



GREENVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Greenville High School
9 Donation Road
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125
Phone (724) 588-2500
Fax (724) 588-4397

May 5, 2016

Dear Parent,

Exciting opportunities continue to develop for our students at Greenville High School involving the mathematics curriculum. As you may know, Greenville High School offers College in High School (CHS) courses in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh and Seton Hill University. We currently offer Statistics, Calculus 1, and Calculus 2 for official University of Pittsburgh credits and Precalculus for official Seton Hill University credits. Additional College in High School mathematics courses are on the horizon.

Since Calculus 1 is a very rigorous course, the University of Pittsburgh is requiring that all students wishing to enroll for University of Pittsburgh credits demonstrate a proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 76 on the ALEKS placement assessment. This minimum score is required of all College in High School students as well as all on-campus University of Pittsburgh students for enrollment in Calculus 1 (MATH 0220). In addition, students wishing to eventually take CHS mathematics courses beyond Calculus 1 must achieve the required score on ALEKS and successfully perform in Calculus 1.

Students that do not successfully achieve the desired assessment score may still take CHS Calculus 1 if they meet GHS prerequisites, but they will only receive GHS credits and not University of Pittsburgh credits. The University of Pittsburgh wants to ensure that students are prepared for success in the mathematics courses and not set up for frustration and failure.

ALEKS is more than a placement assessment. ALEKS provides Prep and Learning Modules for students to review and learn material, so that they can review material to improve their score.

ALEKS assessment scores must be printed out by the students and should be delivered directly to me. The assessment scores will be due no later than Friday, September 16, 2016. This will allow us to meet the registration deadline for enrollment into CHS Calculus 1 for University of Pittsburgh credits.



It is our understanding that the time required to complete the ALEKS assessments can be intensive. Thus I am advising that students complete this ALEKS requirement before the school year starts.

The general topics that are expected to be mastered for placement are as follows:

- Whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Percents, proportions, and geometry
- Signed numbers, linear equations, and inequalities
- Lines and systems of linear equations
- Relations and functions, integer exponents, and factoring
- Quadratic and polynomial functions
- Rational expressions and functions
- Radicals and rational exponents
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Trigonometry

Details on ALEKS are included with this letter. Further information can be found on the math department page on the district website. Hopefully this information will answer most of your questions. If you have additional questions, please contact me at kstitt@greenville.k12.pa.us or 724-588-2500 ext. 2214.

Sincerely,



Ken Stitt
Mathematics Teacher
Greenville High School

Placement Assessment for CHS Calculus: Information for Teachers and Administrators

1 Overview

In order to meet the University of Pittsburgh's standards for students taking calculus, a mathematics placement assessment is required for enrollment in Business Calculus (MATH 0120) and Analytic Geometry & Calculus 1 (MATH 0220). Students who do not earn the required minimum score on the placement assessment are not permitted to enroll in the University of Pittsburgh course.

The placement assessment is an online, adaptive test using ALEKS technology (see www.aleks.com). The ALEKS corporation charges a fee of \$25, which includes up to five attempts at the placement assessment, as well as access to the ALEKS Prep and Learning Module which provides students with targeted help on deficiencies identified by the assessment.

ALEKS is not intended to replace high schools' normal placement procedures.

This document should answer most of your questions about the placement assessment. If you have additional questions, please contact CHS at 412-624-6828.

2 FAQ

Who has to take the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

All students who will take the University of Pittsburgh Business Calculus (MATH 0120) or Analytic Geometry & Calculus 1 (MATH 0220) course, either on campus or through CHS, must take the placement assessment. Prospective CHS students must take the placement assessment prior to the CHS registration deadline.

Why is this necessary?

For both on-campus and CHS students, the purpose of the placement assessment is to get students into mathematics courses with the skills to succeed in those courses. The ALEKS assessment package facilitates this by

1. Providing a detailed and accurate assessment of students' strengths and weaknesses, and
2. Providing students with personalized help targeting their specific deficiencies to improve their skills.

How is the placement assessment administered?

Teachers will have their students go to the ALEKS Web site to take the ALEKS placement assessment, which is an unproctored online test. Teachers will decide how students will take the test (for example, in school or at home) and set a deadline (before Oct. 1, the registration deadline). Detailed instructions for students are provided in a separate document.

College in High School

How is cheating prevented?

