



ALEKS[®]
Student Orientation



Student Orientation

This brief walkthrough is designed to help you become familiar with the ALEKS program and how it will be used in this class. It will also assist you with the registration process and direct you where to go for help.

You will have regular, required assignments in ALEKS, and you can expect to spend several hours a week working on them. Just how much time you have to spend in the program will depend on how efficiently you use the ALEKS system.

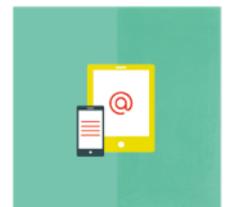


What is ALEKS?

ALEKS stands for Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. It is an individualized, adaptive learning tool that is unlike any other online program available today. Think of it as a human tutor designed to help you learn and master math.

ALEKS uses artificial intelligence to determine what you know, what you don't know, and what you are most ready to learn. ALEKS then creates a personalized learning plan that gives you credit for what you already know and shows you what you are ready to learn.

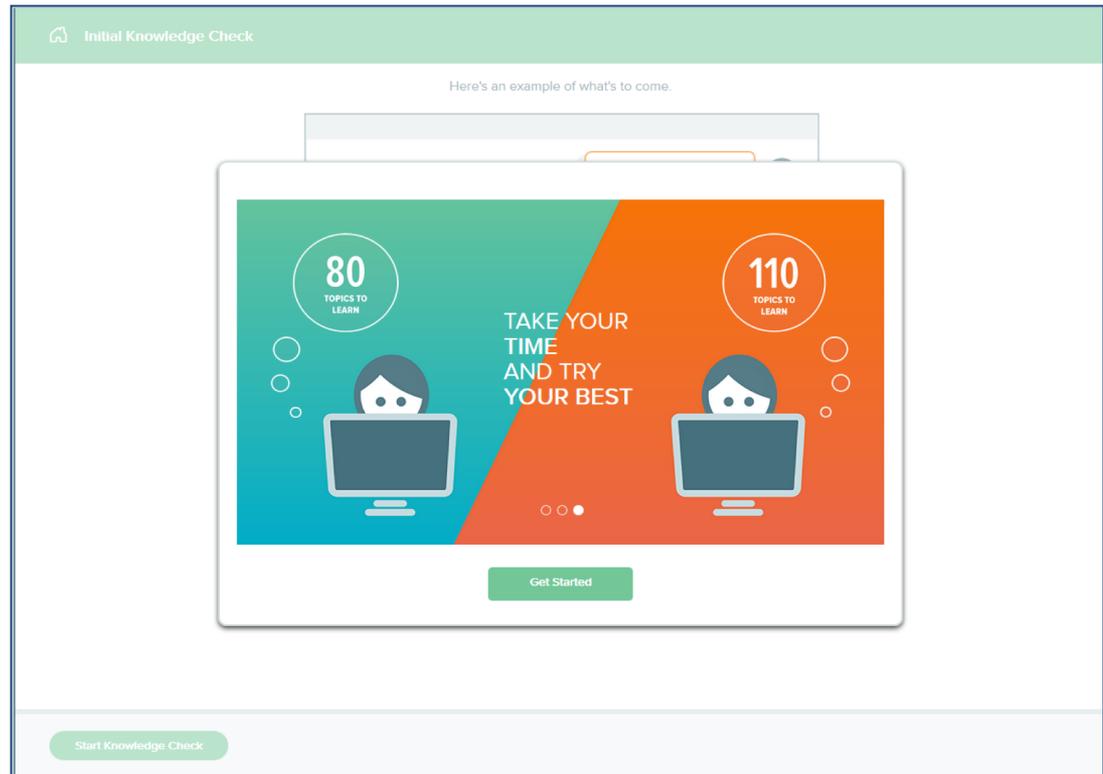
To make sure that you remember what you learn, ALEKS will sometimes check your knowledge. These Knowledge Checks are designed to *help* you in the long run, so take them seriously! ALEKS has been around for a long time and is a trustworthy system. Treat it well and it will treat you well.



