

# MACU's Math Placement Procedure

## Students Entering Fall 2026 or Spring 2027

At MACU, the ALEKS Placement Test is intended for students who know Algebra and/or Trigonometry but do not have ACT scores or SAT Scores. ALEKS is also available for students who have such scores but want to try to place in a higher-level math than currently determined by ACT / SAT scores. ALEKS consists of three parts:

- An initial un-proctored placement test (you can think of this as a practice test, but please take it seriously and give it your best, honest effort)
- The Prep and Learning Modules, individualized, self-paced online review
- A final proctored placement test, which is the only test that actually determines your course placement

**How and when can I get started on ALEKS?** You can get started anytime up to 6 months before the final un-proctored placement test. To start, go to [www.aleks.com](http://www.aleks.com), and sign up using the code **A3UW6-RN6XW (for Fall 2026) or 6GDDT-U44KT (for Spring 2027)**. You will need a credit card to pay the \$25 fee. Once you take the initial un-proctored placement test, you will have a chance to practice in the Prep and Learning Module to improve your preparation level before you take the final proctored placement test. You are encouraged to spend time in the Prep and Learning Modules, even if your desired score is achieved, because time spent in ALEKS will ultimately lead to better preparation and improved grades.

\*\*In addition to purchasing access to ALEKS, contact the Academic Affairs (AA) office to sign up to take the final proctored test. You may contact Nancy Duffer for test day details ([nancy.duffer@macuniversity.edu](mailto:nancy.duffer@macuniversity.edu) or 252-334-2086).

**When and where is the final proctored ALEKS placement test?** The final proctored ALEKS placement test is offered on-campus at MACU several times prior to the start of a new semester. Be sure to sign up to take the final proctored test.

**What materials do I need to bring to the final proctored ALEKS placement test?** Please bring a laptop, photo ID, and pencil to the test. The test will be administered online on your laptop. You will NOT need a calculator, as one will be provided online for problems that require it. For students who do not have a laptop a limited number of computers are available in the MACU Library. You must make prior arrangements with Mrs. Duffer if you are unable to bring a laptop and need to use a MACU computer in the Library.

**What MACU courses does the ALEKS Placement Test give placement credit for?** Depending on your score, the ALEKS Placement Test can give you placement credit for MATH 161 (College Algebra) and MATH 165 (Math for the Liberal Arts) and/or MATH 171 (Pre-Calculus).

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Cut Score	Range	Placement Credit Awarded	Register for this Course Next
0	0 – 45	None	MATH 010 (Basic Math)

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46	46 – 60	MATH 010 (Basic Math)	MATH 161 (College Algebra)
61	61 – 75	MATH 161 (College Algebra)	MATH 165 (Math for the Liberal Arts) or MATH 171 (Precalculus)
76	76 – 100	MATH 161 (Algebra) and MATH 171 (Precalculus)	MATH 181 (Calculus)

### What topics are covered during the ALEKS PPL Assessment?

- 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).

**Is there a cost for the ALEKS Placement Test?** Yes, it costs \$25. You can pay online when you register.

**Does the ALEKS Placement Test give the same course credit as taking MATH 161 or MATH 171?** No, students do not earn any course credits or units towards graduation by passing the ALEKS Placement Test. They only receive placement credit, which gives permission to take classes that require MATH 161 or MATH 171 as prerequisites.

### Who should take the ALEKS Placement Test?

The ALEKS Placement Test is intended primarily for students who do not have placement by other means. Students who already have placement scores (e.g. from the ACT or SAT) are not expected to take the ALEKS placement test, but they are permitted to do so if they wish to use ALEKS' Prep and Learning Modules to review and improve their mastery of Algebra and Precalculus and attempt to place higher in the Precalculus/Calculus sequence. Students who have already registered for MATH 161 or MATH 171 and withdrew or failed cannot use the ALEKS placement test to place out of these courses.

**When will I find out the results?** You will receive your score immediately upon completion of your proctored placement test. Your ALEKS score can also be viewed by re-entering ALEKS later.

### If I pass the ALEKS Placement Test, how do I register for MATH 161 (or MATH 171 or MATH 181 or courses in other departments that require MATH 010 as prereqs?)

If you are successful, your record will be updated within Populi to include placement credit for MATH 010, in a timely manner. However, sometimes the update may be delayed, so if you need to register for courses for the current semester, then the registrar's office can register you manually, space permitting. The registrar's office can also facilitate registration for courses that require MATH 010 as prerequisites, space permitting.

**Can I get accommodations for the ALEKS Placement Test?** If you require accommodations for the placement exams, please work with the Learning Enhancement Services Office ([nancy.duffer@macuniversity.edu](mailto:nancy.duffer@macuniversity.edu)). If appropriate, Mrs. Duffer will provide a different ALEKS code that allows extended time. For students who are visually impaired, there are also accommodations that may be made, as determined by Mrs. Duffer. All such accommodations must be determined by Mrs. Duffer **prior to registering within the ALEKS system.**

**Is there any other way to get placement credit for MATH 010 or MATH M161?** Please see the university catalog for information on placement using ACT scores or SAT Math scores.

**Where can I get help with ALEKS?**

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/support/support-at-every-step/student/aleks>

**What if I want to place out of Calculus?** Please see the university catalog for information on placing out of Calculus I using AP scores or CLEP scores.