

UALR's Pre-Core Mathematics Program

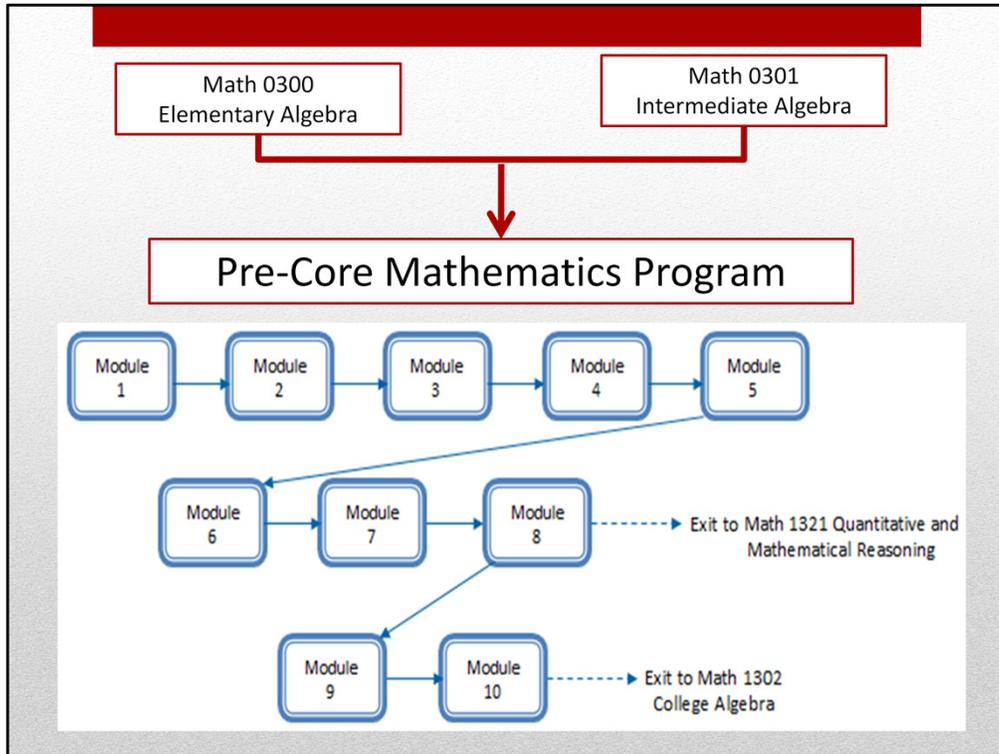
GOALS:

- Prepare students for college-credit math courses
- Decrease time students spend preparing for these college-credit math courses

MOTTO: Let's do the math!

Class #1 in the Pre-Core Mathematics Program

Welcome to UALR and UALR's Pre-Core Mathematics program. It is my pleasure to introduce you to the program and answer many of the questions you may have about Pre-Core Mathematics. Let's begin with the reasons we are in this room together. There are two primary goals for the program: prepare you for college-credit math courses and decrease the amount of time you spend doing this. We will reach these goals if we keep the motto "Let's do the math" close at hand.



Previously, there were two courses, Elementary Algebra and Intermediate Algebra. The content of these courses has been merged to create the Pre-Core Mathematics Program consisting of 10 modules of content.


GOALS of Pre-Core Mathematics Program:

- Prepare students for college-credit math courses
- Decrease time students spend preparing for these college-credit math courses

Support:

- Classroom Facilitator
 - Classroom Tutor
 - Program Coordinator
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But let's not get ahead of ourselves. To help meet the Pre-Core Mathematics Program goals, there are a few people in the room. You have a classroom facilitator and classroom tutor to help you with content questions. Outside the classroom, you have the program coordinator to answer questions you may have that are not content specific. The contact information for each is located on the section specific information handout you received from your classroom facilitator.