Getting Started

Once you register with ALEKS, you will take a brief tutorial on how to use the system. Next, you will complete an Initial Knowledge Check. It's purpose is to figure out what you know and don't know, so that you can begin with material you are ready to learn.

Take the ALEKS Knowledge Checks honestly so that the system can accurately measure your knowledge of course material. If you don't, you will only be giving yourself more work!



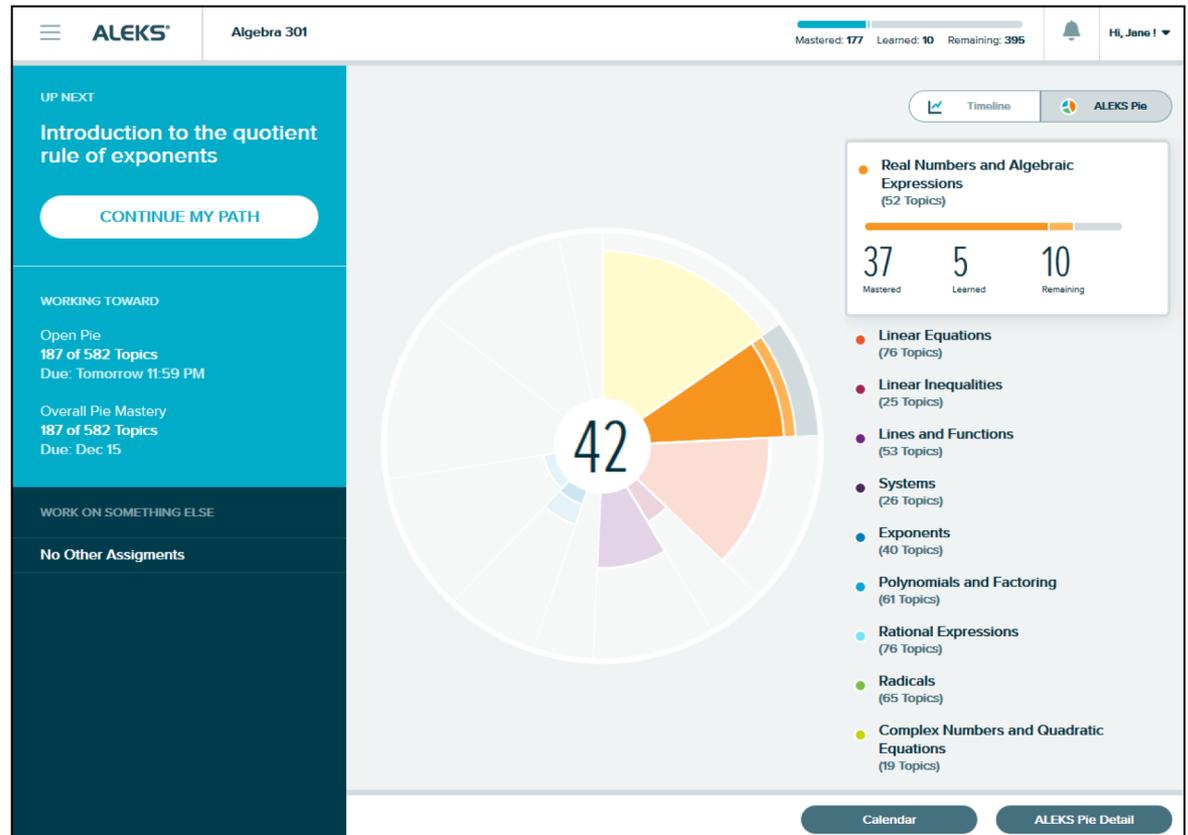
Getting Started

After you finish the Initial Knowledge Check, you will see your ALEKS Pie. This represents your current knowledge of the course. Notice that ALEKS has assessed that you already know some of the material and given you credit for it!

Each Pie Slice represents a different course area and has three sections:

- Dark = topics mastered on a Knowledge Check
- Light = topics learned in Learning Mode
- Grey = Remaining topics not learned or mastered

Click on CONTINUE MY PATH to access your ready to learn topics.



