

Math 32 Students: Please bring a laptop computer to class on Friday Jan 19 for an in-class assignment — or let millyfarid@berkeley.edu know before Friday if you'd like assistance accessing a laptop.

Dear Math 32 Students,

This semester we are using an online learning resource, ALEKS PPL, as an extra learning tool. We will begin using the ALEKS PPL resources in class this Friday (Jan 19) with an initial assessment module that's designed to help you determine what you know and what you need to work on. The purpose of this initial module is to help you identify and focus on topics that you might wish to brush up on, that you may have forgotten, or that you've not practiced for some time. Following the initial in-class module, we encourage you to access ALEKS PPL at your convenience throughout the semester to see how your learning is progressing and fill in any gaps in knowledge using individualized learning modules. At the end of the semester, you will take a final assessment module to check your progress.

All students enrolled in Math 32 this semester may use ALEKS-PPL for free. It won't replace in-class instruction. Your participation in the initial and final assessment modules will count as 5% of your final grade. The results of the assessments will not affect your grade. Work in the learning modules during the semester is strongly encouraged.

For our implementation of ALEKS-PPL, you will

1. Take an **initial assessment** during the second lecture of the course (on Friday, Jan 19). The initial module includes up to 30 questions and generally takes 60-90 minutes to complete. You are encouraged to work at your pace.
2. Work in the **prep and learning modules**, as needed, during the semester. The prep and learning module will be made available to you for six months. This is an individualized, self-paced online review of prerequisite topics as well as a resource to learn topics we will go over in the course. You will have access to 3 additional check-in modules that will help you check your progress, all of which will remain available to you online until the last few weeks of the semester. You can take these at your convenience and complete them at your own pace. They are intended to assist you as you learn the material for the course. We encourage you to spend time in the prep and learning module, even if you are progressing to your own satisfaction through the course material. Though your results on the modules will not count toward your course grade, time spent in ALEKS PPL will ultimately lead you to better preparation, which may help you improve your knowledge and, therefore, your grade.
3. Take a **final assessment** at the end of the semester. This module is intended to serve as a resource to guide you in your final review for the course.

Grading: Taking the initial and final assessments is required. The results of the assessments will not affect your grade, but participation in the assessments will count as 5% of your final grade. Working in the online learning modules is strongly encouraged, as it will help you master topics necessary to do well in this course.

FAQs

Preparation

What do I need to take the initial module? You will need to bring a laptop computer with internet access to class on Thursday, January 18th. Please let us know if this presents a problem and we will do our best to assist you.

Do I need to install any software or plug-ins prior to taking the initial module? No. There are no required plug-ins or applets required with your use of ALEKS PPL. As long as you have access to the Internet and are using an updated browser, you should not experience difficulties in taking your initial module. For a list of preferred browsers, please review the system requirements on the ALEKS support site: http://www.aleks.com/support/system_requirements

What topics are covered during the initial module? ALEKS PPL is an online, adaptive system that covers a broad spectrum of mathematics topics. The length of the modules will vary, but can be up to 30 questions. You will see some, but not all, of the math you have learned in high school. It is not a preview of Math 32, rather, it is designed to help you determine which topics you know and offer you opportunities to review, and master additional topics.

Topics covered:

- Real numbers (including fractions, integers, and percentages)
- Equations and inequalities (including linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and quadratic equations),
- Linear and quadratic functions (including graphs and functions, linear functions, and parabolas), exponents and polynomials (including integer exponents, polynomial arithmetic, factoring, and polynomial equations), rational expressions (including rational equations and rational functions)
- Radical expressions (including higher roots and rational exponents)
- Exponentials and logarithms (including function compositions and inverse functions, properties of logarithms, and logarithmic equations)
- Geometry and trigonometry (including perimeter, area, and volume, coordinate geometry, trigonometric functions, and identities and equations).

Can I practice using the ALEKS input tools before I begin the initial module? ALEKS will begin with a brief tutorial to make sure you are comfortable with the math palette tools before your initial module begins. The tutorial shows you how to enter different types of answers, how to use the ALEKS calculator, and how to graph. If you aren't sure how to input an answer, or need help while you are taking the initial module, select the **Help** button below the answer pallet tools. Going to the tutorial during your initial module will NOT impact your results.

The Initial Assessment Module

What is the format of the questions on ALEKS? ALEKS does not use multiple-choice. It is open-response and requires you to work out solutions with a paper and pencil, and then enter them into ALEKS. Be sure to have scratch paper with you.