Students cannot share answers since each student gets a unique version of the test. Still, students could use unauthorized material or get assistance from others during the assessment. Students should understand that the cheating on the placement assessment will only get them into a class for which they do not have the skills to succeed.

What topics are covered in the assessment?

The placement assessment covers only pre-calculus topics. Specifically,

- Whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Percents, proportions, and geometry
- Signed numbers, linear equations, and inequalities
- Lines and systems of linear equations
- Relations and functions
- Integer exponents and factoring
- Quadratic and polynomial functions
- Rational expressions and functions
- Radicals and rational exponents
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Trigonometry (students can earn 0 points here and still qualify for MATH 0120)

How will student assessment scores be verified?

CHS teachers should verify that each student has attained the required assessment score. Each student should print the summary page after completing an assessment, and then submit the printout to the teacher of the CHS course. These pages should be kept on file at the high school.

What are the minimum placement scores?

- For MATH 0120, a minimum placement score of 61 is required.
- For MATH 0220, a minimum placement score of 76 is required.

When should students take the placement assessment?

Scheduling of the placement assessment will be left up to the schools. Schools may choose to set deadlines, but be aware that

- Some students will need several attempts at the assessment and time spent in the ALEKS learning module in order to attain the required score;
- Students have six months of access to assessment and learning module after their initial ALEKS registration.

Students *must* complete a placement assessment with the required minimum score before they will be permitted to enroll in calculus. The enrollment deadline is October 1. We recommend that you set an ALEKS placement assessment deadline no later than the start of your school year.

When should students click the “I do not know” button?

Students should never click the “I don’t know” button during any ALEKS assessment unless they really don’t have any idea of how to do the problem. Otherwise, ALEKS will think they don’t know many of the topics that they actually do know, and ALEKS will take them way back to make them “learn” the topics.

Who pays for the assessment?

Students will pay a \$25 fee by credit or debit card at the time of initial ALEKS registration. The fee will be waived for students who qualify for free/reduced price lunch or face other financial difficulties. CHS will provide fee waiver applications for those students.

What if my school would like to pay for a group of students’ placement fees?

If your school is planning on paying for student ALEKS fees, there is a contact person at ALEKS who can help. His contact information is:

Matthew Swinand | Sr. ALEKS Placement Consultant
C: 215.519.7730 | mswinand@aleks.com

What is included in the \$25 fee?

The fee covers six months of unlimited access to the ALEKS prep and learning module, and up to five attempts at the placement assessment.

Does the prep and learning module really work?

Yes. In fact, we have found that students who require multiple assessment attempts to place into calculus, interspersed with learning module work, do better on average in their calculus courses than students who place into calculus on their first attempt.

Can I take the ALEKS placement assessment in order to see what it is like?

Yes. ALEKS has agreed to provide free teacher accounts (not for students)! If you are interested in seeing what students will be doing on the placement examination, you can do the following steps to take it.

1. Go to www.aleks.com
2. Click SIGN UP NOW!
3. Enter the Course Code **FTL9U-PHD6P**
4. Confirm your enrollment by clicking “Continue”
5. Create an ALEKS login name
6. For Student ID #, enter a random string of 10 digits.
7. Begin the examination!

You might also choose to answer some questions incorrectly to see what the student’s learning modules will look like.

Placement Testing for CHS Calculus:

Information for Students and Parents

Overview

College-level mathematics courses can be a challenge even for well-prepared students. Students without the needed prerequisite skills are likely to experience frustration and failure. We want students to succeed!

The Mathematics placement assessment will help you determine whether you are ready for a college level calculus course. All prospective students in entry-level Pitt calculus courses, whether through CHS or on-campus, must attain a required minimum score in the math assessment before enrolling.

The ALEKS system (see aleks.com) that the University of Pittsburgh uses is an adaptive online assessment which provides a detailed evaluation of precalculus skills. An additional benefit is that ALEKS provides individualized tutoring through Prep and Learning Module to help students improve their skills. Students who do not attain the required minimum placement score can repeat the placement assessment after working through the ALEKS Prep and Learning Module.

Please note that the requisite ALEKS score does not automatically qualify students to take the CHS course—they must also meet the criteria set by the high school.

Cost

There is a fee of \$25 for the ALEKS placement assessment. The fee covers up to five attempts at the placement assessment, as well as six months of access to the ALEKS Prep and Learning Module. Payment can be made by credit or debit card at the time of the initial assessment.

A student who demonstrates financial need can have the fee waived by contacting his or her high school teacher.