Now, it's time to look at your syllabus.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL: Students will be required to purchase an **access code to ALEKS**, an online system where you will complete the coursework. The access code will allow you access to the ALEKS system described below for the semester (18-week subscription to ALEKS). Additionally, students will be required to have **computer headphones** for the class meetings.

PLUS notebook to keep notes and handouts from class.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Modules 1-8 Math 1321 Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning

Modules 1-10 Math 1302 College Algebra

General learning objectives can be found in the syllabus.

Specific topics for each module can be found on the website listed in syllabus.

Course Syllabus

There are three items that you need to have to complete the course requirements. Item #1: An access code to the online system ALEKS. The one purchased at the bookstore is for 18 weeks to this online system. If you purchase it online, the length varies...just remember, UALR's semester is 15 weeks long. Item #2: Headphones for the computers in the classroom. After today, you will individually listen to class announcements and other videos... and we can't have everyone using the general speakers on the computers. Item #3: A notebook to keep notes and handouts (like the syllabus) for the class.

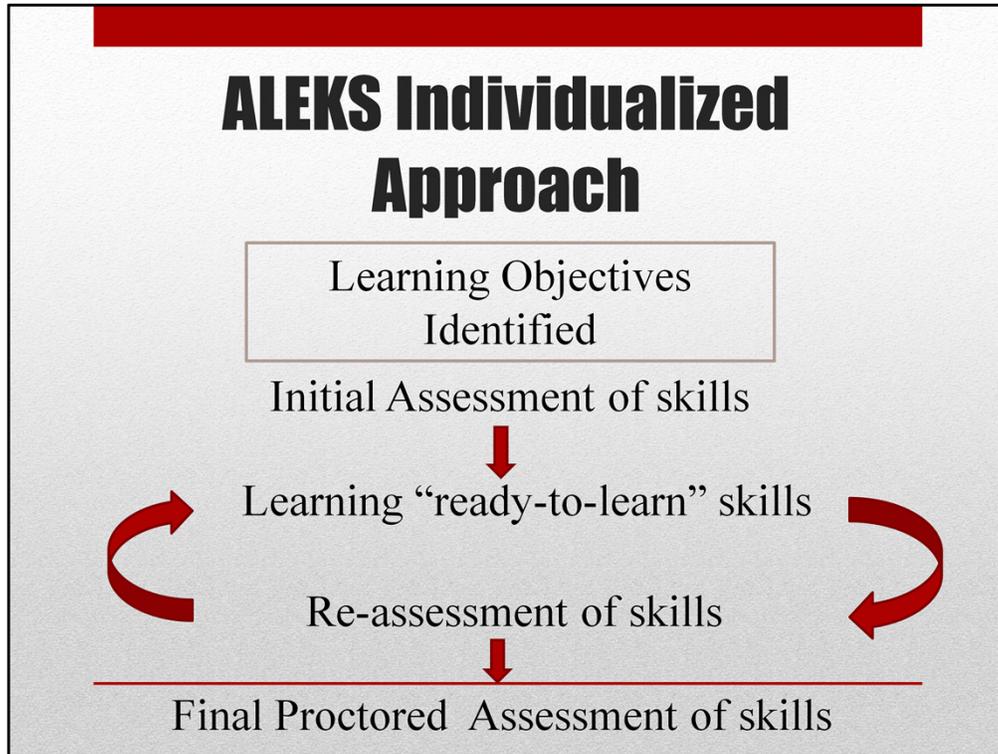
As mentioned earlier, the course material is divided into 10 modules of content. Modules 1 through 8 will prepare you for the college credit math course Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning. Modules 1 through 10 will prepare you for College Algebra. This is one of the benefits of the program. If the QMR class satisfies the core math requirement for your major, then you can complete the program after Module 8. Otherwise, you do need the material from Modules 9 and 10 to prepare yourself for College Algebra.

What is ALEKS?

