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ALEKS®

Student Orientation
to ALEKS Higher Ed

Agenda

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- 2 Getting Started
- 3 Learning in ALEKS
- 4 Key Tips for Success
- 5 Registration and Resources



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What is ALEKS?

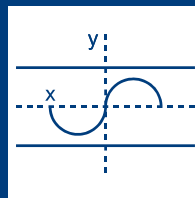
What is ALEKS?



ALEKS stands for **A**ssessment and **L**earning in **K**nowledge **S**paces. It is a personalized, adaptive learning tool that is unlike any other online program available today.

ALEKS works to understand what you know, what you don't know, and what you are **most ready to learn**. ALEKS then creates a personalized learning plan that gets you to the finish line in the most efficient way.

To make sure that you remember what you learn, ALEKS will check your knowledge. These Knowledge Checks are designed to *help* you remember what you are learning, so take them seriously! Treat ALEKS well and it will treat you well.



A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is smiling and looking at a computer monitor. She is sitting at a desk in what appears to be a classroom or office environment. Other people are visible in the background, also working at computers. The image has a blue tint and features a white square with the number '2' in the center, along with faint, semi-transparent numbers and lines overlaid on the scene.

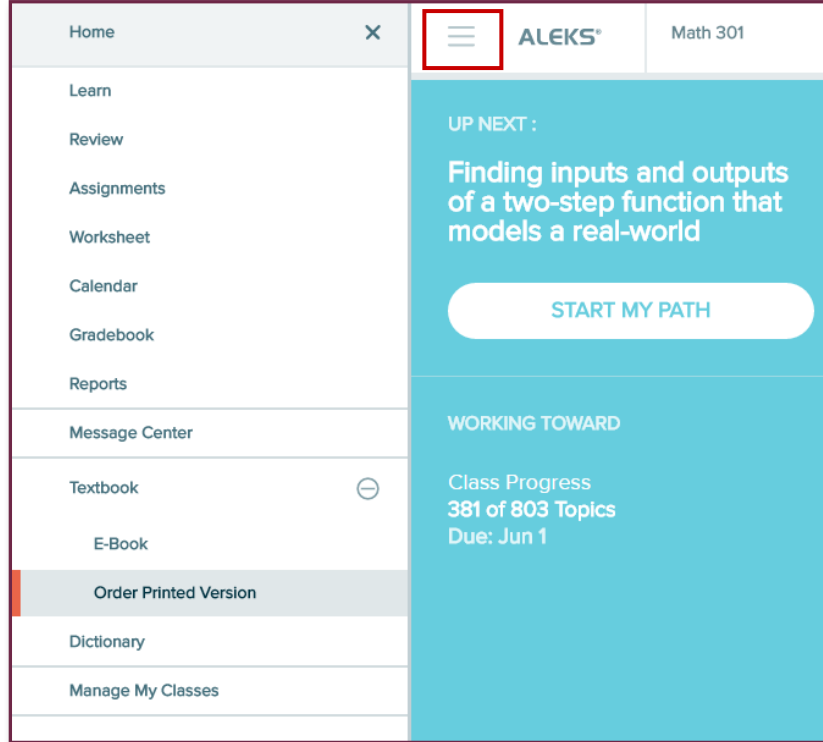
2

Getting Started

Navigating Your ALEKS Account

Select the Menu icon in the top, left corner of your home page to access features like your Calendar, Gradebook, Reports, eBook, and more. You can even order a loose-leaf copy of your eBook at a significant discount!

The **ALEKS reports** will help you track your time and progress, as well as help you to focus on getting ahead.

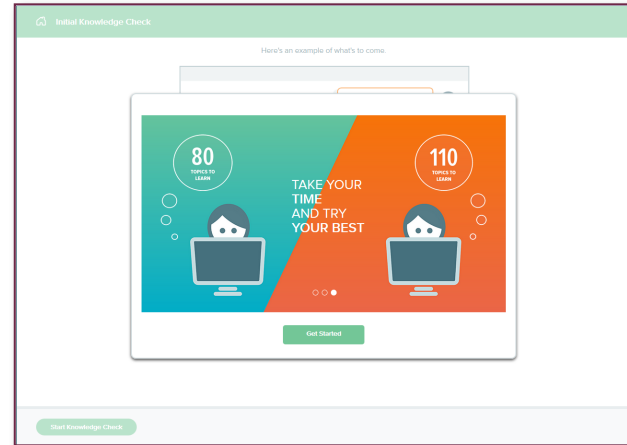


The screenshot displays the ALEKS user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Home' button, a close icon (X), the ALEKS logo, and the course name 'Math 301'. A red box highlights the menu icon (three horizontal lines) in the top left corner. Below the navigation bar is a sidebar menu with the following items: Learn, Review, Assignments, Worksheet, Calendar, Gradebook, Reports, Message Center, Textbook (with a minus icon), E-Book, Order Printed Version (highlighted with an orange bar), Dictionary, and Manage My Classes. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section, titled 'UP NEXT:', features a blue background with the text 'Finding inputs and outputs of a two-step function that models a real-world' and a white button labeled 'START MY PATH'. The bottom section, titled 'WORKING TOWARD', also has a blue background and displays 'Class Progress 381 of 803 Topics Due: Jun 1'.

