


Math Placement at WIU Screenshots

Start at <http://wiu.edu/math>. See the screenshots below to find **Information for New Freshmen/Transfer Students and Math Placement**

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Math Placement 


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+ Undergraduate



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Placement Overview

Mathematics Placement at WIU: An Overview

Note: Math Placement at WIU has undergone an extensive revision process in 2020-2021. This improved system for math placement is being implemented spring, 2021, for students beginning classes in the fall, 2021 semester.

Mathematics is an interdisciplinary language and tool. Mathematics is a critical discipline that serves as a foundation for many majors and programs. Mathematics enables students to successfully engage in the mathematical thinking encountered in academic studies and in daily living.

- All students must demonstrate math competency in order to graduate from Western Illinois University.

A Note About Placement

In order to be successful in mathematics, it is very important to determine what course level is appropriate for each student. It is our mission as Math Faculty and Staff to ensure all our students are prepared to receive the skills necessary to be successful in their coursework at WIU.

It is beneficial to be placed in the most appropriate math placement for their academic performance level, seeking the highest level for which they are well-prepared to successfully complete. The benefits to appropriate placement, even into higher levels, is that it can shorten the amount of time needed for degree completion, save money in taking fewer courses, and allow more space in student's schedules to prioritize their study time appropriately.

Placement Process Overview

Entering students' mathematics skills and previous math coursework are assessed prior to initial registration. For incoming freshmen, the primary tool for math placement is the **Information for Math Placement Form**. Students will receive the link to fill out the online **Information for Math Placement Form** from their adviser. For transfer students, the primary tool is their transcript. The student is placed into a category of math courses. Based on the student's major and course of study, in consultation with their adviser, the student may register for any course in the category.

PRIOR TO placement, students should prepare by reviewing the following:

- Watch pre-placement informational videos (*HIGHLY SUGGESTED*)
 - Video #1: Math Placement Overview
 - Video #2: Filling out the Information for Math Placement Form and STARS
 - Optional ALEKS Placement Examination Video

Beginning Level Math Courses

Overview: ALEKS Placement Test

Who Takes ALEKS?

ALEKS Exam Format and Description

Information on Taking the Assessment

ALEKS Scores and Placement

Retakes

ALEKS Fee

Take the ALEKS Assessment Now

Videos → YouTube

It is recommended that incoming students consider taking the **ALEKS Placement Test** to improve their math placement. This can save *time and money*.

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Placement Overview

Improving Mathematics Placement Using Placement Test Overview

Overview of the ALEKS Placement Test

The ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is an optional placement test which can be taken before the student begins their WIU coursework. By scoring high enough, students will be placed in math courses higher than the beginning level courses.

5 Good Reasons to Take the ALEKS Placement Test

The ALEKS Placement Test is optional, but here are five good reasons why it is a good idea to take it:

- Low Cost** - Compared to the ACT, SAT, and other tests, the cost is low. Cost is \$15.
- Save Time** - By taking it you can skip one or more math courses. This allows you to move more quickly to math courses for your major or for general education.
- Save Money** - If you can skip one or more math courses, then you do not have to pay the tuition.
- Opportunity to Learn** - ALEKS is for Placement, Preparation, and Learning. It is more than just a placement test. It measures students' math readiness and repairs learning loss. Learning modules (tailored to the student's needs, at no additional cost) are provided to help students learn and improve.
- Retake Tests** - The ALEKS Placement Test can be taken a total of four times (at no additional cost). After doing the learning modules, students can retake the test up to 3 times.

What is ALEKS?

ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is a web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. The ALEKS test is an optional assessment to be completed BEFORE beginning your course of study. ALEKS PPL (Placement, Preparation and Learning) consists of three parts:

- Part 1: Taking the initial assessment/placement exam
- Part 2: Taking up to three re-takes (if necessary)
- Part 3: Ongoing support with six months of personalized learning and remediation to help students succeed

Interested students should seek out additional information about the ALEKS test by following the links under the heading

Improving Placement: Placement Test

- Overview: ALEKS Placement Test
- Who Takes ALEKS?
- ALEKS Exam Format and Description
- Information on Taking the Assessment
- ALEKS Scores and Placement
- Retakes
- ALEKS Fee
- Take the ALEKS Assessment Now
- Technical Support