



Q&A FROM SUMMER SERIES: MATH AND CHEMISTRY PLACEMENT

The following are answers to the questions asked during the webinar on May 10, 2021.

M-Classifications

What do the M1, M2, M3, and M4 classifications mean?

The M Classifications are used to determine the appropriate math placement for your first semester.

- M1 refers to students who have completed a General Education Math Course.
- M2 refers to students who are ready to take a General Education Math Course.
- M3 & M4 refers to students who need additional support before taking a General Education Math Course.

How do I tell what M-classification I am?

You can check your Math and Writing Placement Information in MyCSULB by following these steps:

1. Log in to MyCSULB Student Center using [Single Sign-On \(SSO\)](#).
2. Under Academics, select Early Start Program.
3. Review your placement status in the Math/Quantitative Reasoning and English/Written Communication sections.

Which M-classification requires me to take the Early Start Math program?

Typically, M3/M4 are recommended or required to attend the Early Start Program. Please check your placement status to confirm this by following the steps above.

ALEKS PPL (Math) Placement

When and where do I take the ALEKS PPL for Math?

You can begin now but must be completed before your registration date this summer. You can access the platform via the ALEKS chicklet on [Single Sign-On \(SSO\)](#).

When is the deadline for completing ALEKS PPL?

- For June registration dates, the CNSM due date for math placement is June 17.
- For July registration dates, the CNSM due date for math placement is July 16.

How does the ALEKS assessment/content work?

ALEKS PPL is an adaptive learning placement software; it is intended mostly for placement but it gives you the opportunity to practice concepts between assessments (modules 1-4). You can see a [rundown of ALEKS PPL on Youtube](#).

Should I complete the Math ALEKS PPL before beginning the Chemistry ALEKS?

Yes. To receive a license for Chemistry ALEKS, students must place into MATH 113 or higher. Completing MATH ALEKS PPL before CHEM ALEKS ensure that you have the correct math placement.

Is the 48-hour cooling period between each assessment?

Yes; this prohibits you from powering through each assessment consecutively.

Do we get a score following the completion of each assessment?

Yes, you will get the score after the first assessment and ALEKS will tell you which concepts you need to work on; the software adapts to your performance on each assessment.

How do I know if I need to complete ALEKS? Will someone from Advising tell me?

Students majoring in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, and physics are required to complete calculus as part of their degree. Please refer to the Summer Guidance website to get more information on dates and deadlines.

I've heard that students study for the ALEKS assessment, however I can't find any information on what to study. Are there any resources to help me?

It's best that students do not prepare before taking ALEKS. The goal is to determine your readiness for Calculus, not to reach a certain score. This is best done when students complete the assessments and learning modules without any outside help (websites, peers etc)

How long does each ALEKS take?

This will vary by students. A 48 hour cooling period is required before moving on to the next assessments. There is also about a 5-hour period time or learning an practicing concepts during the cooling period. Starting MATH ALEKS early will allow ample time to complete all 4 assessments and allow time to work on CHEM ALEKS if needed.

Once we complete all four assessments, will the results be automatically sent to the school?

Yes. CSULB will receive your scores in a 48 period after completion.

If we take all four assessments and get varying scores, will you take our highest score to place us?

Yes, your highest score is used for placement. Additionally, if you place higher based on your SAT or ACT score than you do with the four assessments, your highest score will be used.

If we want to change our major outside of CNSM, do we still need to complete the ALEKS PPL assessment?

It is still recommended to complete MATH ALEKS PPL as other colleges may use it to determine eligibility for other math courses.

ALEKS PPL (Chemistry)

When will we gain access to the Chemistry ALEKS?

Online CHEM ALEKS program will be available to matriculated CNSM Fall '21 freshmen starting May 1, 2021. You will be contacted by the program assistant once you are eligible for the assessment. Please check your primary email address regularly for the information.

When is the deadline to finish Chemistry ALEKS?

- For June registration dates, the CNSM due date for chemistry placement is June 17.
- For July registration dates, the CNSM due date for chemistry placement is July 16.

Is it required to take Chemistry ALEKS?

It is required to determine placement in CHEM 111A (college general chemistry) for Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry and Geology majors. You will be exempt from taking Chemistry ALEKS if you transfer an AP Chemistry score of 2, that will place you in CHEM 111A.

Early Start and STEP Into STEM

What is Early Start?

Early Start is a 2-week program is designed to better prepare students for the first semester of college and to help them improve their skills in English/Written Communication and/or Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.

What is STEP Into STEM?

STEP into STEM is a two-week online (during Summer 2021) program for first-time freshmen to familiarize themselves with the social and academic expectations of college and increase preparation and confidence in mathematics. Students will work with a mentor, improve math skills over the two-week program, and learn about the various campus resources at CSULB.

Why was I recommended or required to complete the Early Start Program for Math?

Students are recommended or required to attend ESM based on multiple measures regarding Math preparation.

I was interested in applying for STEP Into STEM program. However, it's my understanding that a large part of that program involves completing the math placement using ALEKS and I received a 5 on my Calculus BC exam. Would you recommend that I apply for the program?

There will be specific STEP into STEM info sessions on May 24 and June 7; we recommend that you attend those sessions to find answers to your questions.

Can we still attend the Early Start Program even if we aren't required to take it?

ESM is only for M3/M4 students, if you are M2 you can still attend STEP Into STEM.

Can we attend both the Early Start Program and STEP Into STEM if we're recommended to take Early Start?

Student who are recommended/required to attend the Early Start Program can opt to attend STEP into STEM instead.

Who can I contact so I can talk about the Early Start Program?

Students can find contact information and resources on the Early Start Website

Does the EOP Summer Bridge program include math placement via ALEKS?

No. EOP Summer Bridge does not include MATH ALEKS

Can you still do the Early Start or STEP Into STEM if your registration date is in June?

Students attending Early Start or STEP into STEM will need to sign up for a July or Aug registration date. This will ensure our academic advisors will have the appropriate Math Placement in time for your registration date.

Courses

What happens if we have to take MATH 113 or MATH 111? Do they count towards my degree?

MATH 111 and MATH 113 do not count towards the degree in the sense that there are additional math classes required for specific majors. They will count towards General Education requirements but they serve as pre-requisites for the required math courses.

If you place in MATH 111 or MATH 113, you may need to take courses in the summer or winter terms to meet the mandatory declaration requirements.

As a Biology major, if I am placed above Calculus 1 (MATH 119A or MATH 122) do I have to take the next math course or have I completed my math requirements?

You will have completed your math requirements and will not have to take any further math courses.

I have never taken Calculus. How will this affect my placement and my ability to complete the required math courses within the first year?

Taking ALEKS MATH PPL will determine your placement according to your knowledge level.

If you are a Biology student and placed in MATH 113 Pre-calculus in the fall you will have to complete MATH 119A Survey of Calculus in spring to meet the one-year requirement. In addition, you will be done with the mathematics requirement.

If you are a Biochemistry, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics or Physics major you will have to complete MATH 122 Calculus I in spring to meet the one-year requirement. You will continue the sequence in the fall.

If you are under placed based on ALEKS or SAT, etc., can you move to MATH 119A/122 after retesting?

When you take ALEKS PPL, you will complete 4 assessments (and practice between assessments). The highest score will be used for placement; you can't "re-test" once all modules are completed.