

How To Talk To Your Students About Knowledge Checks

ALEKS Training Series

Instructors

Student Frustration

After a few cycles of working in ALEKS followed by a Progress Knowledge Check, most students will make peace with them.

However, others will get frustrated as they see them as a barrier to completing other course work.

This especially true if they try to cram a lot of work into a small time frame (like trying to add 50 topics in a weekend) as they may encounter several Progress Knowledge Checks during that time frame.

As with all courses, it is in the best interest of students to work consistently through the course and not procrastinate.

One way to combat frustration and cramming behavior is to be sure students are aware of the structure, benefits, and notifications surrounding Knowledge Checks

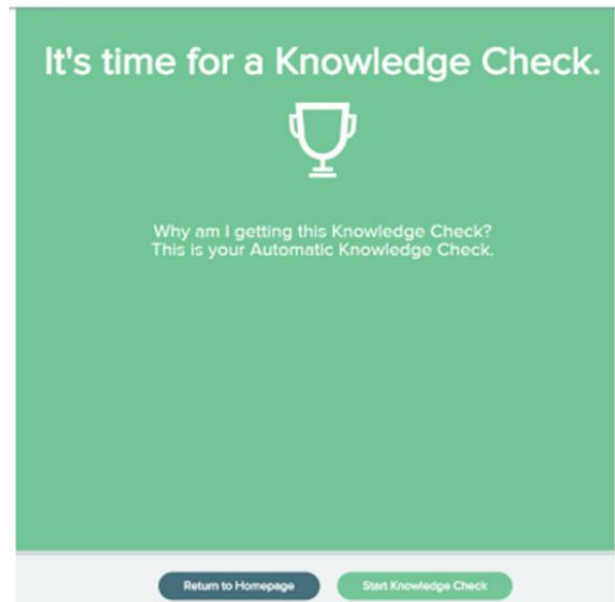


The Progress Knowledge Check

Encourage students to think of Progress Knowledge Checks as a non-punitive Review.

After a student spends 5 hours in ALEKS and learns 20 topics, they will take their Knowledge Check.

ALEKS uses their individual learning path to guide the questions. It is important that students always do their best, and only use “I Don’t Know” if they truly don’t know what to do.





Benefits of Knowledge Checks

In a non-ALEKS course, students who may not perform well on an often do not know what they need to do to improve. ALEKS takes care of this for students by identifying topics that need more practice.

Other benefits to Knowledge Checks:

1. Immediate feedback on topics to review

Student Knowledge Check results will show any topics they had learned, but did not show mastery of, and therefore need to revisit. Students can then review those specific topics that need more practice prior to a graded assignment or assessment.

2. Credit for mastery of material

If students are showing mastery of their learned material on a Knowledge Check ALEKS will reach into their Ready-to-Learn topics. This means students can gain topics without practicing them in Learning Mode!



Knowledge Check Notifications

The Knowledge Check icon eliminates the surprise of a Progress Knowledge Check popping up during a work session.

It is important to note that the time mentioned, 5 hours in ALEKS, is time spent actively working in ALEKS not regular clock hours.





Needs More Practice Topics

If students fail to retain topics on a Knowledge Check they can immediately go into Learning Mode and use the “Needs More Practice” filter to identify those topics they need to relearn.

Note: it takes fewer correct answers to gain topics back than it did to “learn” them, students need only complete a 3-segment learning cycle instead of the original 5-segment cycle.

The screenshot shows a learning management system interface. At the top, it displays "Ch 5-Polynomials and Properties of Exponents" and "2 Topics". Below this, there are two topic cards: "Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions" with the sub-topic "Exponents and integers: Problem type 2", and "Exponents" with the sub-topic "Simplifying a ratio of univariate monomials". Both cards have a "Needs More Practice" tag highlighted in yellow. Below the cards is a problem statement: "The diameter, D , of a sphere is 9.2 cm. Calculate the sphere's volume, V . Use the value 3.14 for π , and round your answer to the nearest tenth. (Do not round any intermediate computations.)". A diagram of a sphere with diameter D is shown. On the right side, there is a "Filters" panel with a search bar, a "Sort by" dropdown (set to "Easiest"), and a "Ready to Learn" button. Below the filters is a "TAGS" section with a list of tags and checkboxes: "Any Topic (7)", "Needs More Practice (2)", "Goal Topic (7)", "Unlocked (5)", "Video (3)", and "Instructor Resources (7)". The "Needs More Practice (2)" tag is highlighted in yellow and has its checkbox checked.



