

New Placement Tests to Replace Compass

Accuplacer

- Accuplacer will be the test that Kirkwood will use for Reading and Writing placement.
- ALEKS will be the test that Kirkwood will use for Math placement.
- Both tests will require students to have an existing Kirkwood record on file to take the placement tests.
- All Kirkwood Community College locations now charge a \$25 fee to send scores to other colleges and universities on behalf of students who have taken placement tests at Kirkwood.

Accuplacer placement test for Reading and Writing.

- The Accuplacer test is web based.
- There is no lockdown browser available.
- For Kirkwood to accept the scores, an official copy of scores from the school must be submitted to Kirkwood. Kirkwood will not accept scores directly from the student.
- The student must accept the testing platform privacy/student information agreement before they log in to take the test.
- The student must have an existing Kirkwood record on file as the log in requires their k number.
 - Since the Kirkwood application approval process takes 24-48 hours students will NOT be able to apply to Kirkwood the same day they take this placement exam.
- The student will fill out demographic information about themselves.
- The test is untimed (no time limit). We believe that students will average around 60 minutes for this placement test.
 - Accommodations - Accuplacer is not timed and has been configured to be compatible with screen reading software. It also has some text size and color options that should make it more accessible once the test is started. This is available to all students so nothing for accommodations is necessary.
- Each test (Reading and Writing) has a set number of questions for the student to answer. 20 questions each for Reading and Writing, which means there are 40 total questions in this placement test.
- The student cannot take the assessments separately, they must be taken together.
- Each test offers the student two sample questions (two each for Reading and Writing) so that they understand how the test questions are formatted.
- The questions are in multiple choice format.
- Students will be given the option to print the exam results at the conclusion of the test. They will be advised of this before they start the exam.
- There is a limit on the amount of times the student can retake the Accuplacer test. They are limited to two total test sessions in a six month period of time.
- No additional required remediation required between tests.
- There is a lock out feature that will not allow them to retake the test for 48 hours (cool down period).
 - This is a firm 48 hours. For example if they test at 10am on a Tuesday, they will not be able to retake the test until 10am or after on the following Thursday as long as they are still within their limit of two tests per six month period.
- Accuplacer has student resources (including practice questions) available on their website at: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students>

ALEKS

ALEKS will be the testing platform that Kirkwood Community College will implement for Math placement.

- The ALEKS test is web based.
- There is no lockdown browser available.
- For Kirkwood to accept the scores, an official copy of scores from the school must be submitted to Kirkwood. Kirkwood will not accept scores directly from the student.
- The student must have an existing Kirkwood record on file as the log in requires their k number.
 - Since the Kirkwood application approval process takes 24-48 hours students will NOT be able to apply to Kirkwood the same day they take this placement exam.
- The student will fill out demographic information about themselves.
- ALEKS unlike Accuplacer will have a three hour time limit.
 - Accommodations - For ALEKS, they have a different system where we will need to pre-identify students who have accommodations. Once they have been identified they must be inserted into a different group in the system. This will be accomplished by using a different code to access that accessible group. More information will come out on this later, but this alternate group will remove the time limit but also some of the content that is not screen reader accessible.
- ALEKS questions are NOT multiple choice. The students will be required to enter the answer using the keyboard in the space provided with the question.
- Each test has a set number of questions for the student to answer.
 - This differs from Compass in that with Compass the test would end as soon as the student made a certain number of errors answering the test questions.
 - Questions are made more difficult until the student begins to get them wrong, and after the system is relatively confident of where it will place the student, it ends the test even if it's "early".
- We will be required to have the students use the online calculator feature with ALEKS. Which means we will not be providing calculators for the students to use.
- We will provide scratch paper and a pencil for students to use to work out problems with and they will be required to turn the scratch paper into the proctor at the end of the test session.
- Students will be given the option to print the exam results at the conclusion of the test. They will be advised of this before they start the exam.
- ALEKS has a limit on the amount of times a student can retake the test. They are allowed five total test sessions within a 12 month period of time. They are also offered six months of remediation access.
 - Before students can take the test a 2nd time they MUST complete 3 hours of remediation work online (this is timed in their student profile)
 - Student must complete another 3 hours of remediation before they take the test for a 3rd time.
 - Student must complete another 5 hours of remediation before they take the test for a 4th time.
 - Students must complete another 8 hours of remediation before they take the test for a 5th time.
 - Students are NOT automatically informed of remediation needs prior to retesting.
 - For the \$15 fee Kirkwood pays for the student to take the ALEKS test, the student is able to test up to 5 times within the year, HOWEVER, students only have access to online remediation for 6 months after the first test date.

- No upfront practice questions available for students online.
- There is a lock out feature that will not allow them to retake the test for 48 hours (cool down period).
 - This is a firm 48 hours. For example if they test at 10am on a Tuesday they will not be able to retake the test until 10am or after the following Thursday as long as they are still within their limit of five tests per 12 month period and have finished the required remediation.
- For more information about the ALEKS math placement for higher education the website is: <https://www.aleks.com/highered/ppl>

General Information:

- ALEKS does not provide sample questions or study material for students.
- The test is not multiple choice. It requires typing in mathematical responses.
- Students have 3 hours to complete the exam unless they have accommodations. There are up to 30 questions which takes most people 60 to 90 minutes to complete.
- To register in ALEKS, students will need a class code that will change every fiscal year. If the student needs accommodations it will require a different class code.
- Students can take ALEKS up to 5 times in a 12 month period starting from when they use a class code. If they are not happy with their placement result, they must perform work in the system:
 - After their 1st attempt, they must do 3 hours of work before their 2nd attempt.
 - After their 2nd attempt, they must do 3 hours of work before their 3rd attempt.
 - After their 3rd attempt, they must do 5 hours of work before their 4th attempt.
 - After their 4th attempt, they must do 8 hours of work before their 5th attempt.
 - Students will have completed 19 hours of work in ALEKS before they get to their 5th attempt.
- Test scores are valid for 2 years (same as Compass). Compass scores are valid until they expire.
- Testers must print the results at the end for a paper copy. We are still exploring ways to print these for students.
- **A calculator is not allowed.** ALEKS will provide a calculator where one is allowed.
- Scratch paper is allowed, but it must be collected when they are finished testing.

***** WARNING *****

ALEKS allows students to answer questions with "I don't know." Students should NEVER choose this option unless they have never seen this topic before. If they choose this option, ALEKS will assume they don't know that entire topic which may lower the math course they can place into.