

ALEKS Prep for Pre-Calculus

Math 120 Section 05

- **What is Aleks?**

Aleks (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is a software package designed to assess and improve your skills in the Algebra topics needed as you begin to learn Pre-Calculus. The material tested by Aleks is basically the material contained in Math 115 (College Algebra) course.

- **How do I get it on my computer?**

- You must first purchase an Aleks license from the WSU bookstore (cost is approximately \$35). Don't attempt to purchase one online; students have tried this in the past and it has been a nightmare for them to get everything set up properly.
- Go to www.aleks.com, and on the left side of the screen below the login boxes is an option: "New User? Sign Up Now!"
- Click on that and you will be brought a screen that asks you for your "Course Code" if you are K-12 and higher education. THIS CODE YOU MUST GET FROM YOUR INSTRUCTOR. (**Yours is EMD6U-VTX4X**)
- Once that code is entered, it tells you whose class you are signing up for. If you entered the code correctly, the class should have your instructor's name, Eric Errthum.
- It will then ask you to enter your "Access Code." THIS CODE IS THE ONE YOU PURCHASED FROM THE BOOKSTORE.
- The first time you log on to Aleks, it will have to download a plug-in for your internet browser that allows you to interact with Aleks properly, view equations, etc.
- If you need assistance, you may visit the Math Achievement Center, or MAC, located in Gildemeister 135, or your instructor may choose to have you register during class itself.

- **What is the MAC, and how can it help me?**

The Mathematics Achievement Center, or MAC, is a tutoring lab for mathematics students. Math tutors will usually be present and available. For more information, including the hours that tutors are available, see the MAC website at www.winona.edu/mathematics/MAC.

- **What do I need to do after I have it on my computer?**

- You will take the Initial Assessment on your own outside of class (Aleks will automatically prompt you to do this). This takes about 1.5 to 2.0 hours. From this assessment, Aleks will determine what topics you need practice on and will adjust your practice sessions accordingly.
- Remember that part of the purpose of practicing on Aleks is to familiarize yourself with the interface so that when you take your Final Assessment, you will not lose points needlessly simply because you are unfamiliar with the software.
- When you complete enough of the practice problems in each area correctly, the software asks you to take a "Progress Assessment" in that area. You will continue through this cycle until you have a high enough percentage correct on a progress assessment (generally 80% or higher). You can work on the review problems on your own schedule, a little at a time. The software may also give you a "Goal Completion Assessment" when you complete learning the topics.
- If you have specific questions about a certain type of problem, you are encouraged to seek assistance at the MAC or from your instructor during their office hours, where tutors will be available to help. Experience has shown that the students who gain the most from this review process will put in approximately 10 to 20 hours of Aleks work between their Initial Assessment and their final Requested Assessment.

- **Can I use a graphing calculator during the Aleks Assessment?**

You are not allowed to use any graphing calculator when you are working on Aleks Assessments. For the problems that require any use of a calculator, Aleks automatically prompts you a calculator on the screen and you can use it as needed.

- **When will the “Aleks requested Final Assessment” be, and how much will it be worth?**

A comprehensive Requested Assessment will be given on Monday, February 1st in class. (**Make sure to bring your laptop to class that day!**) That score, plus 9 points, will constitute the Aleks part of your grade. So for example, if you score 80% on the Aleks (requested) Final Assessment, then you will receive $0.80 * 90 + 9 = 81$ points out of 90 points for that portion of your course grade (which counts as 10% of your final course grade).

- **What is the difference between a Progress Assessment, Goal Completion Assessment and a requested Final Assessment?**

Progress Assessment	Goal Completion Assessment	(requested) Final Assessment
is given to you automatically by Aleks, with no action by me, after you have completed either about 10 hours of practice problems or have filled in enough additional pieces of your “learning pie” (see below);	is given to you automatically by Aleks, with no action by me, after you have completed all the pieces of your “learning pie” (see below);	is only available to you after I have scheduled the assessment for you (see below);
tests only part of the complete course, with emphasis on what you have learned most recently;	tests all of the material needed in the preparation of Pre-calculus (like the Initial Assessment);	tests all of the material in the preparation of Pre-calculus (like the Initial Assessment);
does not count toward your grade; and	does not count toward your grade; and	counts toward your grade; and
may be taken anywhere with internet connection, without a proctor or supervisor.	may be taken anywhere with internet connection, without a proctor or supervisor.	must be taken in class on Monday, February 1st or in some other proctored situation.

