



Math Placement FAQs

What is the Math Placement Assessment? Do I need to take the Math Placement Assessment?

The Math Placement Assessment is one tool the University of St. Thomas uses to identify which math course you are prepared to take. *Not all students need to take the math placement assessment.*

You only need to take the Math Placement Assessment if:

- You do not have an ACT/SAT score (submitted to the university within 2 years) that places you into a math course.
- You do not have transfer credits or AP Calculus scores that provide you with mathematics credit.

You are also welcome to take the Math Placement Assessment if you feel that your current placement does not reflect your mathematical ability and you wish to try for a higher placement.

Do you need to make an appointment to take the Math Placement Assessment?

Nope! Once you know that you should take the math placement assessment, you'll be able to complete all the steps from your own home computer or laptop. If you do not have the math placement instructions, please contact the Mathematics Resource Center Director, Molly Peterson, at pete1476@stthomas.edu.

Is there a cost to take the Math Placement Assessment?

Yes. To take the Math Placement Assessment, you will need to create an ALEKS account, which will require a fee of \$25. The account can be used to take up to 5 assessments.

When should I take the Math Placement Assessment?

You should take the Math Placement Assessment as soon as possible, and before your Orientation and Registration date. Students can take the assessment up to five times total, so if you do not achieve your desired score on your first attempt, you will have an opportunity to study and re-take the assessment.

What can I do to prepare for the Math Placement Assessment?

You will need to make an ALEKS account and then set yourself up for success by taking the assessment at a time of day when you are most likely to be focused. Also be sure to use plenty of scratch paper! Other than that, we don't recommend doing a lot of studying in preparation for your first attempt.

After your first attempt, you will be prompted to join a "Prep and Learning Module" to help you prepare for a re-take (if necessary). This is part of the reason why we recommend taking the first assessment without much preparation – the best preparation comes after your first attempt, because then the ALEKS system uses what it already knows about you to tailor your preparation module to your needs. In addition to your module, you are also encouraged to seek additional support from the Math Placement Specialist. Virtual appointments are easy to schedule and available year-round.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Arden Ashley-Wurtmann is the Math Placement Specialist, and she can help you with any questions you have about the process. You can email her at ashl0004@stthomas.edu.