

Take The Assessment

After you create your ALEKS account, you'll be prompted to take your first assessment. It's important that you take this assessment under the required testing conditions. Please review these carefully before you begin.

TIME: 2 Hours

The ALEKS assessment is adaptive, which means the questions increase in difficulty when you solve a problem correctly, and decrease in difficulty when your answer is incorrect. Students who are working carefully and methodically are more likely to get answers correct and be challenged with more difficult questions. Therefore, it is in your best interest to work carefully and check each answer before submitting it. You cannot return to previously-answered questions. You have up to two hours to complete the assessment – set yourself up for success by taking the assessment at a time of day when you are most likely to be alert and focused, and when you do not have any other responsibilities or distractions that would encourage you to rush.

SPACE: A quiet room with no other people.

You should take the assessment in a room that is quiet and private. The assessment will be monitored through your webcam and your results can be invalidated if there are other individuals in the room or there are interruptions during the assessment. Please be aware that you will need to take 360-degree video footage of the room and your desk space to verify that you are following all the requirements with regard to allowed materials and devices. Make sure you store away any personal items you do not wish to have recorded.

HARDWARE: A laptop or desktop computer with a webcam.

A webcam is required for this assessment. Most laptops have a built-in webcam, but you can also use an external webcam that is connected to your computer via USB.

SOFTWARE: Respondus Monitor and Lockdown browser.

Because the assessment can be taken from home, we must adhere to strict policies regarding [Academic Integrity](#). This means that you will be required to download the **Respondus Monitoring** software. This software allows you to make a recording of your test session so we can verify the validity of your score. You will also be required to download a **lockdown browser**.

MATERIALS: Unmarked paper for scratchwork and pens/pencils only.

You'll need to verify your identity with a photo ID. This can be a student ID, a passport, a driver's license, etc. You are encouraged to work your problems out by hand and so you'll need a supply of paper for scratchwork. This paper cannot have anything written on it at the start of the assessment. This paper and your pens/pencils are the **only** materials that can be on your desk space or in your hands during the assessment. **You may not have a calculator, phone, secondary computer or tablet visible to you at any point during the exam.** For certain problems, a calculator icon will appear within the ALEKS program. For these problems you may use the on-screen calculator that is provided. *You may **never**, at any point, use an external calculator.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VIDEO MONITORING

What you should do for a valid exam:

1. Find a place to take your exam that simulates a regular exam environment – use a table or desk, find a comfortable chair, have blank scratch paper and a pencil available, and make sure it is quiet and you will be undisturbed.
2. When prompted to **show your photo ID**, do so in a way that ensures your **full name** and **photo** are visible.
3. For the environment scan, show:
 - a. That you do not have a calculator or other device;
 - b. That all your paper is blank; and
 - c. That you are working on your own.
4. Your video for the environment scan should show in front of you, behind you, your complete table *and* underneath the table. Remember the **purpose** of the environment scan and consider your testing context: *How can you **show** the reviewer that you are taking the exam in an appropriate environment and only with the tools that are permitted?*
5. Ensure your **internet** access is reliable and that the **microphone** is working on your computer.
6. Set your laptop on the desk or table at an angle so that the reviewer can see **you and your workspace**.

On the main math placement site, there is a video which demonstrates expectations for setting up your workspace and performing the environment check. **Please be sure to follow the directions in that video carefully.**

Your exam will not be considered valid if any of the following is true when we review the recording of your test session:

1. You do not show your photo ID.
2. You do not give a complete environment check.
3. You take your test lounging on your bed or a couch with a blanket covering your lap.
4. Your video only shows your head. Your video should show you and your workspace while you take the exam. (this might mean that you use an external webcam or lean your laptop down more than normal so the camera captures your workspace.)
5. Your video has no sound.
6. Your video has sounds or visual that indicate you used a calculator or other unapproved device.

Please note that this list **only shows the most common** reasons for score invalidation and is not comprehensive.

To avoid having your score invalidated, it's critical that you follow all the requirements and directions.

Trust and honesty between students and faculty is a critical component of the learning environment.

Remember that the assessment is only a valid indicator of your preparation for a math course if it is taken correctly.

It is much better to take the assessment **correctly** – even if you end up needing to study and retake it – than to demonstrate that you are not ready for college-level mathematics by using unapproved resources (devices, notes, and/or people).