

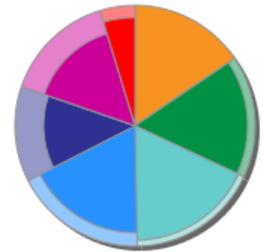
**WHAT IS ALEKS?** ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces) is an artificial intelligence-based system for individualized learning and is available 24/7 over the Internet.

**When you first log on to ALEKS**, a brief tutorial shows you how to use the ALEKS answer input tools. Then you will take an **initial assessment**. In a short period of time (about 45 minutes for most courses), ALEKS assesses your current course knowledge by asking you about 20-30 questions. ALEKS chooses each question on the basis of your answers to all the previous questions. Each student, and therefore each set of assessment questions, is unique. It is impossible to predict the questions that will be asked.

**Make sure you take your time to do the initial assessment. Don't rush. Be careful with your calculation, and always double check your answers. The better you do on the initial assessment, the less you need to work on ALEKS.**

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT?** By the time you have completed the assessment, ALEKS has developed a precise picture of your knowledge of the course, knowing which topics you have mastered and which topics you haven't. Your knowledge is represented by a multicolor pie chart.

The **pie chart** is also your entry into Learning Mode. In the Learning Mode, you are offered a choice of topics that you are ready to learn (that is, you have the prerequisite knowledge to successfully learn these topics). If you roll your mouse over a "slice" of your pie, you can choose from a list of topics shown in a pop-up window that appears next to the pie slice. Not every slice is available at a given time. As you progress through the material, you will be able to access new topics until you have mastered all of them.



When you choose a topic to learn on your pie, ALEKS offers you practice problems that teach the topic. These problems have enough variability that you can only get them consistently correct on understanding the core principle defining the topic. If you don't understand a particular problem, you can always access a complete explanation. Once you can consistently get the problems for a given topic correct, ALEKS considers that you have learned the topic and you can choose another topic to learn. As you learn new topics, ALEKS updates its map of your knowledge. You can observe the most current summary of what you know and what you are ready to learn.

To ensure that topics learned are retained in long term memory, ALEKS periodically reassesses you, using the results to adjust your knowledge of the course. Because you are forced to show mastery through mixed-question **progress assessments** that cannot be predicted, mastery of the ALEKS course means true mastery of the course.

## SYSTEM AND INTERNET REQUIREMENTS

PCs must have at least 64 MB of RAM and operating system Windows 98 / 2000 ME / XP / NT4.0 or higher. PowerMacs or iMacs must have at least 64 MB of RAM and operating system Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

**Compatible browsers** are Safari 3+, Google Chrome, Firefox 3+, and Internet Explorer 7+.

ALEKS is used over the World Wide Web. It functions well with an Internet connection of at least 56K.

**ALEKS plug-ins and Java must be installed** and enabled in order for ALEKS to function. For best performance, there should be a single installation of a recent version of Java.

For technical questions please read <http://www.aleks.com/faqs/technical>. For TECHNICAL SUPPORT please contact <http://www.aleks.com/support>.

## ALEKS FAQs:

### Q: I am working on ALEKS and it froze. What should I do?

A: If Aleks freezes, you can refresh the page or log out and log back in again. ALEKS saves your work, and takes you back to the place where you left off.

### Q: Can I log out during an assessment and continue later?

A: Yes, you can. ALEKS saves your work, and takes you back to the place where you left off.

### Q: I forgot my login information for ALEKS. What can I do?

A: Contact [ALEKS support](http://www.aleks.com/support): [www.aleks.com/support](http://www.aleks.com/support)

### Q: My pie was almost full but after a random assignment it was reduced significantly. What happened?

A: At regular intervals throughout your progress in ALEKS, there will be automatic reassessments of your knowledge. The purpose of these reassessments is to check your retention of what you have learned, and to require review of any material where reinforcement is needed. If you see your pie chart reduced after a reassessment, the reason is that you need review on some of the previously-learned material.

### Q: When I click on a slice of my pie, why does ALEKS tell me "No Topics available"?

A: When you get this message, it means that the next topic(s) that you want to study from the slice have one or more prerequisite topics in other slices that you must complete first.

### Q: Why does ALEKS periodically give me new assessments?

A: ALEKS periodically reassesses you to confirm your retention of the topics you have studied. These assessments are given based on your rate of progress in ALEKS and on the amount of time you have spent working in ALEKS. The results of such an assessment may indicate the need for you to further review topics previously deemed "mastered."

### Q: Why doesn't ALEKS always allow me to study whatever topic I want to?

A: ALEKS guides you through the specific curriculum your instructor has chosen. After ALEKS assesses your current Knowledge State and your goal, it will determine which topics you are ready to learn next. Other topics may not be available to you yet because ALEKS has determined that you're not yet ready to learn them. ALEKS tries to ensure that you are only learning the topics for which you have demonstrated readiness.

### Q: How does this pie thing work again?

A: Your pie illustrates your current level of knowledge in a subject. The goal is to fill in the pie completely. If you roll your mouse over a "slice" of your pie, you can choose from a list of topics shown in a pop-up window that appears next to the pie slice. Not every slice is available at a given time.