Learning in ALEKS

Once you are in Learning Mode, you will be presented with a Lesson Page for the first Ready to Learn topic. Read the lesson and click on the Practice button to complete the problems.

EXONENTS
Introduction to the power of a product rule of exponents

QUESTION

Simplify.

$$(4z)^3$$

Write your answer without parentheses.

EXPLANATION

Method 1:
By definition, the [exponent 3](#) tells us how many times $4z$ appears in the [product](#).

$$(4z)^3 = \overbrace{4z \cdot 4z \cdot 4z}^{\text{three } 4z \text{ 's}}$$

We can multiply to get the following.

$$\begin{aligned} (4z)^3 &= 4z \cdot 4z \cdot 4z \\ &= 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot z \cdot z \cdot z \\ &= 64z^3 \end{aligned}$$

Note that the exponent 3 in $(4z)^3$ applies to both the 4 and the z. [More](#)

Method 2:
The method above suggests a rule called the [power of a product rule of exponents](#). It says that for any [integer](#) n , and any numbers a and b , we have the following.

$$(a b)^n = a^n b^n$$

Using the rule with the current problem, we get the following.

$$(4z)^3 = 4^3 z^3 = 64z^3$$

Practice

There are many resources available to help you learn in ALEKS. Use the icons on the right side of each Lesson Page and practice problem to access these resources.

The gauge in the top, right corner tracks how many correct problems you need to complete the topic.

How to Get the Grade

To stay on track, you will complete Objectives. Think of these Objectives as learning goals; the more you procrastinate, the more work you will give yourself!

To work on topics in the current Objective, select the Objective from the drop-down menu in the top, left corner. You can also select “Part of My Grade” in the Topic Carousel filter in the top, right corner.

This will display your “goal topics”, or topics that are part of your grade, in the Topic Carousel.

The screenshot shows a learning management system interface. At the top left, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'Ready to Learn' with a downward arrow. Below this menu is a table of topics with their respective 'Ready to Learn' and 'Total' counts. The table is highlighted with a red border. To the right of the table is a 'Topic Carousel' showing 'Polynomials and Factoring' with a sub-topic 'Multiplying conjugate binomials: Univariate'. Below the carousel, there is a math problem: 'We want to remove the parentheses from the product $(u + 4)(u - 6)$. We first multiply each term in the first factor $(u + 4)$ by each term in the second factor $(u - 6)$ using FOIL (First, Outer, Inner, Last). F: Multiply the two First terms: $u \cdot u = u^2$. O: Multiply the two Outside terms: $u \cdot (-6) = -6u$. I: Multiply the two Inside terms: $4 \cdot u = 4u$. L: Multiply the two Last terms: $4 \cdot (-6) = -24$. The product $(u + 4)(u - 6)$ is then equal to the sum of these terms. $(u + 4)(u - 6) = u^2 - 6u + 4u - 24$. At the bottom of the interface, there is a 'Start' button.

Ready to Learn	Total
Ch.1-Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions	99
Ch.2-Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable	24 (Ready to Learn) / 78% (Completed)
Ch.3-Linear Equations in Two Variables	21 (Ready to Learn) / 108 (Total)
Ch.4-Systems of Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables	17 (Ready to Learn) / 55 (Total)
Ch.5-Laws of Exponents and Polynomial Operations	3 (Ready to Learn) / 27 (Total)
	13 (Ready to Learn) / 58 (Total)

Pay close attention to due dates!

Learning in ALEKS

If you want to switch to another topic, open the Topic Carousel and select the topic you want to work on. You can also filter the topics that appear in the Carousel by using the Topic Carousel filter in the top, right corner.

REMEMBER: ALEKS will occasionally check your retention of what you have learned by giving you a Knowledge Check.

If you forget how to do a topic, or just didn't learn it the first time, ALEKS will ask you to review that topic for more practice.

