

## Math 100 FAQs

- <http://math.arizona.edu/math100/>
- <http://www.facebook.com/UAMath100>

### **What is the purpose of Math 100?**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for a university-level math class and pass the placement exam.

Approximately one-third of the incoming class are not ready to take a university-level math class. Successful completion of Math 100 provides students with the skills and placement level needed for their next math course.

### **How is this class taught?**

In this course, we hold class meetings using a virtual classroom, complete with a virtual whiteboard, chat, audio, and screen sharing. Although the class meetings are held online, the teaching staff and the students are online at the same time and interact throughout the entire meeting period, held twice a week.

Students are given a very specific, individualized, and structured program which includes: daily homework assignments that are individualized to the student's current progress and overall placement goals; required online attendance in the virtual classroom during their class meeting period where they interact with their designated teaching assistant; and regular progress assessments. With a student to teacher ratio of 12:1, we have created smaller, more individualized classrooms, which happen to be in a virtual environment.

During the virtual classroom meetings, students work one-on-one or in small groups with their teaching assistant and other classmates. Students are required to interact with each other and their teaching assistant to work through problems together, as well as to keep a digital portfolio of their written mathematics work, which is graded regularly throughout the semester.

### **How much of this class is online?**

Students determine how much in-person contact they would like with this course. Although the class meetings are held online, the teaching staff interacts throughout the entire meeting period with the students. Students are not alone with their work. All students are also encouraged to come to in-person office hours each week. Additionally, students are able to bring their materials to Pascal's, our coaching center in ILC 140, if they prefer having in-person support during class. Students may come to Pascal's and receive in-person help on the material during office hours.

### **Can students talk with the instructional staff in person?**

Yes. Office staff can help students with general questions and concerns from 9:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday – Friday, at Pascal's. Students are also able to make one-on-one instructor appointments if they have concerns they would like to address in private.

### **When are office hours?**

Office hours are a time for students to get help with course material. The office hour times are from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. Office hours take place at Pascal's in Room 140 of the Manuel Pacheco Integrated Learning Center (ILC 140).

## **What is the best way to communicate with the Math 100 instructional staff?**

Students may:

- Like and message us on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/UAMath100>  
Students will receive a response from instructional staff within 1 hour during open hours.
- Come see us in person at Pascal's in ILC 140 from 9:00AM – 5:00PM Monday - Friday.

## **Why was the ALEKS program selected?**

ALEKS is the student's online textbook and tutorial. We chose this model because the ALEKS program is adaptive.

Using this program, students create their own paths through the course content and tackle problems when they are truly ready to master them. Students do not have to work on problems they already know how to do. The regular class meetings and homework goals that are set each day allow us to monitor student progress and hold them accountable for meeting intermediate goals. These intermediate goals are set to help students be successful on their in-person, proctored exams during the semester.

## **How much time should students spend in ALEKS?**

This varies depending on the student. In general, our students spend an average of 1-2 hours per day in ALEKS.

## **How successful are students coming out of Math 100?**

*How many place into a university level math course?* Approximately 70% of our students place into a university level math course at the end of the course.

*How do they do in their subsequent math class?* Students who go into Math 105- Math in Modern Society and Math 109C- College Algebra tend to perform similarly to their peers who directly placed into the course through the placement exam. We only recommend Math 112 for students who score a 90% or above on the final exam in Math 100.

## **Why isn't there a hardcopy textbook for Math 100?**

Students who place into Math 100 have used traditional textbooks for 12 years and it has not aided them in retaining the information.

Using a textbook forces the student to learn the material linearly, in a prescribed order. Typically, this causes students to work slowly through sections that they know very well, then rush through sections in which they are struggling. When students come to Math 100, they each have a unique background and past experience with learning math. Forcing all of these students to simultaneously progress through a regimented textbook is not as helpful as working at their individual pace.

ALEKS serves as the textbook for Math 100. When students work in ALEKS, they are working out the typical textbook problems of a hardcopy textbook, but with the advantage of extra support per problem. If a student needs help with a particular problem, they may click on "Explain" to see the problem fully worked out with a verbal explanation. When they return to the practice problems, they will be given a similar problem, but not identical, so they can then apply the principles they learned in the explanation and better retain the information.