Pre-Core Mathematics Program

Do you know…

MOTTO: Let's Do The Math!

Class #16 in the Pre-Core Mathematics Program

When was the last time you looked at your syllabus? It's probably been awhile…and you may not have noticed some of the UALR policies that are listed in it that ALL UALR students should know.

Student e-mail accounts are created within 24 hours of class registration and are an official means of communication between the University and the student. Important university-related information will be sent to individual e-mail accounts. Students are responsible for regularly reading email messages. Types of communication include but are not limited to: financial aid information, inclement weather closings, e-bills and payment deadlines, registration information and library notices. The UALR E-mail System can be accessed at http://mail.ualr.edu.

– *UALR Undergraduate Catalog*

UALR Student Email Policy

Here is the UALR Student Email Policy

The policy means that the UALR email system is the university's official means of communication. If you are sent an email by a university employee (including faculty) to this account, then it can be assumed you have read the email. This is why it's EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to check your UALR email account at least twice a week.

Academic dishonesty cannot be condoned or tolerated in the University community. Such behavior is considered a student conduct violation, and students found in violation of committing an academic offense on the campus, or in connection with an institution oriented or sponsored activity, or while representing the University or academic department, will be disciplined by the University.

Dishonesty

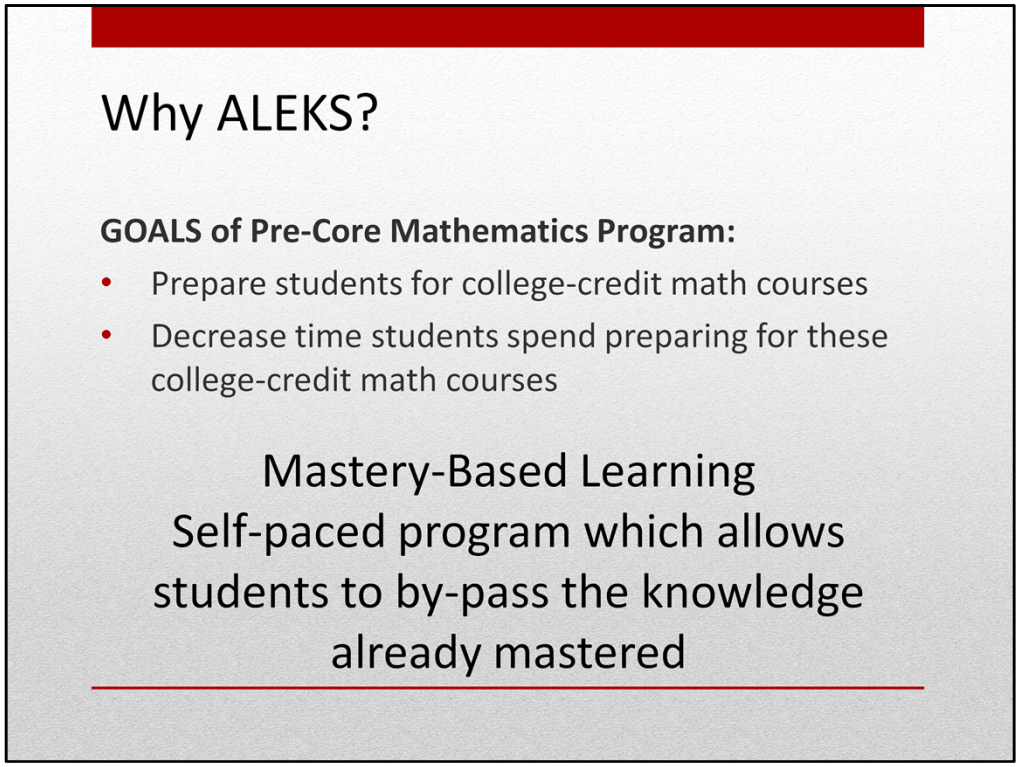
Academic Dishonesty is a serious offense. For our class, if you misrepresent your work in ALEKS as your own, you have someone else or use an inappropriate means to complete the work, this is academic dishonesty. If it is caught, you will be disciplined according to the university policies and receive an grade of NC for the course.

Students may not take any developmental course at UALR more than twice. A student is considered to have taken a developmental course if he or she receives a grade of NC or W for the course. Students who have failed to pass a particular developmental course twice should speak to their advisors or the department offering the course to explore other options for covering the material.

Developmental Courses

Students may not take any developmental course at UALR more than twice. The Pre-Core Mathematics courses (Math 0321, Math 0322, Math 0323, Math 0324) are developmental math courses for which this policy will be enforced. This means that if you earn an NC or W for Pre-Core Math I, then you must pass the class the next time you take the course, or you will have to find another means to meet the pre-requisites for your college-credit math class.

