

## **Math Placement**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***WHO has to take the ALEKS Math Placement Exam?***

- 1) All incoming freshman who wish to take a UA math course at or below the Calculus level need to take the placement test.
- 2) Any current or transfer student who wants to take a course at or below the Calculus I level (Math 122A/B, 124/125) who does not have recent prerequisite course work (last 3 semesters, 18 months) will need to satisfy the math placement test requirements in order to take a math course. The test is not required for placement into courses above Calculus I (like Math 129, Calculus II). Transfer students with recent math prerequisite course work may not have to test. See the math placement website for more information.
- 3) Some non-math courses like MCB 181L/R, CHEM 151, PHYS 102, LING 178, SBS 200, ISTA 116, ENGR 102 have a Math placement requirement.
- 4) Students who have college level Intermediate Algebra credit must test. This course is not a prerequisite to UA Math. Any student who has not completed an appropriate math prerequisite and wants to take a UA math course will need to test. Math 105 is a prerequisite to Math 302A only and not Math 109C, 112, etc.
- 5) Math 100 and 100B students take the placement test as the final exam.

#### ***WHO does not need to take the ALEKS Math Placement Exam?***

- 1) All incoming freshman are asked to test. However, some have already completed their math requirements or have several courses beyond the level of UA Calculus. Students in science intensive majors should test, so that the preschedule is more accurate. However, they technically do not need to test. If a student does not test through the Next Steps Center prior to the first day of class, the student has lost his opportunity to test through the Next Steps Center and must take a proctored test through the UA Testing Office.
- 2) Transfer or current students with recent math transfer credit (last 18 months) will not need to test.

#### ***WHY do students take the ALEKS test?***

The ALEKS test is used for two purposes:

- 1) This exam is used to determine placement into a University of Arizona math or science courses OR
- 2) It can be used to satisfy the G-Strand math requirement of Math105 or Phil110. Students need a score of 88% or higher on a Proctored Prep for College Algebra (PCLG, MCLG) or 65% or higher on Proctored Prep for Calculus (PCAL), AND be in his/her first year at UA to satisfy their Math 105 or Phil 110 requirement through placement.

#### ***If I take the test for the G-strand requirement, how many units will I earn?***

None, but because you have met your math requirement, you will not have to take Math105 or Phil110. Students need a score of 88% or higher on MCLG (Math 100 final) or PCLG (Proctored Prep for Col Alg) , or 65% on PPCL (Proctored Prep for Calculus).

***WHICH TEST should I take?*** The University of Arizona is using two different ALEKS assessment tests. It is the student's responsibility to determine which placement test to take.

- **Prep for Calculus** is basically a Precalculus test. This test is for students with previous recent experience with Precalculus and Trigonometry and can possibly place students as high as Calculus. Students with no experience with PreCalculus and Trig should not take this test and need to take Precalculus (120R) or College algebra and trig first (112 + 111). This test places students at all levels (Math 100AX, 100, 112, 113, 116, 120R, 122A, 125 etc.)
- **Prep for College Algebra** is a high school Algebra test and is appropriate for students who have not yet taken Precalculus. This test places students at all levels BELOW the level of Calculus I (Math 100AX, 100, 112, 113, 116, 120R, etc. but not 122A/B, 125.)

***WHERE and WHEN do I take my first test?*** All Incoming students first test online through the Next Steps Center as long as the test is completed prior to the first day of classes at UA. After the first day of class, everyone is a current student and must take a proctored exam.

***How do I retake the test, or test as a current UA Student?*** The UA Testing Office tests year-round (1600 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street). Regular office hours are from 8 am–5 pm, Monday – Friday. Tests are offered during those hours by appointment. (Call 520-621-7589) . Testing is available outside the 8-5 M-F time frame during orientation and prior to the start of the semester. There is a \$35 fee for Proctoring+ Testing charged to the student UA bursar's account.

**Testing through ProctorU:** ProctorU is an online proctoring service primarily for out-of-state students who want to test in the summer after orientation, but prior to the start of the semester. This service is for incoming students and is available only in late spring and in summer. Students need a credit card, webcam, and computer microphone. Contact [placement@math.arizona.edu](mailto:placement@math.arizona.edu) for information. There is a \$31.25 proctoring fee paid to ProctorU when the student sets up a testing appointment, and a \$20 testing fee charged to the UA bursar's account. Current students should test in the UA Testing Office.

**How do I check my ALEKS Percentage?** If you are an incoming student, your ALEKS percentage will be in the Next Steps Center. Current students can check their unofficial transcript in UAccess, and can also verify scores through a link on the Math Department website. See [math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt](http://math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt).

**Advisors- check UAccess, Records and Enrollment, Transfer Credit Evaluation, Test Results (must view all) or the Unofficial Transcript.**

**What if I do not have a high enough score for UA math?** Students with college math credits should see a math advisor. Other students should review and retest. Refer to the information at [math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt](http://math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt).

**Can I use my scores somewhere else, such as at Pima Community College?** Pima will accept proctored test scores only (PPCL, PCLG, MCLG). Your scores are available on your Unofficial Transcript in UAccess Student and through a link on the Math Department website. See [math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt](http://math.arizona.edu/placement/mpt).

**Transfer Math Credit- go to [math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/credits](http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/credits)**

- Arizona credit: refer to the Arizona Transfer Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) to see how credit transfers. If the course is not in the CEG, you need a math evaluation.
- Out-of-state courses, or Arizona courses that are not in the CEG need to be evaluated. Go to [math.arizona.edu/placement/credits](http://math.arizona.edu/placement/credits) and submit the online evaluation form.
- Out of the U.S. courses need to be evaluated. If the course descriptions and institutional information is available online, submit the online form. If not, submit a paper form. Read details at [math.arizona.edu/placement/credits](http://math.arizona.edu/placement/credits).

**Who needs a Math Milestone Level?** Transfer credit is not automatically used for placement into most UA math courses at or below the level of Calculus I. If a student has recent Math Department approved math transfer credit (18 months), the student will not be able to register for the appropriate math course until a math milestone is awarded in UAccess. Contact the math placement office, [placement@math.arizona.edu](mailto:placement@math.arizona.edu). This cannot be done until the student has matriculated.

**How can I check my Math Milestone level? Students** – This is on your unofficial transcript in UAccess.

**Advisors-** check the unofficial transcript in UAccess, or go to Record and Enrollment, Enroll student, Student Milestones to see the math milestone level.

**I want to GRO my Math class, but my Math Placement Test score has expired.** Contact the Math Department in order to register. For GRO in general, this is not required.

**My Math Placement Test score has expired. What do I do?** In general, you will need to retest. If you originally placed into Calculus I (PCAL, PPCL 75%) and want to take a lower level math course, contact [placement@math.arizona.edu](mailto:placement@math.arizona.edu).

**How do I add a math class if seats are not available in UAccess?** Keep checking UAccess through the first week of classes. After that time, you can contact an instructor. Instructors do not sign add/drop forms until after UAccess online registration is closed.

**Answers to other questions and much more information can be found at the Testing Office and Math Department websites.**

**You made a Math exception in DARS (or a student qualifies for G-strand math from MRT/SAT scores), but it is not in UAccess. What do I do?** Contact me, [placement@math.arizona.edu](mailto:placement@math.arizona.edu) or [cschustr@math.arizona.edu](mailto:cschustr@math.arizona.edu).

New websites:

[math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/freshman](http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/freshman), [math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/transfer](http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/transfer),  
[math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/international](http://math.arizona.edu/academics/placement/international)