

Mathematics Placement Advising Sheet for Faculty Advisors

Mathematics Placement

Some students may be auto-placed into math courses using available student data, while others will take the ALEKS Math Placement Assessment.

Mathematics Auto-Placement

Students with an intended major that requires or strongly suggests MA121 Calculus I will be auto-placed into MA 120 Foundations of Calculus, PHY 120 Introductory Mathematics for Physics, or MA 121 Calculus I according to following criteria:

Math placement of student enrolled in a degree program that requires or strongly suggests Ma 121 Calculus			
SAT Scores	ACT Scores	ALEKS Placement Score	Math Placement
0-490	0-17		PHY 120 (Engineering majors) MA 120 (All other majors)
500-660	18-28	0-70	PHY 120 (Engineering majors)
No SAT score	No ACT score	0-70	MA 120 (All other majors)
500-660	18-28	71-100	MA 121 Calculus*
N/A	N/A	71-100	
670 and above	29 and above		MA 121 Calculus I*

**Students placed into PHY 120 or MA 120 must earn a letter-grade of C- or better as a prerequisite for registration into MA 121 Calculus.*

Note: Students placed in MA 120 or PHY 120 need a C- or better to take MA 121 Calculus 1.

Students with an auto-placement may choose to take the ALEKS Math Placement Assessment if they have reason to believe their auto-placement underestimates their level of preparation.

Mathematics Auto-Placement Using Other Student Data

Student Situation	Math Placement
Intended major does not require or strongly suggest MA121 Calculus I	MA 251 Probability and Statistics
Scored 4 or better on AP Precalculus exam, earning transfer credit for MA 120, and intended major requires or strongly suggests MA121 <u>Please note:</u> The Engineering Program does NOT award transfer credit for PHY 120 for AP Precalculus examination. For more information, please contact the School of Engineering and Computer Science.	MA 121 Calculus I
Scored 4 or better on AP Calculus AB exam, earning transfer credit for MA 121 Calculus I, and intended major requires MA122 Calculus II	MA 122 Calculus II
Scored 4 or better on AP Calculus BC exam, earning transfer credit for both MA 121 Calculus I and MA 122 Calculus II, and intended major requires MA222 Calculus III	MA 222 Calculus III

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ALEKS Mathematics Placement Assessment Program

The ALEKS Placement Assessment Program is a timed, proctored assessment delivered online. It is an “assessment,” NOT A TEST. The difference is that an assessment is designed to determine what students know for placement purposes, rather than for assignment of a grade.

The ALEKS placement exam will be taken online using online proctoring software before students arrive for orientation. There will be arrangements for students who prefer to take ALEKS in-person in a campus computer lab proctored by staff during orientation. Students who wish to take ALEKS in-person and who cannot attend orientation may schedule the exam for another day.

If you want to place into a higher-level course, you may use ALEKS learning modules to practice your skills and retake the assessment one additional time. You must wait 24 hours between assessments and spend at least 10 hours actively using the learning modules before taking your second assessment.

Note to students regarding ALEKS: There is really no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on the assessment. The most important thing is that you take the assessment seriously and give it an honest effort so that the assessment truly reflects your level of knowledge and math preparedness. As such, you are encouraged to be honest about your skill level. There is no benefit to cheating on the placement assessment. The purpose of the placement assessment is to give an accurate measure of your current mathematical skills so that you will be successful in your mathematics courses.

Why use proctoring for the ALEKS assessment?

For incoming students, it is important that they start on the right track, beginning with determining the appropriate courses for their first semester. We believe that success does not follow one pathway, as our students are varied and diverse in their backgrounds. Research shows that proctored math placement assessments are more likely to place students into math courses in which students are more likely to succeed.

Results

Math placement results are available immediately through ALEKS and students' placements will be finalized by June 23.

Transferring ALEKS from Another Institution

ALEKS assessment scores may be transferred from a previous institution if the institution has opted into score sharing through ALEKS. When the option to "send results" is enabled, students can select send results from the menu in their ALEKS cohort tile on their "My Classes" page. They can then choose from the list of institutions that have opted in to receiving results and securely send their placement results to Elizabethtown College. Elizabethtown College will review the results once they are received and decide if the results will be accepted for course placement. Scores that are more than 1 year old are unlikely to be accepted. Students with older scores will be asked to re-take the placement assessment.