The Detailed Progress Report

Progress Knowledge Checks are where growth occurs. You can see a student's learning progress by looking at the Detailed Progress Report.

2016FA MATH 1314 INET - 31422 (Current Class)			All Classes		Login name: P20011340 CLASS TOOLS			
Knowledge Checks			Performance		Since Last Knowledge Check			
Reason	Start	Finish	Progress	Percent	ALEKS Grade	Topics Learned	Hours In ALEKS	Topics Learned per Hour
2016FA MATH 1314 INET - 31422 (Current Class) - 337 Topics - Instructor Merchant								
Progress Knowledge Check	Dec 5	Dec 7 1h 34m		89 +7%		22	23.7	0.9
Progress Knowledge Check	Nov 29	Nov 30 1h 45m		80 +11%		39	13	3
Login Time Knowledge Check	Nov 27	Nov 27 2h 22m		74 +9%		32	9.8	3.2
Progress Knowledge Check	Nov 21	Nov 23 2h 1m		73 +4%		15	11	1.4
Login Time Knowledge Check	Nov 16	Nov 16 1h 59m		62 +12%		42	17.3	2.4
Progress Knowledge Check	Nov 3	Nov 3 1h 26m		59 +6%		22	15.4	1.4
Login Time Knowledge Check	Oct 29	Oct 29 2h 6m		50 +11%		37	12.5	3
Login Time Knowledge Check	Oct 18	Oct 19 1h 12m		47 +7%		21	12.9	1.6
Login Time Knowledge Check	Oct 8	Oct 8 1h 10m		47 +5%		16	10.6	1.5
Progress Knowledge Check	Sep 27	Oct 1 1h 52m		46 +4%		14	11.6	1.2
Progress Knowledge Check	Sep 18	Sep 18 2h 21m		44 +6%		22	10.5	2.1
Login Time Knowledge Check	Sep 13	Sep 13 1h 13m		36 +9%		30	13.9	2.2
Progress Knowledge Check	Aug 31	Aug 31 1h 13m		28 +10%		35	16.1	2.2
Initial Knowledge Check	Aug 28	Aug 28 1h 50m		21 +6%		20	6.3	3.2



Scheduling Knowledge Checks

You have the option to schedule Knowledge Checks at appropriate times for your class to assess student retention and mastery.

There are two types of knowledge checks that can be scheduled:

- **Scheduled Progress Knowledge Checks**

These are good for review of recent material and fit in nicely in place of traditional Quizzes.

- **Scheduled Comprehensive Knowledge Checks**

These are good for assessing knowledge of the entire course and are an excellent substitute for a traditional Test, or even a traditional Final Exam, as it can accurately determine a student's knowledge of all course topics.



Assigning a Scheduled Knowledge Check

Go to the Assignments tab, select “Schedule Knowledge Check” and follow the steps to assign.

NOTICE
Assignments fall outside of the class start/end dates. Please check the dates.

0 Assignments Selected

Filter

+ New Assignment Select one or more rows to perform an action

	Type	Start
Pie Progress Goal		
Time Goal		
Topic Goal		
Homework	Homework	02/14 12:26
Test		
Quiz		
Scheduled Knowledge Check		
Duplicate from Another Class		

STEP 1: Name & Date

Scheduled Knowledge Check Name:

Status: ⓘ

Goal: ⓘ

Scheduled Knowledge Check Type:
 Progress Knowledge Check ⓘ
 Comprehensive Knowledge Check ⓘ

Scheduled Knowledge Check Dates:

Start Date: Time:

End Date: Time:

Publish this Scheduled Knowledge Check to the student calendar.

STEP 2: Advanced Options

Prevent automatic Knowledge Checks the assignment starts.
Automatic Knowledge Checks will occur once the student submits the assignment OR once the due date passes.

Assign to entire class
 Assign to specific student(s)

Assignment Access Options: [Learn more](#)

Students choose when to start assignment after it is available
 Require Password [Show Password](#)
10 characters max.
No special characters.

Students must take assignment as soon as it is available

Support and Resources

TECH SUPPORT & FAQ:

CALL: (800) 258-2374

EMAIL & CHAT: aleks.com/support

MONDAY-THURSDAY: 7 AM – 1 AM EST

FRIDAY: 7 AM – 9 PM EST

SUNDAY: 4 PM – 1 AM EST

FIND MORE SUPPORT:

supportateverystep.com

FIND MORE TIPS:

mheducation.com/highered/ideas