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## LEARNING LOG ALEKS for Math Placement

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### DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

#### TITLE

ALEKS for Math Placement

#### SOLUTION

Developmental Education Reform and Supports for Learning

#### CAPACITIES

Policy

Owner

[Samantha Stewart-Elmore \(/education/s/profile/00536000003Be3jAAC/\)](/education/s/profile/00536000003Be3jAAC/)



Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



#### INSTITUTION

Morehouse College

#### REFLECTION

##### SITE INITIATIVE

For the first time starting with the Fall 2017 incoming class, new freshman will take the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) placement test online before arriving on campus. Similar to English, we had been placing incoming students into mathematics based on their SAT/ACT component scores. However, the mathematics faculty had for years suspected the cut score placement strategy was insufficient for accurately identifying students' mathematics proficiency and selecting the most appropriate gateway course. We are implementing ALEKS to address this important problem.

##### PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

We have notified and sent instructions to all incoming freshmen detailing the importance of the placement test. As of the last report date, 444 of the 685 confirmed students have taken the test. We have begun analyzing the scores and building out the Fall schedule.

##### IMPACT

We expect to have some preliminary insights related to this initiative by fall 2018; however, we ultimately hope to see improvements in course/credit completion rates, progress to degree, and retention and graduation rates as a result of this work. The student impact will be the increased likelihood of passing the course and subsequent math courses. With 90% of our students Federal financial aid eligible, they simply cannot afford to repeat classes. Not having to repeat classes will positively impact their student loan debt.

##### INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Our internal resources were the concerned Mathematics faculty. They saw first-hand the impact of inappropriate placement and took measures to address a long standing issue. In recent years, they even developed a homegrown alternative placement exam that incoming student could elect to take to appeal their initial SAT/ACT-based course placement.

External resources include the funder that awarded us the funds to implement the new placement strategy.

##### NEXT CRITICAL STEPS

As we approach the start of the semester, we will begin gathering baseline data (e.g., ALEKS pass/fail rates, SAT/ACT scores, mathematics gateway course pass/fail rates) for a more thorough investigation of the outcomes of the initiative. The mathematics department is also exploring ways to leverage ALEKS to support instruction in various gateway courses (i.e., Basic Math, College Algebra, Finite Math, Pre-calculus, Basic Statistics,

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES ⓘ

In determining the impact of ALEKS, we will collect data on students using ALEKS for placement as well as those that were placed based on SAT/ACT scores and analyze their pass/fail rates. We will also analyze how those students perform in subsequent mathematics courses. This analysis will determine whether or not we continue with ALEKS for placement as well as to what degree ALEKS will be integrated into the curriculum and pedagogy. The challenge will be funding the initiative long-term.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS ⓘ

Not at this time.

STATUS

Final

Completion Date ⓘ

5/31/2017

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