ALEKS Information

A significant amount of learning for this course will happen through the web-based, artificially intelligent, educational software called ALEKS (www.aleks.com). The ALEKS program has several features that should enhance your learning and contribute to your success in pre-calculus. These features include:

- clear explanations and immediate feedback
- on-line help in the form of written explanations and video instruction clips

In addition, the software will

- help you develop precision and accuracy when solving problems
- give you the opportunity to practice as much as needed to master a concept
- periodically assess your mastery of topics to insure you are retaining what you are learning

ALEKS has been shown to increase student success rates in College Algebra. Use it to its full capacity!

Signing Up:

Purchase your ALEKS Student Access Code from the website www.aleks.com or from the Bookie. To enter the course, click the link SIGN UP NOW and enter your ‘Student Access Code’ and your ‘Course Code’. If the only time you have used ALEKS is when you took your placement test be sure to select the ‘I have never used ALEKS before…’ option when asked.

The Student Access Code is the code that is provided in your textbook or it can be purchased directly from ALEKS.

Your Course Code is: HWNCX-69VXG

Please note Course Codes are unique to each section. If you do not use the one from this section, I will not see your work.
Carefully enter your personal information **including your WSU student ID number** to insure that you receive credit for your work. If your ID number is not present or does not match with the one I have, my gradebook will not be able to pull over your information correctly from ALEKS, so please be careful when typing it. Once you have signed-up, you will be taken through a tutorial that shows you how to use the tools in ALEKS and how to enter solutions. After completing the tutorial, the program will give you an initial assessment to determine which course topics you already know. **You must Complete the tutorial and the initial assessment by Wednesday, August 23rd.**

Much (if not most) of the learning you do over the semester will happen through the guided practice ALEKS provides. It will give you questions on material you *are ready to learn*. An important first step in that process is this initial assessment. Give yourself plenty of time to complete the assessment (2-4 hours is reasonable). Here are a few general guidelines to follow:

- Solve all problems without assistance
- Maintain an “ALEKS notebook” to record your work as you solve problems.
- Work problems carefully in your notebook, **clearly showing** the steps you used.
- Enter only your final answer into ALEKS.
- Use a calculator only when the ALEKS calculator is given. Don't worry if you get a problem that is unfamiliar or that is too difficult. This is normal. If you truly do not have a clue about how to solve a particular problem, just click on "I don't know" and move on.
- Only click, "I don't know," if you really don't know how to solve a problem. Try your best to solve any problems that you think you might be able to solve. It is best to at least attempt all problems.
- Never rush through an assessment. If you are out of time, just log off ALEKS. When you log on again later, ALEKS will bring you to the point at which you left off.

**Completing ALEKS Modules:**

Once you have completed an initial assessment (knowledge check), you will be guided through the procedures for completing your content modules. Once you have answered a few questions correctly without help, ALEKS will “add that topic to your pie” and you can move on to another topic. If you have difficulty solving a problem and become frustrated, go back to the content tab at the top of the page and choose something else; you can always return to a topic.

**Automatic Assessments:**

Automatic assessments (knowledge checks) are an important feature of how ALEKS works as your personal learning guide. ALEKS is designed to present you with material you *are ready to learn* and so it keeps track of your current knowledge. The assessments consist of 15-35 questions. In the newest versions of ALEKS courses, the scope of assessments has been made more sensitive to your history, so that questions will tend to focus on material that is most relevant to your current progress. This enables ALEKS to keep the assessments even shorter and to integrate them more smoothly into your continued progress. These knowledge checks should be taken very seriously. They help you identify topics that might need additional review as well as topics you know and may skip.
Requested Assessments:

Your instructor reserves the right to request a proctored assessment for you personally, or for everyone in the course.

ALEKS Notebook

The ALEKS exercises are given on-line and you submit your answers on-line, but you will need to use pencil and paper to solve them. Purchase a composition notebook to be used exclusively for your ALEKS work. Each time you work on ALEKS, whether it is learning mode or an assessment, date your work, write down the topic name, and carefully organize your calculations. Do not use your note book as simply scratch paper. If you take care to organize your work and carefully write your steps your ALEKS notebook will be a useful resource later as you study for exams and review material. This record of your work in ALEKS will also assist you in getting help from your instructor or tutors at the MLC by being able to show them exactly what is giving you trouble. Maintaining a notebook will build a better understanding and will help you develop useful learning skills.

