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**Office of the Chancellor**

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November 25, 2013

To: Faculty Senate

From: Brian Rogers, Chancellor 

Re: Mathematics and Developmental Mathematics Placement Policy

I am signing the motion passed at Meeting #194 on November, 4, 2013, but want to make you aware of a policy change that the Board of Regents will soon consider.

The motion states "The Faculty Senate moves to amend the 2014-15 Catalog to reflect a new Mathematics and Developmental Mathematics placement policy, as indicated below."

The President's Cabinet has discussed the value of a single mathematics and developmental mathematics placement policy throughout the University of Alaska system. I expect the President and the Board of Regents to take action on a uniform policy to be effective by 2016. This will require the UAF Faculty Senate to work with your counterparts to determine the best placement process.

I am fully supportive of the direction you are taking, and subject to seeing results at UAF consistent with those at other institutions, will push for systemwide adoption of ALEKS PPL. If the Board, however, establishes a policy of a single set of systemwide placement steps and cut scores, all three universities will need to comply. That may require UAF faculty to accommodate differing viewpoints of the UAA and UAS faculty.

BDR:jp

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #194, November 4, 2013:

*Note: Corrections were made by SADAC Chair on the Senate floor. They are underlined in the paragraph under "Course Prerequisites."*

## **MOTION**

The Faculty Senate moves to amend the 2014-15 Catalog to reflect a new Mathematics and Developmental Mathematics placement policy, as indicated below:

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2014

RATIONALE:

This motion is brought to the Senate by the Department of Mathematics, the Department of Developmental Education, the Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee, and the Curricular Affairs Committee.

The Mathematics and Developmental Education Departments are moving to a new UAF Math Placement Test administered by ALEKS PPL (Assessment & Learning in Knowledge Spaces--Preparation, Placement, & Learning) for placement into all core Math and DEVM classes. In order for students to be placed into a DEVM or core MATH course, students who do not meet the prerequisite (either by having taken a prerequisite course at UAF or as a transfer course, or by having AP credit) will be required to take the UAF Math Placement Test, regardless of their SAT/ACT scores. That is, this new UAF Math Placement Test will replace ACT/SAT/ACCUPLACER/COMPASS for placement into Math or DEVM courses. With ALEKS PPL, a student's initial assessment can be done via the internet. Students who are dissatisfied with their initial placement or who want to review material in preparation for their course will have access to a six-week learning module that can be used to study and improve the test score. An additional four re-tests are available to the student at no extra charge, and the total cost of the five placement attempts and the six weeks of targeted individual study is \$25.

The Math and Developmental Math faculty believe that the new placement test system provides a clear mechanism for students to challenge a placement and provides a means for students to refresh their memory of prerequisite material in order to place into a higher level math course than they might with a one-time, high-stakes test. ALEKS PPL is specifically designed to address placement into mathematics courses and is a low stakes test. This is in marked contrast to the current assessments: SAT and ACT are both high stakes tests and not designed for placement purposes; ACCUPLACER, while a low stakes test, is insufficiently refined for our placement needs.

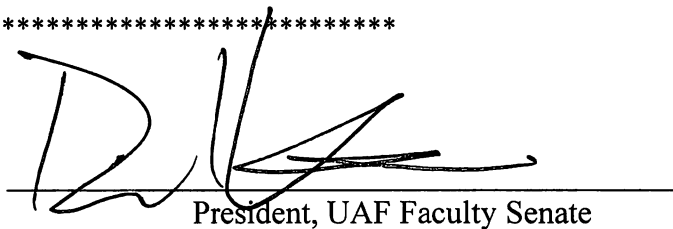
Currently ALEKS is being used by DEVM students as a homework tool that tracks improvement through their DEVM class and beyond, and the Math Bridge Program uses ALEKS modules to help prepare students for core math courses. Integrating a teaching tool into a placement tool will make for more appropriate placement of students and will allow them to begin their math classes at UAF using a tool that will support their learning throughout their math sequence. Even though many rural students have limited internet access, ALEKS is a useful tool. It is more than a placement test, and has the potential to support students by filling in gaps in their content

special cases. Students who have limited access to technology or who have disabilities will be provided with extra support or their instructor can provide alternative placement strategies.


The Mathematics Placement Committee is working with the bursar's office, the registrar's office, and the Provost's office to address mechanisms by which this \$25 fee will be paid. Currently it is expected that the cost will be added as a one-time course fee to the student's initial DEVM or Math class. If the new placement policy works as expected, fewer students will repeat courses or be placed in courses that are inappropriate to their skill level, reducing their very real cost in tuition expenses and opportunity cost.

The Mathematics and Developmental Education faculty, SADA, and CAC will arrange meetings with rural and Fairbanks advisors and registrars to inform them of the advantages of ALEKS for students and will work together to plan implementation so that all students can have access to ALEKS for placement.