The screenshot displays the ALEKS interface for the course 'Ch.1-Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions'. At the top, there are three topic cards: 'Linear Equations' (tagged as Instructor Resources), 'Arithmetic Readiness' (tagged as Instructor Resources), and 'Real Numbers' (tagged as Video). The main content area shows a 'QUESTION' section with the text: 'Translate this phrase into an algebraic expression. 67 decreased by twice a number. Use the variable n to represent the unknown number.' Below this is an 'EXPLANATION' section: 'Using n for the unknown number, the phrase twice a number is written $2n$. The phrase 67 decreased by twice a number is written $67 - 2n$.' At the bottom, an 'ANSWER' section shows the expression $67 - 2n$. A 'Start' button is located at the bottom center. On the right side, a 'Filters' menu is open, showing options to search for a topic, sort by 'Easiest' or 'Piv Sicca', and filter by 'Learn' or 'Review'. The 'TAGS' section includes: 'Any Topic (20)', 'Needs More Practice (0)', 'Goal Topic (0)', 'Unlocked (16)' (checked), 'Video (8)', and 'Instructor Resources (20)'. There are 'Show All Topics' and 'Reset' buttons at the bottom of the filter menu.

Learning in ALEKS

Completing an Objective before the due date will put you in “Open Pie” mode. This means that the pie is now “open” and you can work on any Ready to Learn topic from any Objective. When the due date hits, you will automatically move into the next Objective.

Use the Open Pie Mode to your advantage. You can complete topics from past Objectives or get ahead and work on topics from future Objectives.

If you want to focus on only the topics for the next Objective, then select the Objective from the drop-down menu to filter the topics.

The screenshot shows the ALEKS interface. A dropdown menu titled 'Ready to Learn' is open, displaying a list of topics with their respective counts and completion percentages. The background shows a math problem involving the FOIL method for multiplying binomials.

Topic	Ready to Learn	Total	Completion %
Ready to Learn	99	Total	
Ch.1-Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions	24	78%	Completed
Ch.2-Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable	21	108	
Ch.3-Linear Equations in Two Variables	17	55	
Ch.4-Systems of Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables	3	27	
Ch.5-Laws of Exponents and Polynomial Operations	13	58	

Below the menu, the interface shows a math problem: "We want to remove the parentheses from the product $(u + 4)(u - 6)$. We first multiply each term in the first factor $(u + 4)$ by each term in the second factor $(u - 6)$ using FOIL (First, Outer, Inner, Last)."

The steps shown are:

- F: Multiply the two First terms: $u \cdot u = u^2$
- O: Multiply the two Outside terms: $u \cdot (-6) = -6u$
- I: Multiply the two Inside terms: $4 \cdot u = 4u$
- L: Multiply the two Last terms: $4 \cdot (-6) = -24$

The product $(u + 4)(u - 6)$ is then equal to the sum of these terms.

$$(u + 4)(u - 6) = u^2 - 6u + 4u - 24$$

A "Start" button is visible at the bottom of the page.

How to Register for your ALEKS Class

1. Log in to your institution's **Moodle** site and navigate to your course.
2. Click on the **McGraw-Hill ALEKS** within your course. This link will be found below each Lesson heading in the course.
3. Click The ALEKS logo is a blue rectangular button with the word "ALEKS" in white, sans-serif capital letters.
4. Click, **No, I am new to ALEKS.**
5. Enter your information, accept the terms, and click **“Continue.”**
6. Your registration is now complete. Click **“Continue”** to enter your ALEKS course.

Help and Resources

ALEKS offers extra resources to help students get started on the right track. To take advantage, visit: www.aleks.com/highered/math/student_resources

If you ever need help or have questions, contact ALEKS Technical Support:

- Hours (Eastern Time):
 - Monday through Thursday, 7am – 1am
 - Friday, 7am – 9pm
 - Sunday, 4pm – 1am
- Contact Support: <http://support.aleks.com>
- Visit: www.aleks.com/support
 - FAQs
 - User Guides
 - System Requirements
 - Troubleshooting

