Welcome to ALEKS at Wake Forest University

All students enrolled in MST 111 at Wake Forest University are required to complete a review program in basic algebra and pre-calculus concepts that are important to success in Calculus. This program is online through ALEKS and will begin with an ALEKS initial knowledge check called the Initial Assessment. This knowledge check is an assessment that will cover material from Basic Math through Pre-calculus and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. Students will then work for 4 weeks on your individual Learning Path in ALEKS. Students will take a Final Assessment after completing the entire course or at the end of the 4 weeks in Learning Mode.

In order to begin this program, you will need to register and create an account with ALEKS. You will pay with either an access code purchased from the bookstore or with your credit/debit card (approx. $40) directly to the ALEKS program when you create an ALEKS account.  **Please note:** If you create duplicate accounts you will be charged for each account! Once you are registered with ALEKS and have your account, ALEKS will provide you instructions to begin and complete the initial assessment. Your professor will provide you with a course code and further instructions when it is time to register and create your account in ALEKS and take the initial assessment. You will set up an account in ALEKS and complete the initial assessment between January 31 and February 4.

**As you begin the initial assessment or knowledge check, RELAX.**

* The initial assessment is designed to determine your proficiency in math concepts that are fundamental to success in Calculus. The results of this initial assessment will not count toward your grade in MST 111.
* At the end of the ALEKS Initial Assessment, you will have a much better sense of your strengths and weaknesses in math. You will then have a chance to improve your skills.
* There is no penalty for incorrectly answering a question on any knowledge check, you simply will not be considered proficient in the topics covered in that question. You will need to work to become proficient in these topics.
* You should **take all knowledge checks seriously and give an honest effort and your best effort** so that the results of any knowledge check truly reflect your level of math preparedness. The initial assessment can only be taken once, it cannot be retaken.

**Be honest about your skill level.**

* There is no benefit to cheating on the initial assessment or any other knowledge check.
* While you are taking any knowledge check, do not consult any other source for help (friends, family, class notes, internet searches, etc.).
* The purpose of any knowledge check is to determine an accurate measure of your current mathematical skills so that you will be successful in your mathematics courses.
* All knowledge checks, including the initial assessment, are considered tests and should be taken in accordance with the Honor Policy at Wake Forest.
* Your score on the initial assessment will indicate the number of fundamental math concepts that you are proficient in and can be used to determine how well prepared you are for MST 111. This initial assessment score DOES NOT count towards your grade.

**What’s next?**

You will use the ALEKS program to learn concepts which you have not already mastered. After you have completed your initial knowledge check, ALEKS will custom design a program of study for you called a Learning Path.  You will use the Learning Path to review and learn and then you will take a final assessment the week of March 12 – 15. If you complete the entire ALEKS course on or before Wednesday, February 28, you may request to take your final assessment early if you prefer to do that instead of waiting until the end of the course. Your grade on the final assessment will count as approximately 10% of your MST 111 grade. Additionally, if you are enrolled in MST 105L your final assessment grade will be used to help determine your grade in MST 105L.

**Can I earn college credit for completing ALEKS?**You may earn one hour pass/fail credit for your work in ALEKS by enrolling in MST 105L in addition to your MST 111 course. Details regarding the requirements for earning a passing grade in MST 105L are located in the MST 105L syllabus given to you by your MST 111 professor.

**Must I work in my ALEKS Learning Path between the initial assessment and the final assessment?**

Yes! Your score on the final assessment will be counted as approximately 10% of your final MST 111 grade for all sections of MST 111. The ALEKS system uses your progress in Learning Mode to determine the questions on your final assessment and in the calculation of your final assessment grade. If you have not mastered a topic in either the initial knowledge check or in learning mode, ALEKS will construct your final assessment from the topics you did master. ALEKS will assume that you do not know any of the topics you did not master and award you no credit for those topics on your final assessment. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you work consistently in ALEKS between the initial and final assessments. You want to master as many topics as possible for the final assessment.

**How long will the initial assessment or knowledge check take to complete?**

* Your initial assessment or knowledge check will take **approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours to complete.**
* The amount of time can vary by student.
* There will be between 30 and 40 questions.
* You must complete the initial knowledge check within 6 hours of beginning it. The initial knowledge check may be started any time after Wednesday, January 31 at 8am and should be finished by Sunday, Feb 4 at 8am.

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

You will have access to our ALEKS course 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, for six weeks from the time that you enroll and take the initial assessment or knowledge check.

**May I use a calculator or other resources while using ALEKS?**

* ALEKS will provide an **on-screen calculator** if you need one to complete a particular problem.Graphing calculators or scientific calculators cannot be used during the assessments. But, you may use a 4-function calculator which has keys similar to this:



**May I use any other resources during an assessment or knowledge check?**

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

**What are ALEKS Progress Assessments/ Knowledge Checks?**

While working in your Learning Path, you will periodically complete quizzes, called Progress Assessments or Knowledge Checks, to check your understanding and retention of the topics you have recently learned.These knowledge checks will be automatically generated by the ALEKS program and will look very similar to the initial assessment. You must complete these knowledge checks when ALEKS presents them. After completing a knowledge check, ALEKS will return you to Learning mode and you will continue working along your Learning Path.

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

(714) 619-7090 **This is the quickest way to get assistance!**

http://www.aleks.com/faqs/technical

<http://support.aleks.com/>

**Where can I get help with topics or concepts in ALEKS?**

The WFU Math Center has MST 105L classes and ALEKS study sessions from 5pm to 7pm Monday - Thursday nights with math graduate students available to help you. These classes and study sessions are located in Manchester 16. You may also request an appointment with a Math Center tutor by visiting the WFU Math Center website. Tutors can help you when you are in learning mode but NOT on any assessment or knowledge check.

**How do I begin using ALEKS when it is time for me to enroll and take the assessment?**

Your MST 111 professor will provide detailed instructions, along with the appropriate course code, the day before assessments open. Once you receive these instructions, you will go to [www.aleks.com](http://www.aleks.com) to enroll and begin.

***Remember:***

***The ALEKS program works very well if it is used as intended. Complete the initial assessment carefully and on your own to get an accurate measure of your knowledge of algebra/trigonometry concepts, work in ALEKS regularly and steadily throughout the 4 weeks in learning mode and complete all of your work in ALEKS without extensive assistance.***

***The ALEKS program does NOT work well when you try to manipulate it: take the initial assessment quickly or with lots of help so that your score is not an accurate reflection of your knowledge, put off your ALEKS work until the very end and then try to “cram” to complete the course, get extensive assistance in the program so that you are not really learning the material or work outside the program instead of within the program. If you use the program in these ways, it is likely that you will not achieve the results you desire.***

***Our goal in using ALEKS is to ensure that you to have the algebra and trigonometry skills that you need in order to be successful in Calculus!***

Email your professor or the MST 105L professor/TA ([math105l@wfu.edu)](mailto:math105l@wfu.edu)) with any questions