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President, UAF Faculty Senate

APPROVAL:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office  
*See attached letter*

DATE: 26 NOV 2013

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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CAPS and **Bolded** - Addition  
[[ ]] - Deletion

Pages 33-34 of current 2013-14 Catalog:

**PLACEMENT [[BY TEST]] REQUIREMENTS**

[[Students need to have UAF-approved placement test scores prior to registering for their first-semester classes. Students place into classes in the following ways: standardized test scores (ACT Plus Writing, SAT, ASSET, or ACCUPLACER), advanced placement credits, transfer credits or prerequisite coursework. Placement tests and are available at every UAF community campus as well as Testing Services, the Academic Advising Center, Community and Technical College, Rural Student Services, e-

Services, the Academic Advising Center, Community and Technical College, Rural Student Services, e-Learning and Distance Education, and Northern Military Programs at Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base and Delta Career Advancement Center.]]

**MANY UAF COURSES REQUIRE PLACEMENT. ALL STUDENTS PLANNING TO TAKE COURSES WITH SPECIFIC PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS MUST MEET THOSE REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR THOSE COURSES.** Students who meet basic skills standards in reading, writing and mathematics [[may]] **SHOULD** enroll in the appropriate 100-level or above courses. Those whose scores place below these standards [[are required to]] **MUST** enroll in the appropriate developmental education courses. Once these students have satisfactorily met the criteria for these courses, they may register for 100-level courses. **SPECIFIC WRITING, READING, AND MATH PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE LISTED IN THE SECTION BELOW. HOWEVER, MANY COURSES HAVE ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE LISTED IN THE CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION.**

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

**COURSE PREREQUISITES INDICATE WHAT PREVIOUS PREPARATION IS NEEDED TO ENROLL IN A COURSE. AN INSTRUCTOR HAS THE RIGHT TO DROP ANY STUDENT FROM THE COURSE IF HE OR SHE DOES NOT MEET THE PREREQUISITE OR HAS NOT RECEIVED A GRADE OF C- OR BETTER IN ALL PREREQUISITE COURSES. AN INSTRUCTOR ALSO HAS THE RIGHT TO WAIVE A COURSE PREREQUISITE IF THE INSTRUCTOR PROVIDES HAS DOCUMENTATION THAT THE STUDENT POSSESSES THE BACKGROUND REQUIRED TO SUCCEED IN THE CLASS.**

Students need English placement at ENGL F111X or above (including reading) in order to enroll in Perspectives on the Human Condition core courses. Students need mathematics placement at DEVM F105 or above, and ENGL F111X placement (including reading), to register for science courses.

**READING AND WRITING** placement exams must be taken within two calendar years prior to the start of a course; mathematics placement exams must be taken within one calendar year prior. Students enrolling in developmental or lower division core courses must have completed any prerequisite courses within two calendar years of their enrollment. Academic advisors will assist with proper course placement for incoming and continuing students.

Students who enroll in a developmental or core course without meeting placement or prerequisite requirements may be withdrawn from the course through the faculty-initiated withdrawal process.

### **[[ENGLISH]] WRITING/READING**

(We will address changes to English (Writing/Reading) placement in a later motion.)

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### **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics course placement varies according to the type of degree the student is planning to pursue and the corresponding math course(s) needed. (See the degree program requirements for more detail.)

[[ACT Plus Writing, SAT, ACCUPLACER, ASSET, or COMPASS test scores are]] **THE UAF MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT TEST IS** used to determine math placement. Minimum test scores for placement into math and developmental math courses are listed in Table 2.

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE LIMITED ACCESS OR LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH THE INTERNET SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION FOR ASSISTANCE.**

[TABLE 2 TO BE CHANGED TO REFLECT POLICY CHANGE.]

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Page 44 of the 2013-14 Catalog:

### PLACEMENT TESTS

Test results are required for first-time degree or certificate students, transfer students with fewer than 30 acceptable credits, or students planning to take 100-level English, reading, mathematics, natural sciences core and perspectives on the human condition core courses. **UAF MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS MUST BE ON FILE WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND THE REGISTRAR OR THE LOCAL REGIONAL CAMPUS REGISTRATION OFFICE BEFORE YOU CAN REGISTER FOR DEVM, MATH, STATISTICS, OR CORE SCIENCE CLASSES.** Results from American College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or, for associate degree or certificate students, the ASSET, ACCUPLACER or COMPASS test must be on file with the Office of Admissions and the Registrar before you can register for classes. Your ability to register **MAY BE BLOCKED** if you have not submitted required test scores.

Test results for English and composition must be less than two years old; for math, less than one year old **FROM THE PLACEMENT TEST DATE.**

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Note: Registrar's Office will also need to update applicable sections including (for example): "Applying for Admission: Certificate or Associate Degree Programs"; "Applying for Admission: Bachelor's Degree Programs."