I do not believe I will need to enforce this policy if a student has given their best effort in the class. We have designed the program for student success in the course and in their next math class.



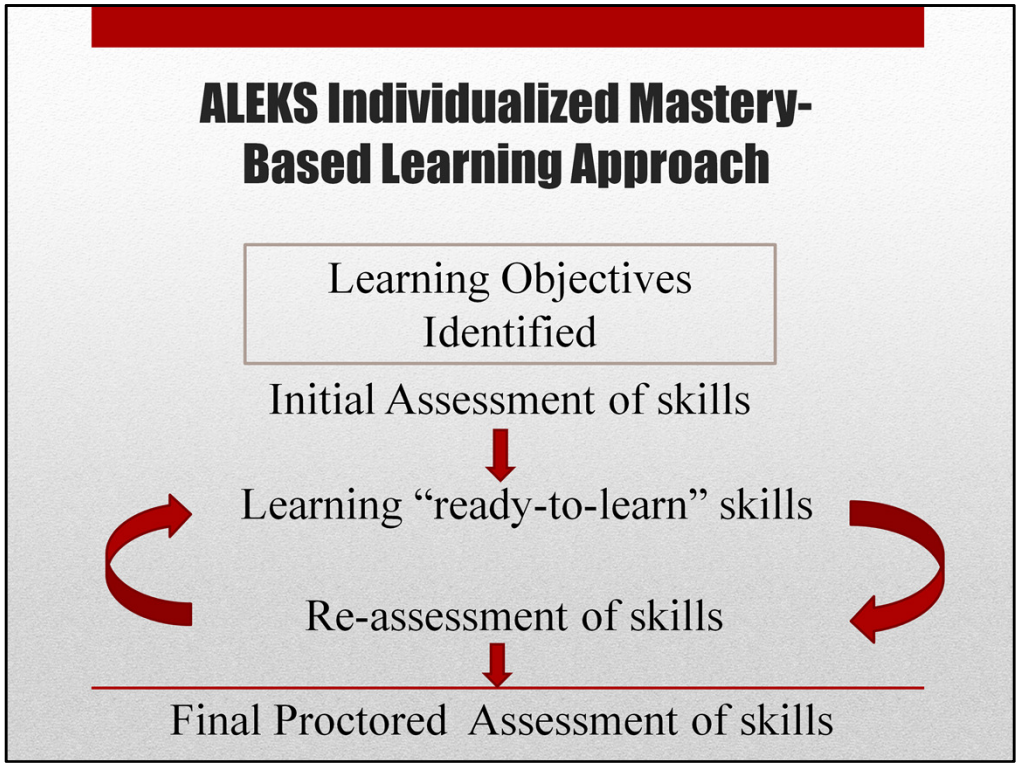
Now, for the answer to one last question that I thought you might be interested in knowing. Why has UALR chosen to use ALEKS? There are many different programs available to assist students to learn math. We have chosen to use ALEKS for several different reasons.

Remember the goals of the Pre-Core Math program: prepare you for College Algebra and Quantitative and Mathematics Reasoning courses and provide you with the means to get to those courses as quickly as possible.

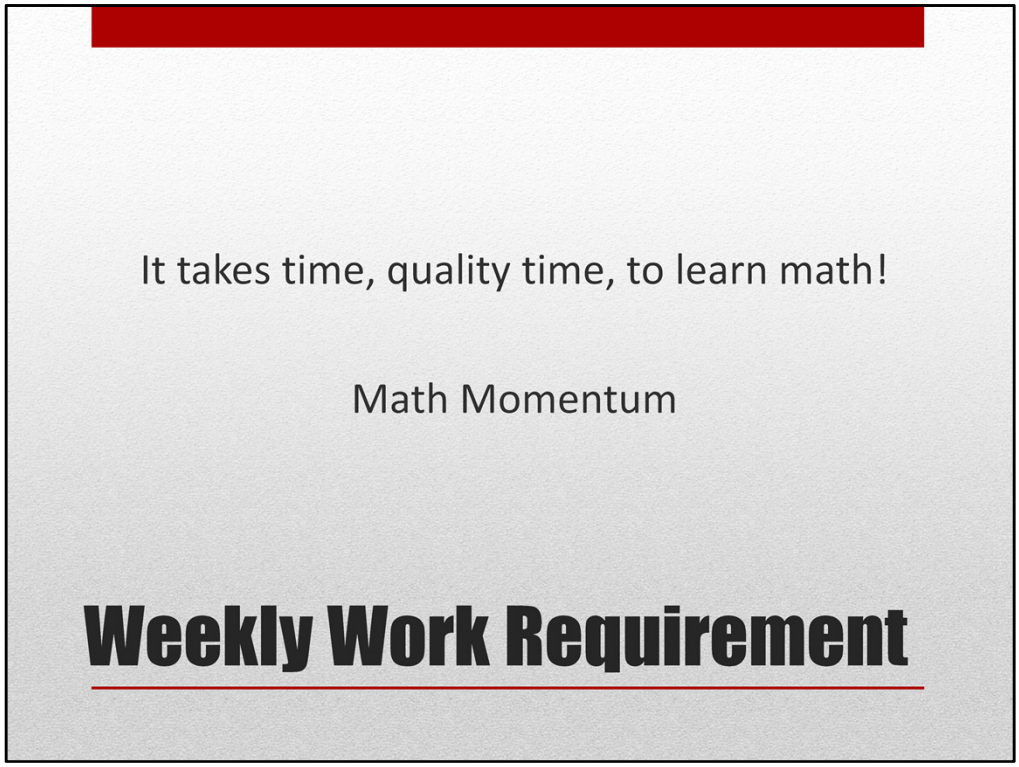
To meet the first goal, the PCM program needed to require mastery of algebra skills versus 'passing exams'. UALR has support a mastery-based learning program for over 10 years. The results show that students are more prepared for their next math course than the previous textbook-lecture-based program. So, the online system needed to be designed with mastery-based learning model.