School-Specific Information

Teachers: Please delete this text and insert school-specific information such as how students will take the test (for example, in school or at home) and the deadline you will set for students to earn the required placement test score. Remember that students must register for the CHS course by October 1.

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences

College in High School

1 Overview

The Mathematics placement assessment will help you determine whether you are ready for a college-level calculus course.

The assessment 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.

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

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.

2 Payment

There is a fee of \$25 for the ALEKS placement assessment. The fee covers up to five attempts at the placement assessment, as well as six months of access to ALEKS learning modules, which will help you hone your skills. You can pay with a credit or debit card at the time of your initial assessment.

Students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by CHS, can have the fee waived. If you are receiving a free or reduced-price lunch or face another circumstance that makes payment difficult, please ask your teacher for a CHS Financial Assistance Form.

3 Getting Started

1. Go the ALEKS Web site www.aleks.com.
2. Click the **Sign Up Now** button.
3. Enter the course code **DMRRL-LXW94** and click **Continue**.
4. At the screen asking you to confirm enrollment for CHS placement, click **Continue**.
5. If this is your first ALEKS login for the CHS placement assessment, click the button next to “I have never used ALEKS before or I do not have an ALEKS login name,” and then click **Continue**.
6. Most students will click the “Purchase access online” link, and proceed to purchase access by credit card. If you have an access code from CHS, you will instead click “I have non-ecommerce access” and enter your access code.
7. On the Student Registration page, enter all requested information. For student ID#, please enter a random string of 10 digits.
8. Save your login name and password. You will need them to sign into ALEKS.
9. Get started with the informational survey and exam!

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences

College in High School

4 FAQs

Who has to take the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

All students who will take the University of Pittsburgh Business Calculus (MATH 0120) or Analytic Geometry & Calculus 1 (MATH 0220) course, either on campus or through CHS, must take the placement assessment.

How will I take the placement assessment?

Your teacher will tell you how to take the ALEKS placement assessment, which is an unproctored online test.

When should I take the placement assessment?

Your teacher will tell you when you should take the placement assessment.

Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment?

Yes, you may take up to 5 placement assessments. However, to make each attempt worthwhile, it is important that you spend time working in your ALEKS Prep and Learning Module in between placement assessments so that you can improve your skills.

Can I retake the ALEKS Placement Assessment immediately?

You must wait 48 hours between placement assessments. There is generally 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?

Yes, after completing the assessment, you must spend a minimum of 5 hours in your Prep and Learning Module before repeating the assessment.

Are placement assessments timed?

Yes, you have 24 hours to complete a placement assessment once it has begun.

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, you may not use a calculator.

When should I use the “I do not know” button?

Never click the “I don’t know” button during any ALEKS assessment unless you really don’t

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences

College in High School

have any idea of how to do the problem. Otherwise, ALEKS will think you don't know many of things you actually do know, and it will take you way back and make you "learn" them.

What happens if I do not complete a placement assessment within the 24-hour time limit?

You will have to restart the assessment.

Can I practice using ALEKS before I begin placement?

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

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. You may not receive assistance from friends, family, or anything not provided by ALEKS. If you are dishonest on this placement test, you could be placed into a course that you could ultimately fail.

What is my placement result?

Your placement result will be a numerical score. A minimum placement score of 61 is required for enrollment in Business Calculus (MATH 0120). A minimum score of 76 is required for enrollment in Calculus 1 (MATH 0220).

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?

No. The \$25 access fee covers six months of access to the Prep and Learning Module and up to five attempts at the placement assessment.

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, you must complete a new placement assessment to change your placement result. Click on the placement tab on the upper right of the page from within ALEKS. Only your placement assessment results will be used for course placement.

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

You can use a Prep and Learning Module to review and learn, and you may take another placement assessment to improve your placement result.

I did not place into the class I wanted. Can I sign up for the Pitt credits anyway?

No, you must achieve the minimum placement result to register for the Pitt credits. Your high school might allow you to take the course for high school credit, based on its policies.

What if I placed into the class that I wanted?

Congratulations! Continue to use your Prep and Learning Module to improve your chances for success. The required placement score 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?

