READ BEFORE TAKING THE UA ALEKS ONLINE MATH PLACEMENT TEST

The math placement test is designed to give students an appropriate starting math course at UA, regardless of a student’s background. You should take this seriously, make an honest attempt, but also try to maximize your score. There is NO PRACTICE test, but you should review before testing. To see what score you need for a UA math course, go to http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement#courses. You can find technical assistance and screen captures of the ALEKS system at http://w3.math.arizona.edu/files/academics/moreALEKS.pdf

Top Ten Ways to Maximize Your Placement Score

1. **Take the right test!** Once you select a test you cannot switch for any reason.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Take this exam</th>
<th>If:</th>
<th>Can this place me into Precalculus or calculus?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep for College Algebra</td>
<td>You have not recently taken Calculus, Precalculus or Trigonometry. This is an Algebra test.</td>
<td>No, sufficient scores can only place a student as high as College Algebra or business/brief calculus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep for Calculus</td>
<td>You have recently taken or are taking Precalculus, Trigonometry, or higher math like Calculus. There is no calculus on this test. Generally, students in Engineering, College of Science, Physiology, and majors that require calculus take this test.</td>
<td>Yes, sufficient scores can place a student as high as precalculus or calculus.</td>
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2. **Review before you take the exam.** Go to http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/review.html. There is no practice test, but you can practice.

3. **Complete all of the problems.** You cannot skip questions. The problems must be done in order. The “I don’t know” answer should only be used if you have never seen that particular type of problem. Do not use the forward and backward arrows on your browser. They will not work. You will not receive a score unless you complete the exam and your pie chart and percentage are given.

4. **Make sure you have 2-3 hours to dedicate to testing and try to complete the test in one sitting.** If you take a break while testing, you can re-access the test through the “Begin test and download process” link in Next Steps.

5. **Follow all directions in ALEKS.** This includes solving all problems without assistance and using only the calculator provided by ALEKS. It is important that your current knowledge is reflected in your test score.

6. **Have plenty of paper available to completely work out every problem.** You are more prone to make mistakes if you do not write out your work completely, clearly, and legibly.

7. **Before you click “Next”, check your work often.** Check every answer on your scratch paper, and check to make sure that you typed your answer into ALEKS correctly, as it appears on your paper.

8. **Do not rush through your exam.** This exam is determining your placement into your next math class at the U of A. There is no time limit, so take your time (in one sitting preferably). If you are not happy with your placement score, you will need to re-test. You have ONE attempt at one test through the Next Steps Center. If you wish to re-test or take the “other” test, you will need to pay a proctoring fee and take it at the UA Testing Office. Once you complete your exam, your score is final. Any technical or other issues need to be resolved before completing the test. See trouble shooting information below. You must complete the exam and be able to view your pie chart at the end in order to receive a score.

9. **What internet Browser do I use?** MAC – Safari or Firefox, PC- Explorer, Firefox, or Chrome

10. **If you have technical difficulties, contact ALEKS through** http://support.aleks.com/. If your computer freezes, times out, or wifi goes out, just go back to the “Access the Test here” link in your Next Steps Center.