Initial Knowledge Check

Once you register, you will take a brief tutorial on how to use the system. Next, you will complete an Initial Knowledge Check. Its purpose is to figure out what you know and don't know, so that you can begin with material you are ready to learn.

Take the **ALEKS Knowledge Checks** **honestly and seriously** so that the system can accurately measure your knowledge of course material. If you don't, you will only be giving yourself more work!



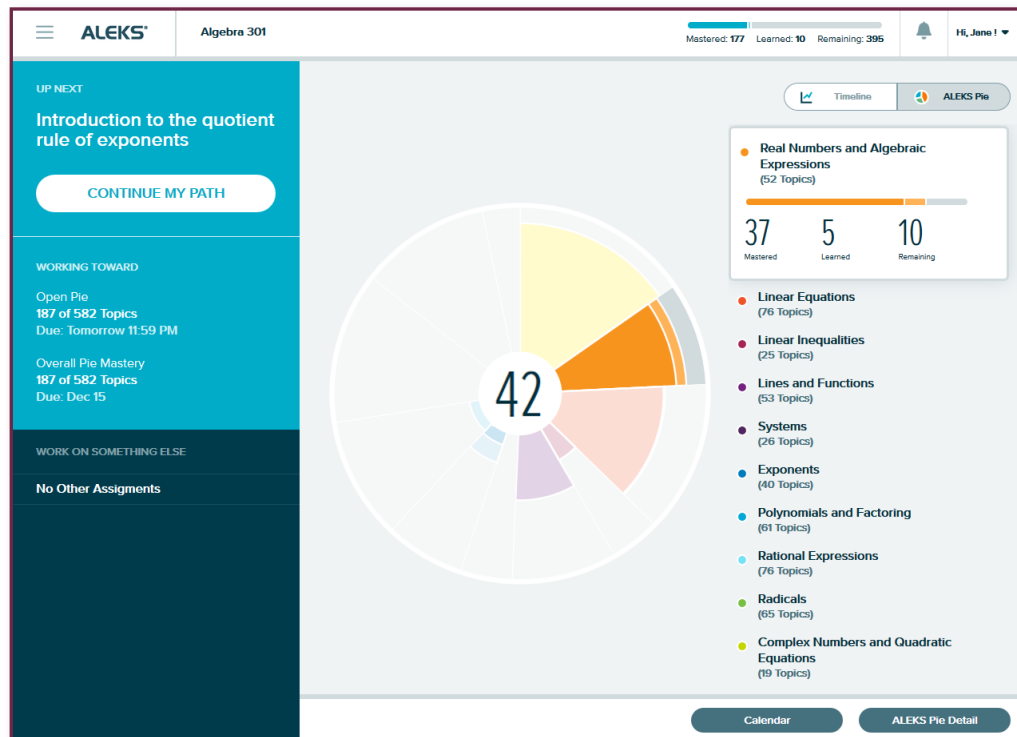
The ALEKS Pie

After you finish the Initial Knowledge Check, you will see your ALEKS Pie. This represents your current knowledge of the course. Notice that ALEKS gave you credit for some topics you already know!

Each Pie Slice has three sections:

Dark = topics mastered on a Knowledge Check
Light = topics learned in Learning Mode
Grey = Topics not learned or mastered

Select **CONTINUE MY PATH** to begin learning.



A young man with headphones is sitting at a desk in a library, looking at a laptop. The scene is dimly lit, with the laptop screen providing the main light source. A white square frame is centered over the student's face and the laptop. The number '3' is written in a large, white, serif font inside this frame. On the left side of the image, there are faint, semi-transparent mathematical symbols: a lowercase 'b' and a lowercase 'y' with a downward-pointing arrow next to it. On the laptop lid, there is a small logo consisting of an arrow pointing to the right followed by the letter 'x'.