Definitions:

- Modules- These are the assignments. ALEKS calls these objectives, but different schools will have different titles.
- Topic- A single type of math problem. For example, *factoring a binomial with leading coefficient of 1.*
  ALEKS may switch the numbers, but the problems are all the same.
- Goal Topic- A module or objective will consist of 8-25 required topics. Doing these will increase the grade on a Module or Objective.
- Prerequisite Topic- ALEKS may give you one or two prerequisite topics before allowing you to start on a goal topic. Doing these will *not* count toward your grade on a Module or Objective.
- Knowledge Check- This is how ALEKS decides if you need to be assigned prerequisite topics, or if you have already mastered any goal topics.
Only for students awaiting Financial Aid

Instructions for the student:

Your Financial Aid Access Code is: **70307-0F670-5BFA6-16F0A**

The Financial Aid Access Code does not add an additional two weeks to your account.

**NOTE:** This code gives you temporary access to ALEKS for a two-week period. Once the code expires, you will be locked out of your ALEKS account until you purchase a regular Student Access Code. **It is highly recommended that you purchase the Student Access Code BEFORE the two weeks expire** to prevent interruptions with your ALEKS account.

2. Click on the "SIGN UP NOW!" link located under the login box on the left of the page.
3. Enter your **Course Code** in the box labeled "Using ALEKS with a Class?" and click on "Continue."
4. Verify that you are registering for the correct course and click on "Continue."
6. Continue with the registration process until your account has been set up successfully.
7. After you complete your account set up you will be logged into ALEKS and can immediately begin working in the course.
8. You can extend your ALEKS account at any time by clicking on "extend your account" and entering a purchased Student Access Code. If your temporary access expires before you purchase a Student Access Code, simply log in to ALEKS and you will be directed on how to extend your current account. You will then be able to continue your course where you left off before the temporary access expired. **You do NOT need to create a new ALEKS account to continue your course.**

Enjoy your course.
ALEKS Technical Support (Higher Education)

Visit [http://www.aleks.com/support/contact_support](http://www.aleks.com/support/contact_support)

**FAQs:** Click on *FAQs* to view a list of Frequently Asked Questions

**Online Guide:** Click on *User Guide* to view the online guide

**Troubleshooting:** Click on *Troubleshooting* to view the status of your computer and more

**Hours (Eastern Time):**
- Sunday, 4:00 PM to 1:00 AM
- Monday - Thursday, 7:00 AM to 1:00 AM
- Friday, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM

**Email:** contact ALEKS customer service at [http://support.aleks.com](http://support.aleks.com)
**Telephone:** (714) 619-7090
**Fax:** (714) 245-7190
"Aleks says I have 5 topics left, I do five topics, then is states I have 5 more to go!"

This is a complaint I get on occasion. It's a bit too generic to answer, but I did ask the ALEKS tech support people if they had any ideas, and this is what they said:

Thank you for contacting ALEKS.

It is likely that your students are simply confusing Goal topics with Prerequisite topics while working toward their current Objective. While your Objective specifies a set number of topics to be learned by a certain date, your students may have to study additional topics if they have not yet learned those specific topics’ prerequisites. This can lead students to mistakenly believe that they are not making forward progress, as learning a Prerequisite topic will not decrease the total number of Goal topics.

ALEKS works on a strict prerequisite structure. Our system only allows students to work on the material they are ready to learn next. If a student does not have the necessary prerequisite knowledge to be successful in learning a certain topic, our system will not allow the student to work on that topic until the necessary prerequisite skills are mastered.

Students have a number of topics in their pie charts that are available to them at all times. If the students work on those, then sooner or later they will have mastered all the prerequisites and the topics they want will become available. They will, of course, be all along mastering topics that are part of the course.

I would advise your students to consult their Objective Report, available under their "Reports" tab. This report clearly outlines how many topics remain in a student's path toward completing their current Objective.