

Math 090 (Math 93-95-96) with ALEKS

3 credits • Fall 2010

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Office Hours:

Monday 12:25-2:25

Tuesday 11:00-1:00

Wednesday 12:25-1:25

Overview:

Math 090 is a self-paced developmental math course in which each student works to complete an individual goal consistent with his or her skill level. Depending on skill level, some students will work on the semester goal of completing Math 093, some will work on the semester goal of completing Math 095, and finally, some will work on the semester goal of completing Math 096. For example, if you passed Math 093 last semester, your goal in this course will be to complete Math 095 by the end of the semester. Students that have not taken math classes recently or that don't know their math skill level should begin in Math 093.

Students that are able to complete their goal ahead of schedule will be "moved up" and be given a chance of completing a second goal. In effect, Math 090 allows motivated students to complete in one semester what normally takes two (or more) semesters to complete. For example, a student that completes the Math 093 goal mid semester may move on, and attempt to complete the Math 095 goal before the end of the semester. With success, the student may receive credit (at no extra financial cost) for the higher level course at the end of the semester.

Outcomes:

See the outcomes for each course in the generic syllabi located at <http://www.tmcc.edu/math/downloads/>

ALEKS Course Codes

When you first register with ALEKS, you'll be asked to supply a course code for the course you are taking. Please select your ALEKS course code from the table below. Your selection should be based on your level of math preparation. Please use the following guidelines:

- If you have taken a placement test recently, select the course code corresponding to the course you placed into.
- If you have completed Math 093, 095 or 096, select the course code corresponding to the next course in the series.
- If you master arithmetic, but need to brush up on *algebra*, select the Math 095 course code.

It is no big deal if you select the "wrong" course code. Once the results of the initial assessment are available, adjustments will be made as necessary.

Course #	Time	Section #	Course Name	ALEKS Course Code
Math 93	9:30	1001	Pre-algebra	TKLHE-RHY4N
Math 95	9:30	1001	Beginning Algebra	FEF3F-FHD4M
Math 96	9:30	1001	Intermediate Algebra	H3YWH-XQFLY
Math 93	11:00	1002	Pre-algebra	WN3LP-YPM6U
Math 95	11:00	1002	Beginning Algebra	C64UY-HNWMV
Math 96	11:00	1002	Intermediate Algebra	PTXLM-XERXA

Course Structure and Approach:

The course uses ALEKS on-line instructional software and will require that each student have access to the web site: <http://aleks.com/>. You will be able to get immediate assistance from the instructor during the designated class periods. The instructor will give supplemental mini-lectures on important subject areas.

ALEKS Learning Modules—The mathematical content in this class is mainly delivered through ALEKS, an interactive on-line learning environment. Students work at their own pace and may access course materials through any computer connected to the internet.

ALEKS classes differ from ordinary lecture-and-textbook classes in a few ways. Where an ordinary class covers the curricular material from A to Z, ALEKS will only drill the student in material where he or she has a deficiency. ALEKS does not take you through material you already know. Therefore every ALEKS course begins with an *initial assessment* so ALEKS can find out what you know and what you don't know. The rest of the time in class is spent only on the part of the curriculum you don't know. You will be re-assessed at regular intervals so ALEKS can see if you retain the material have learned. ALEKS' approach to learning is: *Fill in the gaps in your knowledge so you can reach your semester goal.*

ALEKS Assessments:

ALEKS uses regular assessments to assess your progress towards your semester goal. Assessments are comprehensive, which means that *every* assessment will assess the *entire* course! In some sense, you are taking a comprehensive final exam every time you take an ALEKS assessment. Therefore, assessment scores will typically be low at the beginning of the semester, but in your quest to reach the semester goal, you gradually acquire more knowledge and as a result, your assessment scores improve. Ideally, towards the end of the semester, you will master all the course material and your scores will approach 100%.

It is very important that you do all ALEKS assessments without help in any form!

Do not use any books or notes. Do not use a calculator unless it is available from the brown ALEKS toolbar at the top of the screen. Getting assistance or "cheating" on ALEKS assessments will not improve your grade, but it will cause ALEKS to start your learning exercises at a level which is beyond your ability. ALEKS will eventually adjust to meet your specific needs.

