

ALEKS® Case Study

Cedar Valley College | Dallas, TX



Course Name: MATH 1314 College Algebra

Implementation: Hybrid redesign; online

Course Setup: ALEKS College Algebra with Miller College Algebra, 1e

Avg Enrollment: 24 on campus; 42 online

Prior to Using ALEKS

Our students were not motivated or engaged with math. Additionally, a main challenge our department faced was that students were not mastering concepts. If they learned some material, they were struggling to retain that material. We had been using MyMathLab with Blitzer for several years.

Why We Chose ALEKS

After learning about ALEKS at a math workshop and the NADE Conference, it was clear that the program uses “brain science” to create a personalized approach to learning mathematics. We also visited Austin Community College and met with their faculty, who convinced us that ALEKS is a good solution to improving retention and student success.

Our Experience with ALEKS

Students have responded with positive comments and appreciate the chance to be successful in learning mathematics. Professor Thompson states, “I just had a college algebra class where only two students dropped the course and half of the class earned scores above 90 percent. Students were engaged and successful beyond my wildest dreams. I have had classes in the past with a 50 percent drop rate. This experience has changed my view and I realize that I can touch each student, in each class, with ALEKS. I never did that in a traditional class.”

“ALEKS has created the best classroom experience that I've had in 36 years. Passing rates significantly increased by 40 percent.”

– *Tommy Thompson, Professor*

How We Use ALEKS

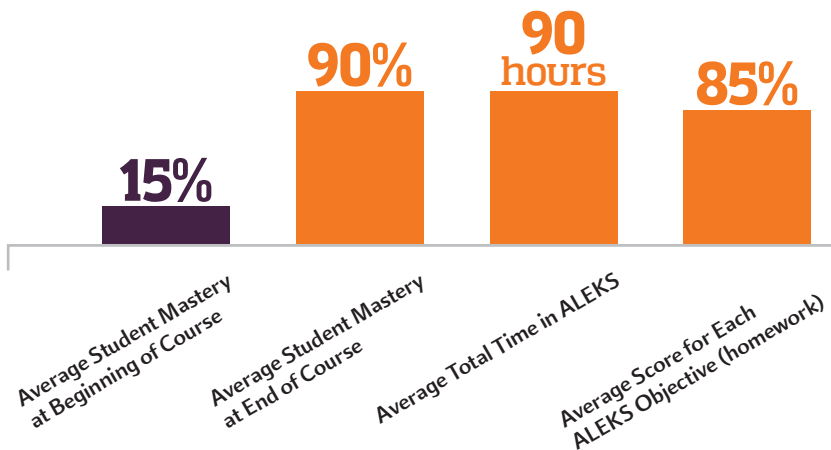
How We Structure our ALEKS Classes

The emporium structure includes eight pod stations with three computers per pod. The grading system is comprised of attendance, pie completion, time requirement in ALEKS, and a final exam grade. Progress is tracked on a weekly basis and students are given progress reports. At the end of the course, students are given a 40 question final exam in ALEKS, with a time limit.

Our Success with ALEKS

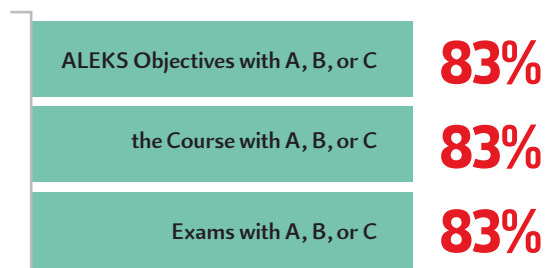
Passing rates significantly increased by 40 percent. Drop rates were 50 percent and now they are less than 10 percent. Students are motivated and really want to earn an A (90% or above) or B (80% or above). ALEKS has changed the role of the instructor and the role of the tutor in each of our classes. The instructor can visit with EVERY student in each class and update them.

ALEKS allows students to have a personalized learning experience, and the ALEKS reports give them the power to evaluate their progress daily. Student engagement has increased, and they feel free to ask questions and engage with other students and the professor. The time/management feature is something the student can be accountable for.



There is a clear consistency between exams, ALEKS homework, and final grades. ALEKS assures that students have mastered the material; thereby building confidence when exam time comes.

**% of Students
(out of 24)
who Completed:**



How Our Students Feel About ALEKS

Overall, every student except one was very positive about ALEKS. Our student surveys documented an overall positive approach to learning mathematics.

“ALEKS is amazing and has helped me succeed in math.”

“I never thought I could be successful in math until I experienced ALEKS.”

“I like ALEKS because I can move at my own pace and don’t have to spend time on things I already know.”