

Attention all Calculus I Students: Required Pre-calculus Refresher Course

College-level mathematics is exciting and empowering, and the Mathematics Department wants your experience to begin in the best way possible! We know it is easy to feel rusty after a summer or more away from mathematics; therefore, we are providing and requiring a 6-week online preparation course —the ALEKS Prep. for Calculus—for all students who will take MATH 201: Calculus I.

This should help you get back into the groove, and help you fill in gaps in your pre-calculus knowledge. Results from previous years show that working through this online course will get you started on the path to success in college calculus. By doing the course over the summer, you can complete your first required assignment before the semester even begins.

Below we have provided information to help you understand what to expect and how to get started.

What is the ALEKS Prep. For Calculus Course?

A “smart course” for students intending to enroll in Calculus I. It begins with a diagnostic test, then takes you through instructional modules on topics that are just right for you.

Is this required?

Yes, for all students enrolling in MATH 201: Calculus I. For students taking MATH 201 in the Fall semester 2017, your total course mastery as of **Aug. 28, 2017** will determine a small part of your MATH 201 grade, with a mastery of at least 80% earning an A- on the assignment; additional credit is earned by exceeding this goal. For students taking MATH 201 in the Spring semester 2018, your total course mastery as of **Jan. 22, 2018** is used.

Why is this required?

Different high school mathematics courses emphasize different topics, and it is easy to forget some of them after a summer or more without practice. This course will help refresh and fill in any gaps in your pre-Calculus knowledge. Don't worry if you find the course challenging -- it is not intended to discover whether or not you should take calculus, but rather to help you be as confident and successful as possible when you do.

When should I begin and when do I need to complete the course?

The course will be available by July 1, 2017. If you will plan to take MATH 201 in the Fall semester 2017, we recommend that you **begin by Aug. 1, 2017** and you should **complete the course before Aug. 29, 2017**. If you will plan to take MATH 201 in the Spring semester 2018, we recommend that you **begin by Jan. 1, 2018** and you should **complete the course before Jan. 22, 2018**.

How do I begin?

Go to the ALEKS Prep Course Moodle page to access the Prep. for Calculus course; the link to the online course will be available July 1.

If you have previously taken the Prep. for Calculus course, the link may take you to your old course, which is now inactive; there should be a button you can click to enter the course code L4JX6-RNYVT to access to the current course.

Once you are logged into ALEKS, you will start with an adaptive diagnostic test to assess your knowledge and to determine which topics you need to brush up on. The program then takes you through instructional modules on topics that are just right for you, retesting you along the way.

Allow three hours for the initial diagnostic test, though you may save your work and log out of the system at any time. We cannot predict how long it will take you to complete the course; everyone will need to spend individual amount of time on it, and you will work according to your own schedule. **Be assured, though, the time you give the course is time well spent ensuring the best possible start to your university mathematics career!**

What if I run into difficulty while taking the course?

For technical problems with the software, click on Help at the top of the screen, or contact the ALEKS support team (http://www.aleks.com/support/contact_support). For all other problems or for mathematical questions, go to the ALEKS Prep. For Calculus Moodle page available through your myBucknell page or email math-precacadmin@bucknell.edu.

Can I take the course in a language other than English?

The course is offered in English and Spanish. Once logged in, you can change between the two by clicking the arrow at the top right of your screen.

What if I score higher than 80% on the diagnostic?

A course mastery of 80% will earn you an A- on the assignment, and additional credit is earned by exceeding this goal. We recommend that you view the pie chart to identify areas where you could use some additional practice and take advantage of your access to the course.

What if my diagnostic score is low?

Don't worry; your—and everyone else's—mathematics background is unique. The online course is not intended to discover whether or not you should take calculus; it is a resource to help you hit the ground running when you do. Your success in Calculus will not be the result of your ALEKS score as you begin; rather, it will be the result of your dedication to learning throughout the semester. The online course is just the beginning. If you have any concerns at all, please email math-precacadmin@bucknell.edu.

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