

ALEKS FAQ

What is ALEKS? ALEKS is an adaptive assessment that is used for math placement.

Which courses require a placement score? A minimum score on the ALEKS Placement assessment is required for enrollment in MATH 1110 ([College Algebra](#)), MATH 1120 ([Trigonometry](#)), MATH 1130 ([Pre-Calculus](#)), MATH 1399 ([Stretch Calculus I with Algebra and Trigonometry Part A](#)), MATH 1400 ([Stretch Calculus I with Algebra and Trigonometry Part B](#)), and MATH 1401 ([Calculus I](#)).

When should I take the assessment? You should plan on taking your initial ALEKS assessment prior to new student orientation, advising appointments, and/or at least one week before registering for classes.

How long does the initial placement take? You have a total of two hours to complete the assessment. You must submit your assessment before the two hours are up in order for the system to register your score.

What can I use on the Assessment? It is important that you only use paper and pencil on the assessment. *No calculators or technology should be utilized.* We want to know your current level so you are best prepared for success in your first mathematics course.

Can I improve my skill level/placement? Yes! After your initial placement you should spend time working in your individualized Prep and Learning Modules to refresh and improve your mathematics skills. These are created based upon your initial test.

How do I retake the Assessment? If you work in the individualized learning modules for **five or more hours**, you can retake the ALEKS assessment for potential improvement. The placement should again be taken without the aid of outside resources or technology.

How can I access accommodations? If you need special accommodations, including technology resources, please contact MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu for assistance. If you are not sure whether you are eligible for extended testing time, please visit the CU Denver Disability Resources and Services disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu

Should all students take the ALEKS Assessment? No. Only students who are required to take MATH 1110, MATH 1120, MATH 1130, MATH 1399, MATH 1400, or MATH 1401 should take the assessment. Please consult with your advisor if you have further questions about the most appropriate course.

When will my scores update in the registration system? Your ALEKS Placement score will update in the system within three business days.

What are the pre-requisite scores/requirements?

Course Number	Course Name	ALEKS Score Range	Prior Coursework Alternative
MATH 1110	College Algebra	46 or Higher	NA
MATH 1120	College Trigonometry	61 or Higher	MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 with a C- or Higher
MATH 1130	Precalculus	61 or Higher AND Advisor Consultation	NA
MATH 1399	Stretch Calculus 1 Part A	76 or higher – see Guidance for Calc 1 Course Selection	• MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 AND MATH 1120 with a C- or higher • MATH 1130 with a C- or higher
MATH 1401	Calculus I	76 or Higher	• MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 AND MATH 1120 with a C- or Higher • MATH 1130 with a C- or higher

With an ALEKS Placement Score of 76 or greater, you are eligible to enroll in Calculus. The Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences offers two options:

- MATH 1401 – Calculus I (a one-semester course)
- MATH 1399 and MATH 1400 – Stretch Calculus Parts A and B (a two-semester course sequence)

To determine which is a better fit for you, answer these question(s):

- **Question 1** - While taking the ALEKS placement, did you use a calculator, notes, computer technology, or other outside resources to assist you in solving the problems?
 - If Yes – We recommend taking MATH 1399
 - If No – Go to Question 2
- **Question 2** - Without a calculator, are you comfortable manipulating algebraic expressions, equations, and functions such as linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric (in both degree and radian angle measure)? This includes factoring, solving, graphing, evaluating, and working with fractions.
 - If Yes – We recommend taking MATH 1401
 - If No – We recommend taking MATH 1399

More about ALEKS

ALEKS is an online, adaptive system, covering a broad spectrum of topics. Each question will be determined by the accuracy of the questions before and building on your familiarity with each topic. Questions are open response and ALEKS will provide an online calculator, when appropriate, so students should not use assistive devices other than a pencil/pen and paper.

This assessment is used for placement, it is not a preview of math courses at CU Denver. You will see some, but not all of the math you have been previously exposed to.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Operations with real numbers (including fractions, integers, percentages, and irrational numbers)
- Factoring
- Solving equations and inequalities (including linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and quadratic equations)
- Properties and Graphs of Functions (including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric)
- Function Compositions and Inverse Functions
- Geometric Topics (including circles, right triangles, angle measures, perimeter, area and volume)