

ALEKS Assessment – Student Handout for High Schools

(effective 11/1/2024)

Do I Need the ALEKS Assessment?

- If you took the prerequisite DMACC course in the last eighteen months and received a C- or better, you may register for the next DMACC Math course and do not need to take ALEKS.
- For high school students taking DMACC math courses in their high school specifically, if you earned a B- or higher in the previous high school math course or a C- or higher in their previous DMACC Math course and have remained in sequence, you will be exempt and do not need to take the ALEKS assessment.
- If your situation does not meet either of the above requirements, you must take the proctored ALEKS assessment. You will need to meet the minimum cut scores as outlined for each DMACC Math course in order to register. [Placement Score Table](#)

What Do I Need to do Before Taking the ALEKS Assessment?

1. Prior to testing, install the ALEKS Respondus LockDown Browser and ALEKS Respondus Monitor [Support - System Requirements](#) in order to take the placement exam remotely. You will need to work with someone at the school to ensure they are able to do download this on your school provided Chromebook/laptop. You will also need an active web camera and show a valid photo ID.
2. The ALEKS Assessment requires you to have a DMACC account and to be able to log into myDMACC. If you have a DMACC account or have already taken DMACC courses, you will need your DMACC email and password to log in (Previously sent in an email from DMACC and in a postcard). If you need help recovering this information, please contact your DMACC Career Advantage Advisor or contact DMACC Technical Support at 515-965-7300.
3. If you have never taken a DMACC course before and do not have a DMACC account, you will need to complete a Career Advantage Application. <https://www.dmacc.edu/careeradvantage/students.html>
 - Click Begin **Career Advantage Application** and Create an Account.
4. Once your account is created, you will need to check your email address for a DMACC email containing the link to verify your account.
 - Click on the link in the email.
 - Once verified, click Apply Online at the top of the page and sign in using the username and password you created in the previous step.
5. Once you complete and submit the application, you will receive a confirmation email from DMACC.
6. In a few business days, you will receive two emails from DMACC. One will contain your DMACC email and DMACC ID number, the other will contain your password. You will also receive a mailing from DMACC with this information as well.
7. Once you have completed these steps, you may proceed to take the ALEKS Assessment.
8. You will need to download the Microsoft Authenticator App. (See DMACC.LINK/MFAVID for help).
 - Please note that you cannot complete the DMACC Career Advantage Application and take the ALEKS Assessment in the same day as it takes a few business days to process the application and send out your login information.

Where Do I Take the ALEKS Assessment?

Preferred option: Visit the [DMACC Testing Center Locations \(https://www.dmacc.edu/testing-center/locations.html\)](https://www.dmacc.edu/testing-center/locations.html) web page and choose a DMACC location to take your ALEKS assessment. Carefully review the hours of operation and scheduling requirements.

Alternative option: Take the assessment at a **high school**. You will need to download Respondus Lockdown + Monitor software to your Chromebook in order for the assessment to work (see Item #1 above).

Refer to the **ALEKS Information Pages** at <https://www.dmacc.edu/testing-center/tests.html> for ALEKS Assessment FAQs as well as instructions for taking the assessment at a DMACC location or taking it remotely.

High school students wanting to use an accommodation to take the ALEKS assessment should go to the [Disability Services](#) home page and complete the Application for Accommodation and provide supporting documentation. The Disability Services Office (DSO) will inform the student once they are approved, and DSO will add the student to a special ALEKS account so they receive extra time when they login to ALEKS.

Test Aids Provided by Proctor

1 Pencil	Scratch Paper	Calculator (built-in online)
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- Assistance from friends, family, websites, textbooks, or any other resource not provided by ALEKS during your assessment is prohibited.
 - Using prohibited resources may lead to improper course placement and course failure. Test misconduct is a violation of DMACC's Student Conduct Policy.
 - Suspicious behavior flagged by Respondus Monitor proctoring software will be reviewed by staff in the DMACC Math Department in accordance with [DMACC Policy ES4670 – Academic Misconduct](#).

Assessment Tips

The assessment takes an average of 60 minutes to complete with a time limit of 120 minutes. There are a maximum of 30 questions, and it will include some of the math you learned in high school. To see a list of all possible topics covered, visit the [ALEKS website](https://www.aleks.com/highered/ppl/ALEKS_Placement_Problem_Types.pdf) (https://www.aleks.com/highered/ppl/ALEKS_Placement_Problem_Types.pdf).

ALEKS is **not** a multiple-choice Placement Assessment. It is open-response and requires you to work out solutions with paper and pencil, then enter the answer into ALEKS. Do your best on topics that are familiar but note that you only enter a final answer. Points are not awarded for showing your work.

You may be asked questions on material you have not yet learned or do not remember. It is appropriate to answer, “**I Don't Know**” for these questions. ALEKS interprets this as you do not know how to solve the topic. Wrong answers are weighted more heavily against your score than selecting “**I Don't Know**” as your answer.

ALEKS is adaptive; once you submit an answer, you cannot change it. The assessment chooses your next question based on your previous answers. Carefully check your answers before submitting your response.

Accessing the ALEKS Assessment

1. Upon arriving at the designated testing location, you will be asked to show a current photo ID such as driver's license, DART pass, or student ID.
2. You will then store your belongings in a place where your notes, books, calculator, phone (powered off), ear buds, etc. cannot be seen or accessed.
3. Login to your myDMACC account and click on “ALEKS Math Assessment” under Shortcuts on the left side of the page.
4. Click on “**Begin Assessment**”. If the link does not bring you into the ALEKS assessment, you have already taken your initial free attempt and need to re-subscribe. Follow the [Resubscription Instructions](#) under Math Placement at DMACC (<https://www.dmacc.edu/testing-center/tests.html>) and pay the \$15 fee.
 - Have a debit/credit card on hand in case you need to re-subscribe.
5. A DMACC proctor will enter a secure password to start the assessment.
6. Prior to beginning your assessment, you will complete a **survey**. The first question of the assessment will be based on your survey responses.
7. Next, you will **complete a tutorial** which shows you how to enter different types of answers, how to use the ALEKS calculator, and how to graph. If you need help while you are taking ALEKS, click on the “help” button at the top of the screen.

Results

Refer to the **Placement Score** table online at tests.dmacc.edu to determine your course recommendation based on your ALEKS score. You can retake ALEKS for a higher score up to four times if you need a higher score for course registration. Your highest score will be used for placement.

After your initial ALEKS Assessment, you can review and master additional topics by using the Prep and Learning Modules which are tailored specifically for you based on your assessment results. You have **12 months** to use the Prep and Learning Modules after your first assessment. The Prep and Learning Modules can be done at home at your own leisure.

ALEKS Retakes

- **2nd attempt:** 3 hours of the Prep and Learning Modules before retaking the assessment.
- **3rd attempt:** 3 additional hours of the Prep and Learning Module before retaking the assessment.
- **4th attempt:** 5 additional hours of the Prep and Learning module before retaking the assessment.
- **5th attempt:** 8 additional hours of the Prep and Learning Module before attempting the assessment. This is the final attempt permitted by DMACC.

Upon completion of the Placement Assessment, your scores can be accessed by your academic advisor. Your advisor can help you review your scores and provide recommendations for course registration.

At DMACC, your ALEKS score is valid for **18 months** from the completion date.