

## Placement Guidance Webpage Information

*Richard Bland College* requires an ALEKS mathematics placement assessment to determine readiness for various courses. The ALEKS Placement Assessment covers material from Basic Math through Pre-calculus and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. After the assessment, a targeted Prep and Learning Module is available for you to review and learn material, and to improve placement and eventual course outcomes.

All students are strongly encouraged to spend several hours using the ALEKS Prep and Learning Module. Even if you have achieved placement in your desired course, time spent in ALEKS will better prepare you for your upcoming course and ultimately lead to better grades.

**First of all, RELAX.** This is an “assessment,” NOT A TEST. The difference is that an assessment is designed to determine what you know. At the end of the ALEKS Placement Assessment, you will have a much better sense of your strengths and weaknesses in math. You will then have a chance to work on those weaknesses. There is really no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on the assessment. The most important thing is that you take the assessment seriously and give it an honest effort so that the assessment truly reflects your level of knowledge and math preparedness.

**Be honest about your skill level.** There is no benefit to cheating on the placement assessment – your only reward will be that you are forced to take a class that is too difficult for your current level of mathematical knowledge. Therefore, while you are taking the assessment, do not consult any other source for help (friends, family, internet searches, etc.). The purpose of the placement assessment is to give an accurate measure of your current mathematical skills so that you will be successful in your mathematics courses. *Link to the Richard Bland College honor code:*  
<http://www.rbc.edu/campus-life/honor-code/>

### Who has to take the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

All accepted RBC students who wish to take a college level math course - unless they have transferred in college level math course(s) (dual enrollment, AP, IB, CLEP, or college transfer math credit).

### Is there a fee for using ALEKS?

Use of ALEKS is included in your student fees.

### Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

Yes, you will take the initial un-proctored assessment first and after working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module, you will take the Official assessment for actual course placement. It is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module after your initial assessment so that you can improve your skills. Research shows that 75% of students who spend 3-6 hours in PPL after the initial assessment improve their score to at least one course placement.

### **Are ALEKS Placement Assessments proctored?**

The first one is not proctored but the second Official one is password protected. You will receive a protected password on the date that you select to take the Official assessment.

### **Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment immediately?**

There is no benefit to re-taking the assessment immediately after completing a prior attempt. Unlike the SAT or ACT, you cannot improve your results by simply re-taking the assessment without spending time in the Prep and Learning Module to refresh material that you may have forgotten or to learn new material.

### **Must I work in my ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between placement assessments?**

3-6 hours are recommended to practice in PPL for potential improvement for course placement.

### **Are placement assessments timed?**

There is no time limit on the initial assessment. The Official assessment will have a 3 hour limit.

### **How long will a placement assessment take to complete?**

Placement assessments require approximately 90 minutes to complete, but the amount of time will vary by student. There will be a maximum of 30 questions.

### **May I use a calculator while using ALEKS?**

ALEKS will provide an on-screen calculator if you need one to complete a particular problem. Otherwise, the on-screen calculator located on the computer start button is the only other calculator source allowed.

### **May I use any other resources during a placement assessment?**

You may only use a pen or pencil, paper, and the resources provided by ALEKS/ or computer screen calculator. You may not receive assistance from friends, family, other websites, textbooks, or any other resource not provided by ALEKS/ computer calculator. Using outside resources may lead to improper placement and ultimately course failure.

### **How long is my placement result valid?**

Your placement result is valid for 12 months.

### **What is my placement result?**

Your placement result is your percentage mastery on the [latest/best] assessment.

Course placement is determined as follows:

| <b>ALEKS Placement Score</b> | <b>Course Placement</b>           |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 – 14                       | MATH 100A only                    |
| 15 – 38                      | MATH 100                          |
| 25 and above                 | MATH 110 option (AA students)     |
| 25 – 38                      | MATH 100B option                  |
| 39 – 60                      | MATH 101                          |
| 51 and above                 | MATH 217 without 101 prerequisite |
| 61 – 74                      | MATH 117                          |
| 75 and above                 | MATH 201                          |

**Can I practice using ALEKS before I begin placement?**

ALEKS will begin with a brief tutorial before your placement begins.

**How long do I have access to my Prep and Learning Module?**

You will have six months of access from the time that you start using your Prep and Learning module.

**Is there an additional fee for my Prep and Learning Module?**

Access to a Prep and Learning Module is included along with up to [2] placement assessments.

**What are ALEKS Progress Assessments?**

While working in a Prep and Learning Module, you will periodically complete progress assessments to solidify your gains in knowledge.

**Does progress in an ALEKS Prep and Learning Module count toward placement?**

No, only your password protected placement assessment results will count toward your course placement.

**Can I change to a different Prep and Learning Module later?**

No, you may only use one Prep and Learning Module. If you are unsure which module to select use the module recommended by ALEKS.

**What if I do not place into the course I wanted?**

You can use a Prep and Learning Module to review and learn after your initial un-proctored assessment. Only a password protected placement assessment can be used to determine your course placement.

**I did not place into the class I wanted. Can I take it anyway?**

No. You must achieve the minimum placement result for your desired class in order to take that class.

**What if I placed into the class I wanted?**

Congratulations! Continue to use your Prep and Learning Module to improve your chances for success. The placement result above is the minimum preparation required for your course! Take advantage of the targeted review and learning features in ALEKS to get a better grade in your class.

**Where can I get help with ALEKS?**

[http://support.aleks.com/assess\\_placement](http://support.aleks.com/assess_placement)