

Study and Retake the Assessment

It is not uncommon for a student to take the ALEKS assessment more than one time. This generally happens for one of two reasons:

- You did not achieve your desired score and you believe you may be able to achieve a higher placement with additional studying; or
- The recording of your test session showed irregularities that resulted in your score being invalidated.

It's okay if you need to take the assessment again! The important thing is to learn from your first experience and wisely use your study time to help you improve on your next attempt.

There are **two requirements** that must be met **between each attempt** at the math placement assessment:

1. At least **24 hours** must have passed since your last attempt; and
2. You must spend **at least 5 hours** of study time in your Prep and Learning Module

On the left side of your ALEKS home page, you'll see two **time-tracking indicators** that will allow you to be able to monitor your progress toward each of these requirements. Once both tracking indicators have reached zero remaining time, your next attempt at the math placement assessment will be "unlocked" and you can try again.

Important Note: You don't *have* to take another attempt at the assessment as soon as your next attempt unlocks. You can choose to spend more time studying in your Prep and Learning module if you wish. Students who are hoping to improve their scores often find it most beneficial to spend 7-12 hours in the Prep and Learning module before making another attempt at the assessment.

HOW TO USE YOUR PREP AND LEARNING MODULE

After your first attempt, the ALEKS system will recommend a **Prep and Learning Module** for you. This recommendation is based on what skills the system has determined you need to study. However, it may be in your best interest to select a different module, depending on what your goals are. See the table below for recommendations that take your initial score *and* your placement level goal into consideration:

If you want to get into . . .	And your initial placement score is . . .	We recommend . . .
MATH 108	Below 30	Prep for College Algebra*
	30+	Prep for Precalculus
MATH 111 or MATH 113	Below 30	Prep for College Algebra*
	30-50	Prep for Precalculus
	51+	Prep for Calculus

*If you initially score below a 30, you likely need to start with Prep for College Algebra. However, this module is not the ideal module for a student who wishes to place into Math 108 or higher. If you start with this module, please consider checking in with Arden, the Math Placement Specialist (MathPlacement@stthomas.edu) to determine an action plan for how to use the module and when to switch to Prep for Precalculus.

NEED HELP?

Although the Prep and Learning module is intended for self-study, sometimes you just need help from a live teacher!

The Math Placement Specialist, **Arden**, is available to assist students as they prepare for a retake. Reach out to her at **MathPlacement@stthomas.edu** if you would like to schedule either an in-person or Zoom appointment.

Recommendations for a Successful Tutoring Appointment

1. Work through as much of your ALEKS module as you can independently.
2. When you get to a topic that you're struggling to understand, write down the topic name from the top of the ALEKS screen. Then move on to a new topic and continue working.
3. Once you have a list of 3-4 "problem topics" that you'd like help with, schedule an appointment with Arden and bring your list of topics to the appointment.



ARDEN ASHLEY-WURTMANN