*“Assessment and **LE**arning in **K**nowledge **S**paces is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained.” –*

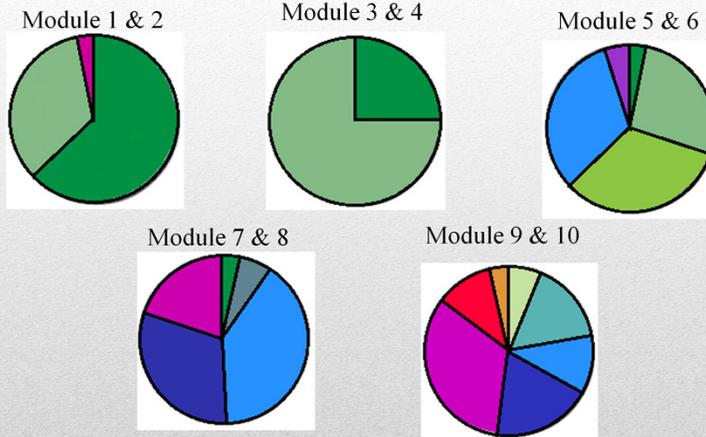
http://www.aleks.com/about_aleks

We are using the online system called ALEKS because it provides us with a mastery-based, technology-driven program that individualizes to your learning needs. The power of the system is its ability to determine what you already know so you don't have to work that material. You will only be working through the material you are 'most ready to learn'.



How does ALEKS do this? First, UALR has identified the learning objectives/topics/skills, for a module. Then ALEKS assesses you to see what skills/topics you already know. Based on this information, ALEKS determines the skills/topics that you are ‘ready-to-learn’ After a learning period, the “doing of math homework”, ALEKS will take the time to re-assess your skills to inform you of your progress and ensure the topics you are doing in homework are appropriate. The learning-assessment-learning cycle continues until you complete the module. Then you will be assessed one more time in a proctored setting to ensure that you have retained the necessary skills to complete the module.

10 Modules within 5 ALEKS Pies



What do the modules look like?

The visual representation of content in ALEKS is an ALEKS Pie. There will be five ALEKS Pies. Each ALEKS Pie contains the content for two modules PLUS key pre-requisite concepts. Specifically, each MyPie consists of 15 pre-requisite topics, 33 topics for an odd module and 33 topics for an even module.

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- ✓ EARN credit for a Module
 - ✓ Complete the Module
 - ✓ Demonstrate Mastery of the Module

For each module, you must...

Now, for the big questions.... How do you complete a module? How do you demonstrate mastery of a module? These are the two things you need to do for each module: complete and demonstrate mastery!

For a student to complete an odd module, they must show mastery of **59%** of the MyPie in the **learning and assessment modes** in ALEKS.



BLUE is assessment mode. **GREEN** is learning mode.

*These bar graphs can be seen by students under the Report link when logged into their ALEKS account.

What is 'completing a module'?

For the odd modules, the key percentage to remember to complete the module is 59%. When you have assessed and completed homework to 59% of the MyPie you have completed the odd module. In ALEKS, you will see your progress under the Report link. The BLUE number represents your assessment percentage and the GREEN represents the learning (homework) percentage. When these add up to 59%, you have completed the odd module...and it's time to demonstrate mastery. We'll talk about this in a few minutes.

For the even modules, the key percentage to remember to complete the module is 100%. We need to make sure you've worked all the material. So, the even modules finish the content in a particular MyPie.

Once you have completed a module, you need to demonstrate mastery of the material to count the module towards your grade.

For a student to demonstrate mastery of an odd module, you must score **at least 44%** on a proctored assessment.



What is 'demonstrating mastery of a module'?

For the odd modules, the key percentage to remember to demonstrate mastery is at least 44%....percentages greater than or equal to 44%. You will be taking progress assessments unsupervised throughout your work in ALEKS, but you must take a proctored assessment and score at least 44% to demonstrate mastery of an odd module. Each semester, we will have an assessment schedule giving you a variety of times to take a proctored assessment...more in a minute.