3

Learning in ALEKS

Learning Mode

The screenshot shows the ALEKS Learning Mode interface. At the top, a teal header bar contains a home icon, the text 'EXONENTS Introduction to the power of a product rule of exponents', and a progress gauge with five empty slots. On the left, a vertical sidebar is labeled 'Learning Page'. The main content area is divided into 'QUESTION' and 'EXPLANATION' sections. The question asks to simplify $(4z)^3$ without parentheses. The explanation provides two methods: Method 1 shows the expansion $(4z)^3 = 4z \cdot 4z \cdot 4z$ and the final result $64z^3$; Method 2 uses the product rule $(a \cdot b)^n = a^n \cdot b^n$ to arrive at the same result. A 'More' link is circled in the explanation. At the bottom, a 'Practice' button is visible. On the right side of the page, three icons (play, list, and envelope) are highlighted with a red box.

EXONENTS
Introduction to the power of a product rule of exponents

QUESTION

Simplify.

$$(4z)^3$$

Write your answer without parentheses.

EXPLANATION

Method 1:
By definition, the **exponent 3** tells us how many times $4z$ appears in the **product**.

$$(4z)^3 = \overbrace{4z \cdot 4z \cdot 4z}^{\text{three } 4z \text{ 's}}$$

We can multiply to get the following.

$$\begin{aligned}(4z)^3 &= 4z \cdot 4z \cdot 4z \\ &= 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot z \cdot z \cdot z \\ &= 64z^3\end{aligned}$$

Note that the exponent 3 in $(4z)^3$ applies to both the 4 and the z. [More](#)

Method 2:
The method above suggests a rule called the **power of a product rule of exponents**. It says that for any **integer** n , and any numbers a and b , we have the following.

$$(a \cdot b)^n = a^n \cdot b^n$$

Using the rule with the current problem, we get the following.

$$(4z)^3 = 4^3 \cdot z^3 = 64z^3$$

Practice

Once you are in Learning Mode, you will alternate between lesson pages and practice problems to learn each topic.

Use the resources in ALEKS to help you learn the topic. The resources are located on the right side of each lesson page and practice problem as icons.

The gauge in the top, right corner tracks how many correct problems you need to finish learning the topic.

Switching ALEKS Topics

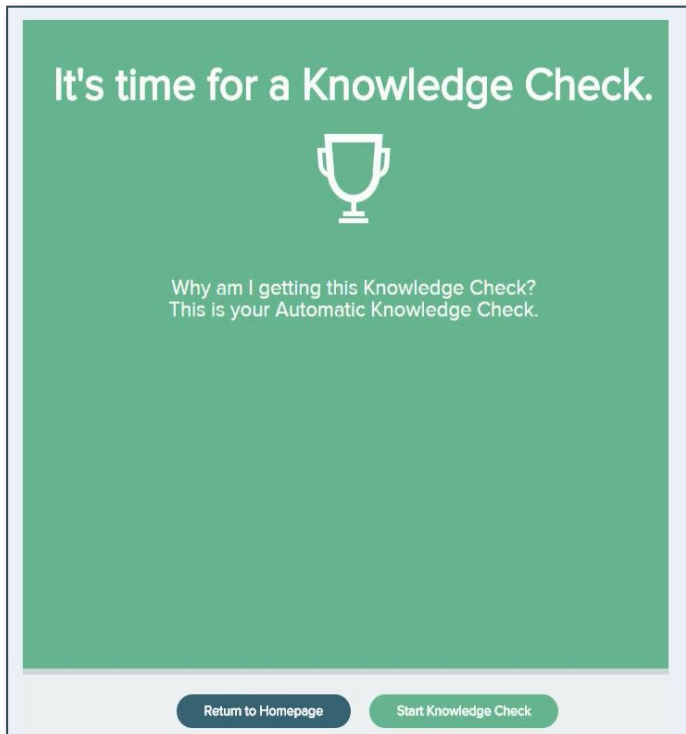
The screenshot displays the ALEKS interface for the topic "Ch.1-Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions". At the top, there is a carousel of topics: "Linear Equations" (with a red dot), "Arithmetic Readiness" (with a yellow dot), and "Real Numbers" (with an orange dot). Below the carousel, a "Learning Page" is visible, featuring a "QUESTION" section with the text: "Translate this phrase into an algebraic expression. 67 decreased by twice a number. Use the variable n to represent the unknown number." and an "EXPLANATION" section with the text: "Using n for the unknown number, the phrase twice a number is written $2n$. The phrase 67 decreased by twice a number is written $67 - 2n$." and an "ANSWER" section with the text: "67 - 2n". A blue arrow icon in the top left corner of the carousel is highlighted with a red box. A "Filters" menu is open in the top right corner, showing a search bar, "Sort by" options (Easiest, Most Solved), "Learn" and "Review" tabs, and a list of tags with checkboxes: "Any Topic (20)", "Needs More Practice (0)", "Goal Topic (0)", "Unlocked (16)", "Video (8)", and "Instructor Resources (20)". The "Unlocked" tag is checked. A "Show All Topics" link and a "Reset" button are at the bottom of the filters menu.