May I use a calculator while using ALEKS? ALEKS will provide an on-screen calculator if you need one to complete a particular problem. Otherwise, you may not use a calculator.

May I use any other resources during the initial module? You may only use a pen or pencil, paper, and the resources provided within ALEKS. You should not receive assistance from friends, family, other websites, textbooks, or any other resource not provided by ALEKS.

Can I review a question after I've answered it? Because ALEKS is adaptive, once you submit an answer, you cannot change it. Be sure to carefully check your answer before submitting your response.

What if I see questions I don't know? It is likely that you will be asked questions on material you have not yet learned. On such questions it is appropriate to answer, **I don't know**. On any question that you have familiarity with, however, it is important to do your best. **I don't know** is interpreted by ALEKS to mean that you do not know how to solve the topic, and this will be reflected in the module's results. There is no penalty for incorrectly answering a question, it only helps ALEKS understand what you know and don't know.

Are the modules timed? For each of the two in-class modules, you will be given 80 minutes to complete the modules. For the optional follow up modules that are designed to help you check on your progress, you are free to complete the module at your own pace for up to 2 hours. If you need to exit the module for any reason, you will be able to log back in and pick up where you left off.

What happens if I do not complete a module in the allotted time? You will be given a result, but it will not be a true reflection of where you stand. You may take an additional unproctored module, which can be completed over the course of any 24 hour time period, to obtain a more accurate reflection of where you stand.

I am ready to start my ALEKS PPL initial module. How do I begin? See Student Registration Instructions at the end of this document.

Results

What is my result? Your result (overall score) is a number between 0 and 100. It represents the percentage of topics ALEKS has identified you have mastered.

Where can I see my score? Your ALEKS score can be viewed by re-entering ALEKS using the same access link for which you took the module.

What do I do with my results? This is a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the Prep and Learning modules offered within ALEKS PPL. An individualized study plan will be created based on your performance on the initial module. ALEKS will identify what you know and what you are ready to learn next so you can brush up on lost knowledge. Take advantage of the individualized review and learning features in ALEKS to get a better grade in your class.

Can I retake the ALEKS PPL check-in modules? Yes, you may take up to 3 of them on your own time. To make each attempt worthwhile, it is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS prep and learning module between attempts so that you can improve your skills.

Can I retake the ALEKS check in modules immediately? You must wait 48 hours between attempts. There is generally no benefit to re-taking these check-in modules immediately after completing a prior attempt. Instead, you should spend some time in the prep and learning module to refresh material that you may have forgotten or learn new material.

Prep and Learning Modules

How long do I have access to my prep and learning module? You will have six months of access to your prep and learning module. Access to the prep course will not begin until you select **start** on the top of your screen. DO NOT select into the “Prep and Learning Module” until you are ready to start working.

Is there a fee for my Prep and Learning Module? No, access to a Prep and Learning Module is included and is being provided to you for free this semester.

What are ALEKS Knowledge Checks? While working in a Prep and Learning Module, you will periodically complete a Knowledge Check to make sure you have mastered the topics you gained in Learning Mode. If you do not show mastery during the Knowledge Check, the topics will be added back into your Learning Pie so you can review them again.

Support

Who do I contact if I have questions? Milly Farid (millyfarid@berkeley.edu)

What do I do if my web browser gets stuck or my computer crashes while I'm taking the modules? Simply close the browser, or log out and log back in. ALEKS will resume the modules exactly where you left off, with no loss of your previous answers.

Where can I get help with ALEKS?

<http://www.aleks.com/faqs/technical>

http://support.aleks.com/assess_placement

Student Registration Instructions

Before you begin, you will need this 10-character Class Code – **KF9P9-3HYQH**

For assistance during this process, please contact ALEKS Customer Support at

<http://support.aleks.com>

Step 1: Go to www.aleks.com and click The yellow “New Student? Sign up now” box.

Step 2: Enter the 10-character class code provided by your instructor, **KF9P9-3HYQH** and click **Continue**.

Step 3: Verify your enrollment information. If it is incorrect, check your class code and click on **(modify)** to make any corrections. If your information is correct, click on **Continue**.

Step 4: Select “I have never used ALEKS before...” even if you have an ALEKS account from another school. Complete the registration steps to create a new ALEKS account and click on **Continue**. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provide.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to save your new login information so you can revisit your new ALEKS PPL account.

You will have access to your ALEKS PPL account for 6 months.