For the even modules, the key percentage to remember to demonstrate mastery is at least 85%. A score higher than 85% is acceptable...but the smaller score of 85% is needed for us to be sure you have mastered the appropriate amount of material to move to the next module.

❖ **Proctored Assessment Schedule**

- Number of opportunities depends on the number of sections.

❖ **Rules for Taking a Proctored Assessment**

- Picture ID is required.
- ALEKS Calculator only.
- All belongs (except writing utensil) must be placed away from your testing area.
- No notes or help of any kind.

Proctored Assessment Schedule

Each semester an assessment opportunity schedule is developed based on the number of sections offered. It is located on the section specific information handout you received from your classroom facilitator. BE sure to read the detailed information carefully. You will be asked to place all items you've brought with you away from your testing area. You must have a picture ID to verify your identity. You will not be allowed to test without a picture ID.

My advice is to read this information again when you are ready to take a proctored assessment...which is AFTER you have completed a module.

Yes, for students taking Math 0321 for the first time....How?

- Within the first two week of class you need to take a proctored assessment on the Full Curriculum of the Pre-Core Mathematics Program. Then you will be placed in the appropriate module according to the results.

Is it possible to ‘Skip over more than one module’?

“Is it possible to ‘skip over more than one module?’”

For student enrolled in Math 0321 for the first time, the answer is yes.

To assist students who already have master of the majority of the algebra skills in the Pre-Core Mathematics program, students can verify their mastery by taking a proctored assessment within the first two weeks of classes on the entire Pre-Core Mathematics curriculum. The results of this proctored assessment will be used to determine the individual student’s starting module. This is only valid for students enrolled in Math 0321 for the first time and within the first two weeks of class.

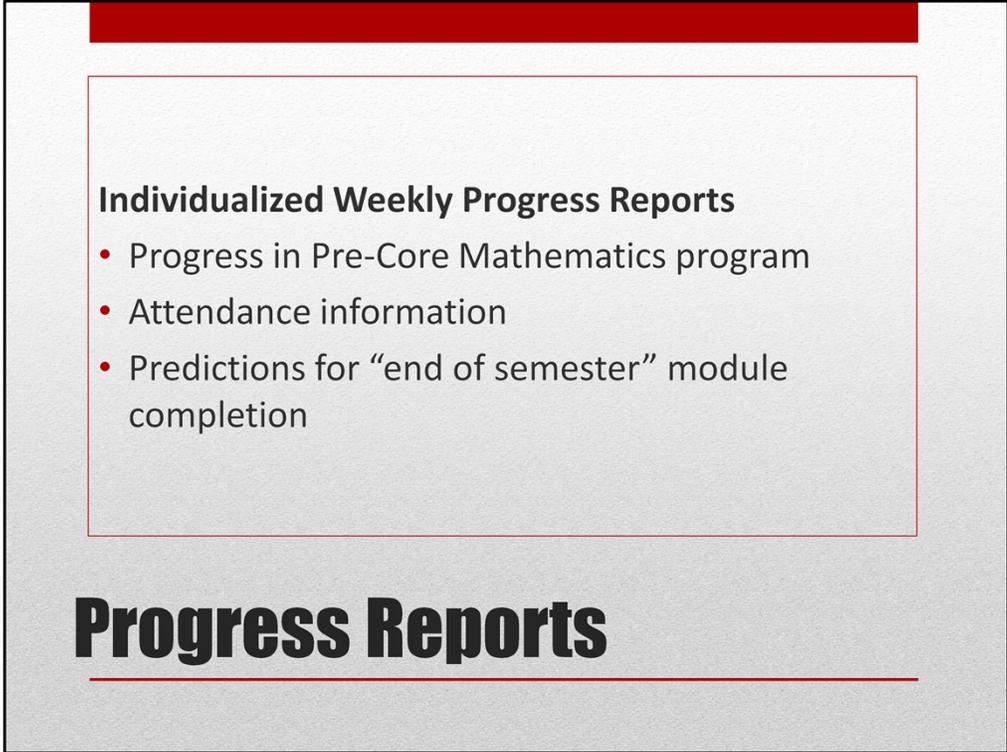
Yes, students can earn credit for the odd/even module in a MyPie with one assessment.