If you want to work on another topic, open the Topic Carousel by clicking on the blue arrow in the top, left corner.

The topics that appear in the carousel are ones that you are ready to learn. Select the one you want to work on.

You can filter which topics appear in the carousel by using the Filters menu in the top, right corner.

Knowledge Checks in ALEKS



As you learn topics, ALEKS will check to see if you remember what you are learning by giving you a Knowledge Check.

These knowledge checks are meant to figure out what you remember and what you need to review again. They will appear periodically throughout your learning based on how your instructor setup the course.

If you take them seriously and honestly, they will work to your advantage!

ALEKS Objectives

The screenshot shows the ALEKS interface. At the top left, a blue bar contains a 'Ready to Learn' drop-down menu. Below this, a table lists various topics with their 'Ready to Learn' and 'Total' counts. A red box highlights this table. To the right, a 'Polynomials and Factoring' objective is shown. Below the objective, a lesson page is visible, featuring a 'Start' button at the bottom left.

Ready to Learn	99	
Total		
Ch.1-Real Numbers and Algebraic Expressions	24	78%
Ready to Learn		Completed
Ch.2-Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable	21	108
Ready to Learn		Total
Ch.3-Linear Equations in Two Variables	17	55
Ready to Learn		Total
Ch.4-Systems of Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables	3	27
Ready to Learn		Total
Ch.5-Laws of Exponents and Polynomial Operations	13	58
Ready to Learn		Total

We want to remove the parentheses from the **product** $(u + 4)(u - 6)$.

We first multiply each term in the first factor $(u + 4)$ by each term in the second factor $(u - 6)$ using **FOIL** (First, Outer, Inner, Last).

F: Multiply the two First terms: $u \cdot u = u^2$
O: Multiply the two Outside terms: $u \cdot (-6) = -6u$
I: Multiply the two Inside terms: $4 \cdot u = 4u$
L: Multiply the two Last terms: $4 \cdot (-6) = -24$

The product $(u + 4)(u - 6)$ is then equal to the **sum** of these terms.