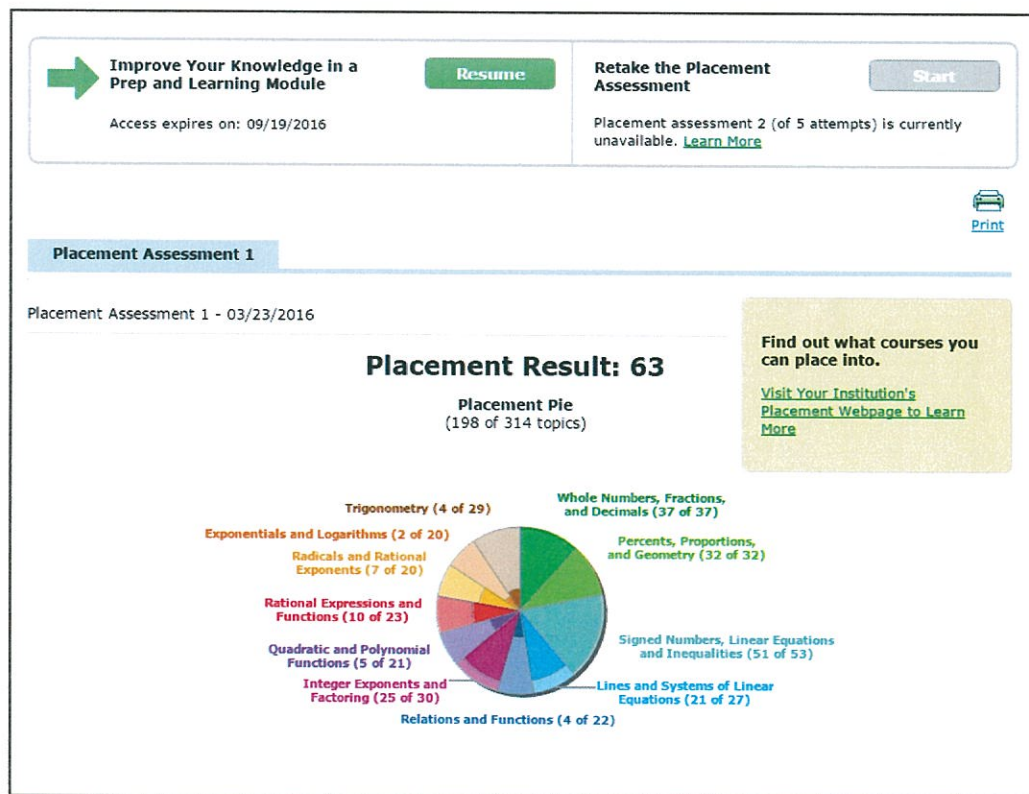
www.aleks.com/faqs/technical or support.aleks.com

Can I use ALEKS with Linux?

Yes, but you will have to install the required plugin manually. Follow these instructions: www.aleks.com/downloads/linux_jvm

How do I get my ALEKS placement score?

After you complete the assessment, you will be presented with a pie chart showing your areas of strength and weakness. An example of this page, which you will print out and give to your teacher, is shown below.



Your overall assessment score appears at the top of the page. If you take the assessment more

The DIETRICH School of
Arts & Sciences

College in High School

than once, your scores from previous assessments will be shown below the pie chart, and your highest assessment score will be used for placement purposes.

If you forget to print your assessment score, you can log into ALEKS again to review and print your scores.

How will my school get my ALEKS placement score?

They will get it from you! When you complete the assessment, print the ALEKS pie chart page with your placement score, and give it to the teacher for approval to register for the CHS course.

Does the requisite ALEKS score automatically qualify me to take the CHS course?

No. You must also meet the criteria set by your high school.

Will this ALEKS placement score be a part of my application if I decide to apply to the University of Pittsburgh?

No. This placement test score will only be used to determine correct placement into the CHS course.

Revised 4/2016

The DIETRICH School of
Arts & Sciences

College in High School

Eligibility and Documentation:

(Parent/guardian, teacher, or guidance counselor: please check one box and fill in blank if necessary)

Student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch. Please attach a letter from your school on letterhead to this application stating that the student qualifies.

OR

Student does not qualify for free or reduced lunch but seeks assistance due to the circumstances described below. Parent/guardian, teacher, or guidance counselor, please write a brief statement about why financial assistance is needed.

Student Statement:

Student: Please briefly describe your educational goals, intended field of study, and any other information you wish the committee to consider.

Certifications:

I certify that all of the information provided on this application is true and correct. I hereby give permission to officials at my high school to give College in High School information pertinent to verify this completed ALEKS Fee Assistance Application. If required, I have attached evidence of receiving free/reduced lunches to the back of this application.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____