How?

- If a student has worked the topics of the odd module, they may choose to continue working on the topics in the even module and take a single proctored assessment after the even module to earn credit for the odd & even module in the MyPie.

Is it possible to earn credit for 2 modules with one assessment?

To assist students with moving through the modules as quickly as possible, students can work the material for both the odd and even modules in a MyPie before taking a proctored assessment. A successful proctored even module assessment would then earn the student credit for both the odd and even module.



Individualized Weekly Progress Reports

- Progress in Pre-Core Mathematics program
- Attendance information
- Predictions for “end of semester” module completion

Progress Reports

Now, don't stress about understanding all these details right now. Your classroom facilitator is here to help you...and you will be receiving weekly progress reports. The progress reports will allow you to see where you have been and where you are headed in the Pre-Core Mathematics program.

Now, we have two more policies to discuss: attendance and course grade.

5 Attendance Strikes = Administrative withdraw

Attendance strikes are earned:

- Not attending class or registering in ALEKS by the 10th day of UALR classes = 5 strikes
- Missing class or more than 5 minutes late = 1 strike
- Spending less than 6 quality math hours in ALEKS each week = 1 strike (for the online section, it's 8 hours each week)

ATTENDANCE is required.

Attendance is required. And attendance includes going to class and working on your math homework in ALEKS. When a student earns 5 attendance strikes, they will be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Attendance strikes are earned in the following ways:

If you don't attend a class meeting or register in the online system ALEKS by the 10th day of classes, you earn 5 strikes and are withdrawn from the class.

If you miss class or arrive more than 5 minutes late, you will earn 1 attendance strike.

Don't interpret that it is acceptable to consistently arrive late to class. You are expected to be in class ON TIME every day. Important announcements may be given at the start of class which you will miss (but still be responsible for) if you are late.

The last way to earn a strike is by logging in less than 6 quality math hours in ALEKS each week. Remember our goal to reduce your time in the Pre-Core Mathematics program....the only way to achieve this goal is for you to "do your math" consistently. For those enrolled in the totally online section, you are required 8 hours each week.

If you have a doctor's excuse, you can earn an attendance waiver for a class absence if it's given to your facilitator within one week of your absence. But there is no waiving of strikes earned by not working enough hours in ALEKS each week.

“Satisfactory” notebook

Plus modules work

C → Complete and demonstrate mastery of 3

B → Complete and demonstrate mastery of 4

A → Complete and demonstrate mastery of ≥ 5

Course Grade

Finally, we need to talk about your course grade. The grade is based on two criteria: earn a ‘satisfactory’ notebook and the number of modules you have completed and demonstrated mastery in by the last day of class.

A ‘satisfactory’ notebook will be discussed at a later class meeting. I’m assuming everyone will accomplish this. So,...

If you complete and demonstrate mastery of three modules this semester, you will earn a C in the course.

If you complete and demonstrate mastery of four modules this semester, you will earn a B in the course.

If you complete and demonstrate mastery of five or more modules this semester, you will earn an A in the course.

I do hope EVERYONE will make earning an A their goal for the class. You are in control of how many modules you earn credit for during the semester. The more modules you earn credit, the quicker you complete the Pre-Core Math program and are ready to enroll in your core math class.

- **READ SYLLABUS tonight!!!**
- **ALEKS Registration**
- **Let's do the math!**

Next Steps...

We have hit the highlights of your syllabus...but there is more information there. So, you should read your syllabus tonight!

Now, I'll turn you over to your facilitator and tutor because it's time to get registered in ALEKS and "do the math!"