests, your ALEKS home page will now suggest topics to review. To access your Prep and Learning Module after a test, click on “Get Started,” and then click “Start My Path” or “Continue My Path”. ALEKS will show you explanations, example problems, and exercises to help you review.

5. Take a Placement Test

The placement tests must be proctored in order to use it for placement into a Shoreline CC math course. Shoreline’s Testing Center will proctor your exam for free by appointment. See <https://www.shoreline.edu/testingcenter/> or call (206) 546-4608 for more information and available hours. Otherwise, off-campus proctoring locations may be a possibility, though there is generally an additional fee for proctoring.

Just like the practice test, the placement test is up to 30 questions long and will take 1-3 hours. Again, no calculator is allowed except when provided on-screen by ALEKS. No outside resources other than a writing tool and scratch paper are allowed.

Placement exam scores are valid for 2 years at Shoreline Community College.

6. If Needed, Retake Placement Tests to Improve Your Placement

After the optional practice test, you will have 4 attempts at the placement test. Between each placement test attempt, you will be required to complete 3 hours of studying using the prep modules prepared by ALEKS. After you complete your required studying, you may retake the placement test. You may take the ALEKS exam for placement up to twice per quarter (not including the practice test if you opted to use it).

For more Information

Go to www.aleks.com and follow the links for “[What is ALEKS](#)” and “[Higher Ed > Math Placement](#)” for more information.

