

# ALEKS PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT University of Colorado Denver



CU Denver requires an ALEKS Placement, Preparation and Learning Assessment (ALEKS PPL) to determine readiness for four entry-level mathematics courses: MATH 1110, MATH 1120, MATH 1130 and MATH 1401. ALEKS is an institutionally funded, un-proctored, web-based program that uses artificial intelligence to map a student’s mathematics strengths and weaknesses, within a two hour time limit. Upon completion, an individualized Prep and Learning Module becomes available for students to refresh their knowledge and improve their mathematics skills. Students have the opportunity to reassess and improve their placement. Each student get 5 attempts. Students must spend 3 hours in the learning modules in between the first and second assessment. Each subsequent attempt requires spending 5 hours in the learning modules. The highest earned score is used for placement.

For each student required to take MATH 1110, MATH 1120, MATH 1130 or MATH 1401 for their major, assessment results help determine the most appropriate entry level course for students to take, if they have not completed any pre-requisite coursework. This provides our students with the highest quality education possible. These MATH courses are predominantly required for STEM and Pre-Health majors. Students should consult with their advisor and review their major requirements to determine if they must complete one of these courses and whether the assessment is necessary. If you are unsure who your advisor is, please refer to the [undergraduate advising website](#).

This is a “Placement Assessment,” not a test. Results will not appear on a transcript or impact GPA. ALEKS is designed to determine what a student knows and what a student needs to work on. At the end of the ALEKS Assessment, a student will have a much better sense of their strengths and weaknesses in math. Students then have a chance to brush up on topics that may have been forgotten or have not been practiced for some time.

**Be honest.** It is important that the ALEKS Assessment is taken seriously and each student gives it an honest effort so that the scores truly reflect their current level of knowledge and math preparedness. There is no benefit to cheating on the assessment. While taking it, students should not consult any outside sources for help (friends/family, internet searches, textbooks, calculators, notes, tutors or instructors etc...). The purpose of the assessment is to measure a student’s current mathematical knowledge so that they will be successful in their entry-level mathematics courses. Review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) regarding student honesty, if you have any questions about expectations.

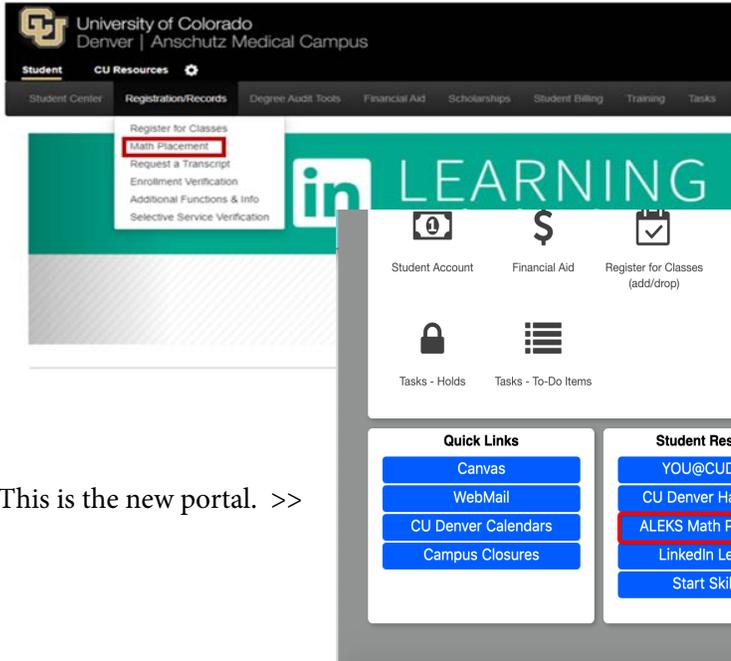
Upon completion, scores will be uploaded to the registration system within three business days. At that time, students will be able to register for the course that they are eligible for, based on their score and advisor recommendation.

Course #	Course Name	ALEKS Score Range	Prior coursework requisite(alternative to assessment)
<b>MATH 1110</b>	College Algebra	46 or higher	NA
<b>MATH 1120</b>	College Trigonometry	61 or higher	MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 with a C- or higher
<b>MATH 1130</b>	Pre-calculus	61 or higher	NA
<b>MATH 1401</b>	Calculus I	76 or higher	MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 and MATH 1120 with a C- or higher or MATH 1130 with a C- or higher or MATH 1401

Students will need to complete their ALEKS Assessment or have a grade for prerequisite coursework prior to registering for any of the MATH courses listed above. We recommend completing the assessment prior to attending New Student Orientation advising days, or at least a week prior to your registration date. CU Denver encourages each student to spend time in the Prep and Learning Module, even after the desired score is achieved, because time spent in ALEKS will ultimately lead to better preparation and improved grades. Students can consider any assessment as practice, since the highest score across the five attempts is what will be used for placement purposes.