$$(u + 4)(u - 6) = u^2 - 6u + 4u - 24$$

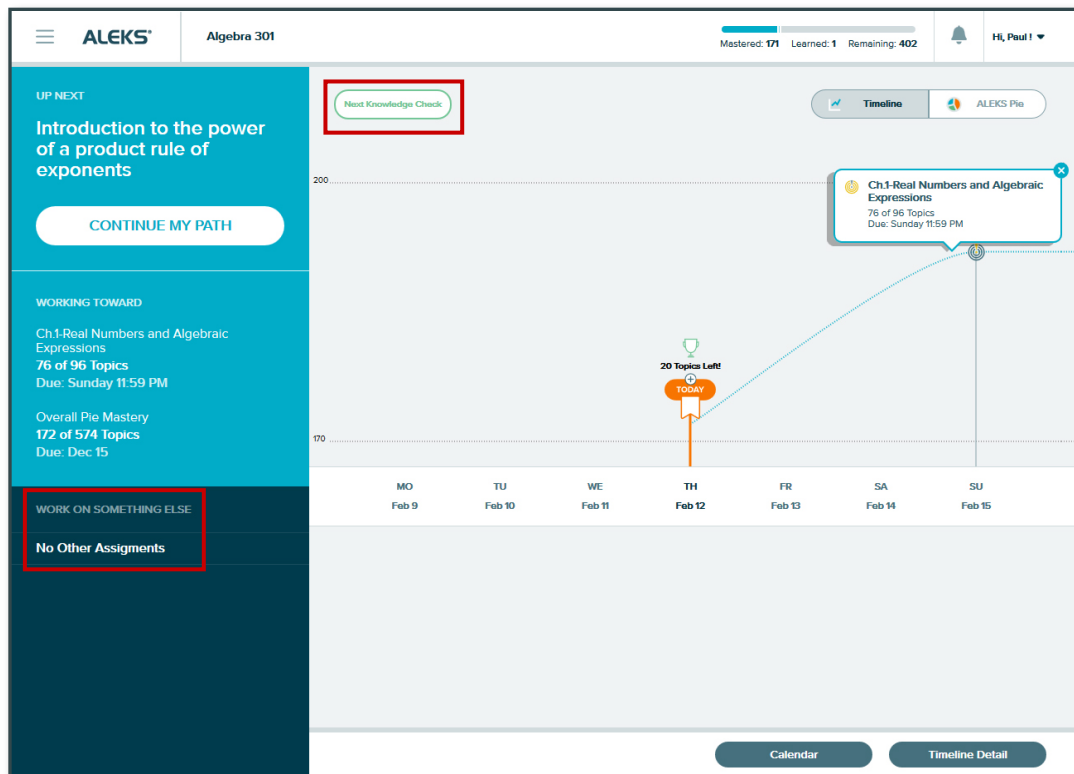
Start

Your instructor might have setup Objective Assignments that will help you stay on track. Think of these Objectives as the goals of the class.

To work on an Objective, open the drop-down menu in the top, left corner.

Or, select “Goal Topic” in the Filters menu in the top, right corner. This will display your goal topics, which are the topics that are part of your current Objective, in the Topic Carousel.

The ALEKS Timeline



The ALEKS Timeline tracks your weekly progress to help you manage your study time. It shows you how much you have left to do in order to finish your assignment on time.

Select **Next Knowledge Check** to see when your next one will occur. You can delay a Knowledge Check for up to 24 hours.

Your instructor may have extra assignments. You can access these in the Work on Something Else Menu.

0.15 -

0.1 -

0.05 -



x^2 with 5 degrees of freedom



4

Key Tips for Success

Key Tips for Success

Don't procrastinate!

Don't wait until the last minute to meet a deadline – it will be harder to catch up and you will end up having to do more work.

Take knowledge checks seriously!

Do your best without the help of outside resources. Your results on each Knowledge Check will affect your pie. These will also help you reinforce and remember topics as you prepare for quizzes or tests.



Log in every day.

Be sure to log in every day. Doing some work every day will get you to the finish line faster than trying to cram.

Know how ALEKS works.

Understanding how ALEKS works is your biggest advantage. Using it the way it was intended will help you reach your goals faster.



5

Registration and Resources

How to Register for Your ALEKS Class

Step 1- Confirm Class	Step 2- Account Status	Step 3- Registration	Step 4- Apply Access	Step 5- My Classes
<p>Go to www.aleks.com and select SIGN UP NOW!</p> <p>Enter your 10-digit Class Code from your instructor. Confirm you are enrolling in the correct class.</p>	<p>Indicate whether or not you have used ALEKS before.</p>	<p>Complete the registration steps to create your ALEKS account.</p>	<p>Enter your 20-character ALEKS access code if you have one ready, or purchase one now.</p> <p><i>*You can also request a 2 week Financial Aid Access code from your instructor</i></p>	<p>You will see your My Classes page where you can select your class and begin working.</p>

Managing your My Classes page

Manage all of your ALEKS classes with one login through your My Classes page.

You can change your account settings, sign up for new classes, pause or extend access, and view previous classes.

To get to your My Classes page from within a class, open the menu icon in the top, left corner and select Manage My Classes.

The screenshot shows the ALEKS user interface for the 'My Classes' page. At the top left is the 'ALEKS' logo. At the top right, the user is logged in as 'Hi, Jack!'. Below the header, the page title 'My Classes' is displayed on the left, and on the right, there are two buttons: 'Current (1)' (highlighted) and 'Hidden (0)'. A green horizontal line separates the header from the main content area. Under the heading 'Active (1)', there is a class card for 'Math 120 - T/TH 8:30am'. The card includes a menu icon (three dots) in the top right corner. Below the title, the card lists: 'Instructor: Tracy Smith', 'Institution: ALEKS QC Department', and 'Expiration Date: 03/31/2019'. At the bottom of the card is a 'More Details' link with a right-pointing arrow icon. To the right of the class card is a large white box with the text 'Add/Change Class' in blue. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: '© 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All Rights Reserved. Terms of Use | Privacy'.

DON'T WAIT — ACTIVATE



**11% AVERAGE INCREASE
IN STUDENT SCORES**
WHEN YOU CONNECT DAY 01 vs DAY 14 OF CLASS

Help and Resources

Find helpful resources, such as printable tutorials and how-to videos, by visiting the [Student Resources Page](http://www.aleks.com/highered/students) (www.aleks.com/highered/students) on the ALEKS website.

Contact ALEKS Technical Support:

- Email: <http://support.aleks.com> (be sure to select your market on the form!)
- Phone: 800-258-2374
- ALEKS Live Chat
 - Hours (Eastern Time):
 - Monday through Thursday, 7am – 1am
 - Friday, 7am – 9pm
 - Sunday, 4pm – 1am

