

## Cut Score Recommendations

ALEKS Corporation's Math and Applied Research teams have developed recommended placement cut scores based on the analysis of math content, the ALEKS Knowledge Structure (Artificial Intelligence), data collected from ALEKS users, and the experience of other institutions using ALEKS PPL. Recommendations are offered for the most frequently taught college math courses, ranging from traditional Basic Math to Calculus I, and includes courses outside the "traditional sequence" such as Business Calculus and Finite Math.

These are only recommendations as every institution is different. While significant effort has gone into arriving at these recommendations, given the range of variables that each institution must consider when determining cut scores, it is important to evaluate the content of your courses to determine cut scores. For this reason, your ALEKS Strategic Placement Consultant will provide specific recommendations for your courses and tips for how to evaluate the effectiveness.

### ALEKS Recommended Cut Scores for Common Courses

Cut Score	Range	Course Placement
< 14	0-13	Basic Math/Prealgebra
≥ 14	14-29	Beginning Algebra
≥ 30	30-45	Intermediate Algebra
≥ 46	46-60	College Algebra Similar Courses*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Topics/Excursions in Mathematics or Math for Liberal Arts Majors</b> (courses that cover voting systems; graphs; symmetry; population growth; probability)</li> <li>• <b>Foundations of Elementary Mathematics or Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers</b> (courses for the training of Elementary School Teachers)</li> <li>• <b>Elementary Data Analysis</b> (statistics courses where anything beyond descriptive statistics concerns the use of a computer software)</li> </ul>
≥ 61	61-75	PreCalculus/Business Calculus Similar Courses*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trigonometry</b></li> <li>• <b>Finite Mathematics</b> (matrices; linear programming; probability; game theory)</li> <li>• <b>Calculus for Management, Calculus for Social Sciences, Calculus for Agricultural Sciences, Applied Calculus, or Introduction to Calculus</b> (calculus courses with no trigonometry requirement)</li> <li>• <b>Statistics</b> (courses with College Algebra as a prerequisite)</li> </ul>
≥ 76	76-100	Calculus I Similar Courses*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calculus for Biological/Life Sciences</b></li> <li>• <b>Linear Algebra</b></li> </ul>

\*Courses listed under "Similar Courses" in each section need a thorough evaluation as the content of these courses can vary significantly institution to institution. For other courses your institution may offer that are not listed here, please work with your Strategic Placement Consultant.

## Utilizing the Prep and Learning Module

The unique benefit of ALEKS Placement, Preparation, and Learning is that it allows students to improve their levels of preparedness and likelihood of success in the course. Students who spend time mastering topics in an ALEKS Prep and Learning Module prior to starting any course perform better in that course. The impact of higher cut scores is to encourage students to use an ALEKS Prep and Learning Module and, therefore, to achieve better success in whatever math course they take.

## Cut Score Evaluation

At the end of the first placement year (and possibly also subsequent years), the math faculty and/or other institutional researchers should evaluate the results for each course to determine if the D/F/W and/or pass rates for the course are acceptable in relation to the institution's goals and expectations. Within ALEKS PPL, your researchers can utilize the Cut Score Optimization and Efficacy Tool to examine how your students' course performance is comparing to your current cut scores. From this data, and other measures, your institution can fine-tune the cut scores being used for placement.