**Follow these steps to set up your account and take ALEKS PPL:**

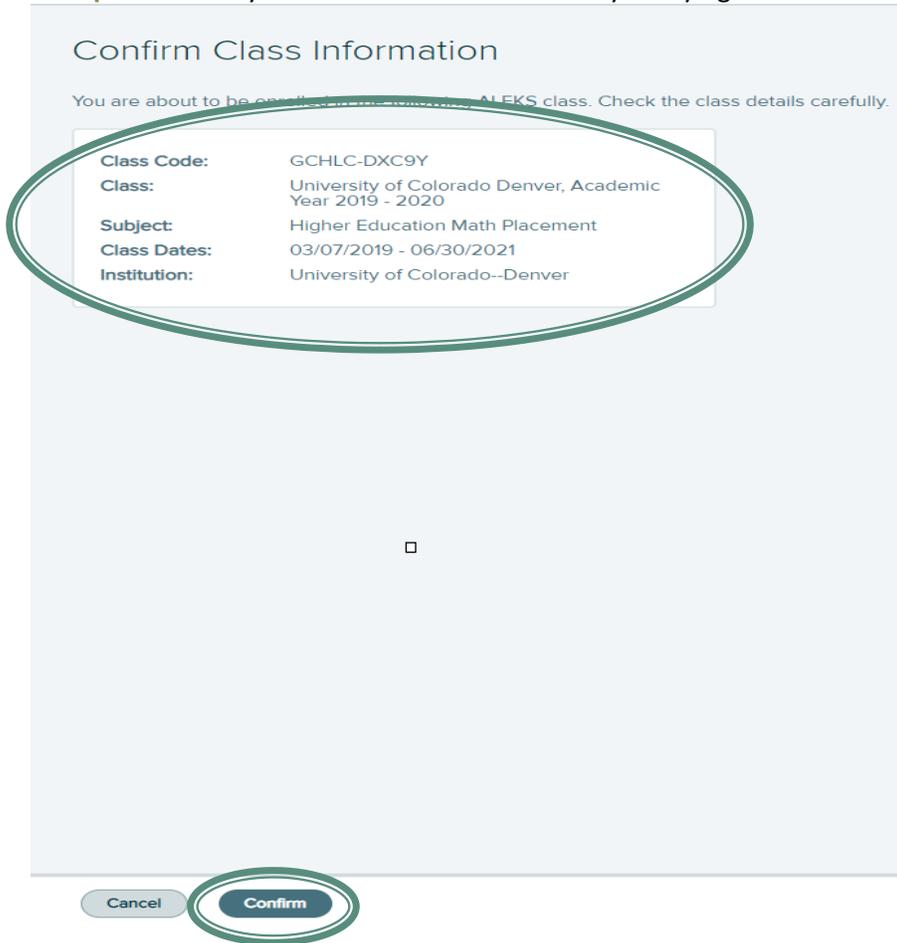
**Step 1:** Access the ALEKS assessment through your CU Denver UCD Access student portal- <https://passport.ucdenver.edu/login.php>.



<< This is the former portal.

This is the new portal. >>

**Step 2:** Confirm your enrollment information by verifying the code below matches the one in your portal.



**Step 3:** Select “No, I have never used ALEKS before...” even if you have an ALEKS account from another school or subject like Chemistry.

1 Confirm Class      2 Account Status      3 Registration

## Welcome to ALEKS!

Have you used ALEKS before?

No, I have never used ALEKS before.

Yes, I have an ALEKS login name.

**Log Into Account**

ALEKS Login Name:

Password:

[I forgot my login information >](#)

**Step 4:** Enter your user information to create a new ALEKS account. **Be sure to use your CU Denver email address and your CU Denver 9-digit student ID.** This ensures that your scores will get associated with your student record, once you have completed the assessment. Be sure to **save your new login and password information** so you can revisit your ALEKS account.

## Registration

Fields marked with \* are required.

Enter Your Personal Information

\*First name

Middle initial

\*Last name

Enter Your Email Address and Student ID

\*Email address  @ucdenver.edu

\*Confirm email  @ucdenver.edu

\*Student ID  [Learn more](#)

\*Confirm Student ID

**IMPORTANT**

Please note the password you choose and the login that will be provided next, you will use these to return to your ALEKS account. Do not exit until you have chosen your Prep Module.

Choose a Password

\*Password (Case sensitive)

\*Verify Password

- 8-14 characters
- No spaces
- 1 number
- 1 letter

Review and Accept Terms of Use

**IMPORTANT:**

Each student should only create one account. Additional accounts will be deleted and assessment scores related to those accounts will not be counted. This can also cause issues with the scores being correctly loaded to your student record.

Students who need special accommodations, including technology resources should contact [MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu](mailto:MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu) for assistance. If you are not sure whether you are eligible for extended testing time, please visit our [Disability Resources and Services](#).

Since ALEKS is an online, adaptive system, it covers a broad spectrum of mathematics topics. Students will see some, but not all, of the math they have learned. Since this assessment is used for placement, it is not a preview of math courses at CU Denver. Questions are open-response and ALEKS will provide an online calculator, when appropriate, so students should not use assistive devices other than a pencil/pen and paper.

*Possible Topics covered include:*

- Real numbers (including fractions, integers, and percentages)
- Equations and inequalities (including linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and quadratic equations),
- Linear and quadratic functions (including graphs and functions, linear functions, and parabolas), exponents and polynomials (including integer exponents, polynomial arithmetic, factoring, and polynomial equations), rational expressions (including rational equations and rational functions)
- Radical expressions (including higher roots and rational exponents)
- Exponentials and logarithms (including function compositions and inverse functions, properties of logarithms, and logarithmic equations)
- Geometry and trigonometry (including perimeter, area and volume; coordinate geometry; trigonometric functions; identities and equations).

ALEKS will begin with a brief tutorial to make sure students are comfortable with the math palette tools before the assessment begins. The tutorial shows students how to enter different types of answers, how to use the ALEKS calculator, and how to graph. Time spent in the tutorial does not count against your assessment time.

If you are not sure how to input an answer, or need help while you are taking the assessment, select the **Help** button below the answer palette tools. Going to the tutorial during your assessment will NOT impact your placement results, but it will count against your assessment time. Students have two hours to complete the assessment and submit their responses. Students who do not complete the assessment within the allotted time will be required to start from the beginning.

If your web browser gets stuck or computer crashes while taking the ALEKS Assessment, simply close the browser, or log out and log back in. ALEKS will resume the assessment exactly where you left off, with no loss of your previous answers, as long as the time allotment has not expired.

## Technical Support

Email: [MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu](mailto:MATH.Placement@ucdenver.edu)