To meet the second goal, the PCM program needed to be a self-paced program which allows you to by-pass any material that you already have mastered previously. So, the online system needed to be flexible in completion of material and accurately assess students on their current knowledge.

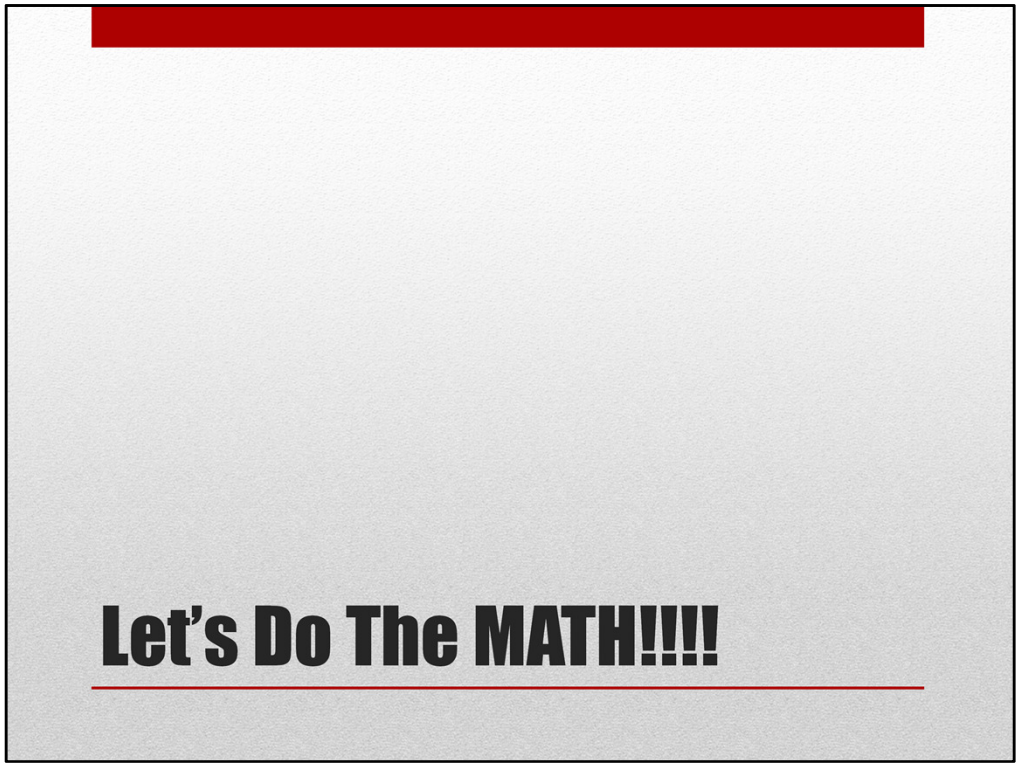
The online system that helps us meet both these goal is ALEKS.



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.



Lastly, let me remind you why we have 'weekly work requirements." Basically, we want you to reach your math potential in the PCM program and be prepared for your next math class as quickly as possible. To do this, it takes time, quality time, to learn the math skills you will need for the next class. For those of you that have been working the weekly requirements, I'm sure you have felt the momentum you have been building. I call it math momentum. Your brain gets accustomed to being used in the special way to 'do the math' and it keeps wanting to do the math. Now, if you been working the required hours, but not making them quality math learning hours, you will not understand this math momentum. Try it…quality math time WILL lead to progress towards your math goal.



Well, those are the policies that all UALR students should know…there are others. I do hope you've read the UALR student handbook.

Now, it's time to continue on your path to math success by "Doing the Math!"