1. What is the ALEKS PPL?

The ALEKS PPL Math Placement Test is an adaptive test designed to accurately assess your current Math ability. The purpose of the test is to determine which Math course should be your first Math course at UMBC. You will have 2 hours and 30 minutes to complete the test. Calculators and outside resources are not allowed on the exam. After you complete the test, you will see your score and Math Placement.

2. What Does My Placement Mean?

Your Math Placement determines the first Math course you can take at UMBC. There are two math paths at UMBC: the STEM Math Path and the Non-STEM Math Path. If you are a STEM major, you will need to take Math classes like Calculus. If you are not a STEM major, you will only need to take a Math course which fulfills your graduation requirement.

3. Can I Take the Test Again?

Students are allowed to take the Math Placement Test two more times after their first attempt. Students are allowed to retest up to one year after their original test or until they take their first Math course at UMBC. After deciding to retest, students should begin their assigned Prep and Learning Module.

4. What is the Prep and Learning Module?

The Prep and Learning Module is a feature available in ALEKS after completion of the placement test. The purpose of the Prep and Learning Module is to help you review concepts that you might not have understood before you took the test. In order to retest, students must spend at least 5 hours working in their assigned Prep and Learning Module.

5. How can the Prep and Learning Module help me?

If you do want to retest, be sure to use the Prep and Learning Module strategically. The more topics you master, the more likely it is you will improve.

Mastering at least 70% of your assigned topics gives you a higher chance of improving your placement score. Set a realistic and specific goal for yourself, such as mastering 70 topics and spreading it out over 10 days. If you don’t want to retest, you can still review topics at your own pace to prepare for your course.