Overview of ALEKS

“Individualized Mathematics in the 21st Century”

PRESENTATION BY CASH CLIFTON (CCLIFTON4@UNM.EDU)
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
What is ALEKS?

“Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces 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.”

Source: http://www.aleks.com/about_aleks
How does ALEKS work?

-The University creates a course in ALEKS and chooses what topics will be covered and what level is considered topic mastery. This generates a course code, which the teacher gives to students. (For more information on setting up the course, view http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzGUAYrjG0Q&index=26&list=PLqmcJVdRMoi3cHb6dki8CDerQ0R45gmcS)

-The student purchases an access code (either from www.aleks.com or from the campus bookstore) and uses this access code, along with the course code from the teacher, to register. Students may choose between a 6-week, 18-week, or 52-week code.

-The student completes a registration form, then a brief tutorial about how to use the ALEKS system. (For more information on student registration, view http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1nxfsz2yHg&index=6&list=PLqmcJVdRMoi3cHb6dki8CDerQ0R45gmcS)
How does ALEKS work?

- ALEKS begins each student with an initial assessment, which determines what a student already knows and what the student is ready to learn. The assessment offers an “I don’t know” button; this does not lower their score, but instead assigns path material. (For more information, view http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMlLFubPPmg&index=2&list=PLqmcJVdRMoi3cHb6dkl8CDeRQ0R45gmcS)

- The student then begins working on their Custom Path, worksheets, or quizzes, depending on how the instructor builds the course. In QR & Math 101-103, we work on a Custom Path, which is followed by Mastery Testing. (For more information on myPie, view http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDaOkr5KcZ0&list=PLqmcJVdRMoi3cHb6dkl8CDeRQ0R45gmcS&index=3)

- ALEKS is ADA Compliant.
- The instructor may view the progress of multiple students in the class. Located under reports, this screen displays several pieces of information about student progress.
- ALEKS tracks student time on task.
- Instructors may view any problem a student has worked, including the student’s answer.
- The instructor has the ability to generate a variety of reports about individual students, helping to identify topics the student is struggling with. The system is capable of generating reports in multiple formats.
- For more information on reports, a video is available at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWQJ3MoWjiY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWQJ3MoWjiY)
ALEKS Video Support

ALEKS offers several videos on YouTube that explain the system.

-First day of class video:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gzx_NFzfXY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gzx_NFzfXY) (a resource for introducing students to ALEKS)

-ALEKS introduction video:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1Q4jRbpODQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1Q4jRbpODQ) (a follow up after introducing ALEKS to students)

-Tips for success:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-dvKmJGZQw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-dvKmJGZQw) (a video for explaining how students can use ALEKS as a learning tool)

-ALEKS in action:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9Pks2aX7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9Pks2aX7U) (a video for students to actually see what working in ALEKS looks like)
-Students may work within their individual ALEKS path. This represents their custom learning path.
-The dark colored portions of pie represent what the student has already mastered; the light colors what the student still needs to learn.
-As each student masters individual objectives, new objectives become available.
-The instructor may supplement the student pie with quizzes and worksheets in the system.
Student View: Math 101-103 Interface

- This is the “Classic” Interface. It follows the same basic function as the newer interface.

- All ADA-Compliant versions of ALEKS must use the classic interface.

- The new interface provides lessons prior to practicing topics. The Classic interface provides practice, and the student needs to hit the “Explain” button for a lesson.

- Limitation: This interface is not as compatible with mobile & touch-screen devices.
Periodically, a new assessment is given to determine what the student already knows and what the student is ready to learn. Students may click “I don’t know” on any problem without lowering their score.

Assessments are separate from final Tests.

The system may identify that a student already has mastery of certain future topics, in which case the assessment will increase the number of mastered objectives.

The system may identify that a student needs remediation, in which case the assessment will decrease the number of mastered objectives.
Student view

- The students works through problems to progress in MyPie or My Path.
- The teacher has the choice whether or not students may use the calculator function in ALEKS. The system will give calculators that have different functions, depending on the problem type. For QR, the calculator is only available for select problems, and a certain ability of “mental math” is required.
- ALEKS provides step-by-step instructions for how to work each problem type. Examples are given when a student encounters a new problem type. Students may access these instructions at anytime during the course by using the “I don’t know button,” or the system will direct the student to instructions after consistently missing a problem type.

- The “I don’t know” button provides the student an explanation, but does not lower their score. After clicking the “I don’t know” button and view an explanation, the student will be given a similar problem to master.

- A wealth of online videos are available to help students learn topics. Khan Academy on YouTube is an excellent resource.
Student Access

It may be helpful to inform students that ALEKS is supported on a variety of devices, including:
- Windows (XP or higher)
- Apple OS (10.4 or higher)
- Chromebook (all)
- iPad (iOS 6 or higher)
- Android (4.0 or higher)

Suggested Browsers for ALEKS: Mozilla Firefox & Google Chrome

It may also be helpful to inform students that ALEKS is compatible with many cell phones.
Questions? Comments?

Login Name

Password

LOG IN

Forgot your login info?

New Student?
SIGN UP NOW!

TAKE A TOUR FREE TRIAL

“ I am amazed by my students’ level of engagement! With ALEKS, students exhibit a strong work ethic, gloat about progress, and seek instruction to continue learning!”

—David, K-12 | Leland High School, IL
If you are struggling with ALEKS, please utilize one of the following options for ALEKS customer support. Please email the presenter if you would like an electronic copy of this presentation.

- On the Web http://support.aleks.com
- Email support.aleks.com
- Phone (714) 619-7090
- Fax (714) 245-7190
- Videos on YouTube (Referenced in this presentation)
- Cash Clifton: Cclifton4@unm.edu