

UTD Precalculus Assessment Through ALEKS

ALEKS is an online system for assessing and/or teaching mathematical skills on an individualized basis. The core of the system is an adaptive assessment engine that determines quickly and precisely what an individual student knows. Once registered in the ALEKS, you will enter a brief tutorial that explains how to use the answer editor. The tutorial only takes a few minutes, once complete you will proceed directly to the initial assessment. There are approximately 30 questions in this assessment and you should anticipate spending upwards of one hour to complete it. Be certain to have paper and pencil on hand and work as many of the problems as you can and to the best of your ability, otherwise, ALEKS will underestimate your knowledge. It is quite possible that you will encounter a question addressing a skill or material you have not yet learned. On such questions it is appropriate to select "I don't know". If circumstances require you exit the ALEKS system before completing the assessment, you may reenter the system, picking up where you left off and complete the assessment. The deadline for completing the assessment is 11:59 pm September 1.

In the registration process, you will be asked for your Student ID. For purposes of this assessment, this is your UTDallas **netid**. If you do not know your **netid**, go the JO Computer Lab on the ground floor of the Jonsson Academic Building or the Sonora Computer Lab on the first floor of McDermott Library.

Registration

To access ALEKS go to the URL <http://www.aleks.com/utd> and select **Precalculus**. To take the free assessment click the "Assessment" button. Enter your personal information as requested, and in the Student ID# field, **enter your UTD netid**. The ALEKS system will assign a Login and password to you. **Record these** as they will be needed should you have to reenter the system (ALEKS will send you an email with this information as well). Select Continue. ALEKS will check for and download a plugin if needed. If the download occurs, you will be prompted to restart your browser. To reenter the system, go to <http://www.aleks.com> and enter your login and password in the registered user box. You will return and begin the answer editor tutorial then proceed to the assessment.

At the end of the assessment you will be presented with your assessment score and a "pie". The pie is a histogram which indicates your mastery of the material within subcategories and pinpoints skills you are ready to learn. These skills can be viewed by placing the cursor on any sector of the pie and opening the pulldown.

Additional Assessments

You may retake the assessment by repeating the registration steps above but select the Retake assessment link. You will be prompted to purchase a 20-character access code online in the amount of \$3.75 for each additional assessment you take. In the registration process, again, enter your UTD net id in the Student ID field, record your new login and password, proceed to the answer editor tutorial, and then the assessment.

To improve mastery of the skills you are ready to learn, you can go to the library and review an Algebra or Precalculus text, you can visit the Math Learning Center located in the McDermott Library in Room 2.412, or you can purchase the ALEKS tutorial. To use ALEKS as an online tutor, click on the right-hand button marked "Learning". You will be prompted to purchase a 20-character access code online in the amount of \$30.00 for a 6-week subscription to ALEKS. Follow the instructions to register, take the ALEKS Answer Editor Tutorial, and then complete the assessment. Once the assessment is finished, you can use the pie to select the topics you are ready to learn. During registration, you will have to provide and confirm your correct UTD netid. Also, be certain to record your ALEKS Login Name and Password. You will need these to log on to your ALEKS account from <http://www.aleks.com>.