

ALEKS MATH PLACEMENT

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

UPDATED FOR SPRING 2021

ABOUT ALEKS

Mercyhurst University requires an ALEKS mathematics placement assessment to determine readiness for various courses. The ALEKS Placement Assessment covers material from basic mathematics through precalculus and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. At the end of the ALEKS Placement Assessment, you will have a much better sense of your strengths and weaknesses in math. You will then have a chance to work on those weaknesses through a targeted Prep and Learning Module geared to your goals to improve placement and eventual course outcomes.

It is important that you relax and that you are honest about your skill level. This is simply an assessment, not a test. The difference is that an assessment is designed to determine what you know in order to best serve your academic success at Mercyhurst University.

HOW TO TAKE/RETAKE THE ALEKS MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT TEST

Go to the ALEKS website at <https://www.aleks.com/login>. Choose SIGN UP NOW, even if you have already taken the ALEKS placement test.

Enter the Class Code **ELLVX-RFK4F** and click Continue. You should see the following confirmation details:

Confirm Class Information

You are about to be enrolled in the following ALEKS class. Check the class details carefully.

Class Code:	ELLVX-RFK4F
Class:	Current Students, Jan-Dec 2021
Subject:	Higher Education Math Placement
Class Dates:	01/01/2021 - 04/06/2022
Institution:	Mercyhurst University

Select "No, I have never used ALEKS before" (even if you have).

Enter your information to create your account. You must use your Mercyhurst email in order for your scores to be recognized by the registrar. Choose a memorable password and agree to the terms of use, then continue. Note your username and continue.

Select "No, I need to purchase an access code." You will be taken to a screen asking for additional information, and asked to pay a fee of \$22.01 (plus tax) using a credit or debit card.

Complete your registration, and begin the guided tour of ALEKS before starting the placement test.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Before you start the placement test, make sure you have a pencil and paper nearby for scratch work. You will not need a calculator. Allow up to three hours to complete the exam. Most students finish in about 1-2 hours.

WHAT'S INCLUDED FOR YOUR FEE

The fee you pay to create this account includes:

- 5 attempts at the placement test, available for 1 year
- customized tutorials and practice quizzes to help you improve your score, available for 6 months

If you are not satisfied with your score the first time, spend some time in the learning modules. They'll help you get acquainted with ALEKS, and are customized for you based on your first attempt at the placement test. Just a few hours of practice can make a big difference in your score, and is faster and cheaper than taking a prerequisite course. After your first three attempts at the placement test, you'll have to spend a minimum of 3 hours on the practice modules to "unlock" the next two attempts.

INTERPRETING YOUR SCORE

ALEKS scores cannot be interpreted in the same way as exam grades. Scores of 30 or higher reflect adequate preparation for college-level math. The score does not reflect a percentage of the material you answered correctly. Instead, it is based on the topics you have shown mastery of.

You should select one of the courses below only if the course is appropriate for your degree program. If your degree does not require one of the courses listed below, you can meet your REACH requirement with other courses. Your academic advisor will help you select appropriate courses when you are building your schedule. For first-year students, this conversation will occur at New Student Orientation.

Minimum ALEKS Score	Eligible For
Below 25 / No Score	Math 108, Math 110
25	Math 111, Stat 109
46	CIS 100, Stat 139
50	Math 118
60	Math 112
70	Math 170
76	Phys 101

A score of 46 or better means you do not have to take a MATH or STAT course to satisfy the REACH requirement. However, you will still need at least two courses in the Analytical Thought category of REACH. You may also need to take a MATH or STAT course if required by your program.

QUESTIONS?

For questions related to creating and accessing your ALEKS account, understanding your ALEKS score, or mathematics course requirements, please contact Dr. Lauren Williams at lwilliams@mercyhurst.edu

For questions about which math courses (if any) you'll need to take for your degree program, please contact your academic advisor.