Initial ALEKS Assessment—The first time you login, ALEKS will do an initial assessment of your algebra skills. The initial assessment is un-proctored—you will take it on your own. It does not count in any way towards your grade. This assessment is used by ALEKS to determine what material you are ready to learn.

Mid-Semester ALEKS Assessments—On-line assessments of your progress are scheduled after every 20 ALEKS items or so are completed. These assessment checks whether you are able to retain the material you have covered. Your continued progress in the class depends on how well you do on these assessments: You receive credit for all items in which you show mastery. Any item you do not master is listed as yet to be completed. *This means that an assessment could set you back!* This could happen if you "forget" an item from earlier in the course, and is unable to show mastery of the item in the assessment. In this case you'll need to repeat the item. Mid-semester assessments are taken on your own, they are un-proctored, and don't count towards your grade. The best strategy when doing assessments is to be honest, and do the best you can. If you don't know how to solve a problem on the assessment, just click the "I Don't Know" button.

Final ALEKS Assessments—You must qualify for the final assessment—see conditions in the *Grading* section below. The final ALEKS assessment is a proctored assessment. No help of any kind is allowed: no books, no notes. It is similar to the ALEKS assessments you have been taking during the semester. You can think of this assessment as your final exam.

- Students that complete the pie mid-semester, should make arrangements with the instructor to take the final assessment *within two weeks of completion*. Please note that you have not completed the pie until ALEKS gives you notice that you have done so.
- All other students must take the final at TMCC during the last week of classes.
- Students may be allowed to attempt the final assessment multiple times to improve their final grade.

Your Goal for the Semester:

ALEKS presents the course curriculum in the shape of a pie, which can be accessed by clicking the "My Pie" icon in the brown ALEKS toolbar at the top of the screen. Each slice of the pie represents a "chapter" of material which contains the math learning items you are ready to learn. The pie is "dynamic" and changes as you progress throughout the semester. To see what items you are ready to learn now, hover the mouse over one of the slices in the pie, and items you are ready to learn appears. Click on any one of these to begin to study math.

Following Your Progress—You can see a report of your progress at any time by clicking the "Report" link in the brown ALEKS toolbar. You will notice that in the report, your progress is represented by *two* pies, a Readiness Pie and a Mastery pie. The Readiness Pie contains the pre-requisite material (review material) for this course, and the Mastery Pie contains the new material you need to learn this semester. The Mastery Pie defines your goal for the semester. Combined, the two pies are equivalent to the single pie representation you find by clicking the My Pie icon in the ALEKS toolbar.

The intermediate objectives (and corresponding quizzes) are designed to help you reach your goal in stages.

Pay Close Attention to the Mastery Pie—It is important that you monitor your progress regularly. By doing so, you can follow your current grade throughout the semester, and anticipate when you need to put in a little extra time studying, if needed. It may help you plan better and prevent a catch-up situation at the end of the semester. Your Mastery pie score is a good indicator of your progress in the course - you can think of it as your current score. The Readiness pie contains review material only, and while you do need to complete this pie, it does not contribute towards your course grade.

Your Mastery pie score is listed under the "Report" link in the ALEKS toolbar. It is based your percent score on the Mastery Pie.

Attendance:

Attendance is checked every class period. Students are required to come to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. Any student who has missed more than three classes may be dropped from the roster.

ALEKS Time Requirements

In order to pass this class, you must log a minimum of 8 ALEKS hours every week. Otherwise you will be administratively withdrawn from the class. This means that at the end of week 1 of the semester you must have logged 8 hours. At the end of week 2 you must reach 16 hours, at the end of week 3 you must reach 24 hours, etc. Only one single excuse

from this policy is permitted, and you must be caught up by the end of the following week. You may work ahead of schedule, but you cannot fall behind.

- Midnight on Sunday is considered the end of the week. You must log your 8 weekly ALEKS hours by this time.
- Please note that the 8 hour weekly requirement is a **minimum requirement**. Some students need to spend considerably more time on the course in order master the course materials. **The recommended amount is to spend 10-12 hours per week on ALEKS.**
- ALEKS keeps track of the total hours you spend working on math: To check, go to ALEKS, click the **Options**-button, and look under **Hours Spent**. Keep a regular eye on this number to make sure that you put in enough hours.
- If you work ahead of schedule, and complete the course early, you are exempt from the 8 hour weekly attendance requirement for the remaining weeks of the semester.
- **In any three-week period, if your hours logged in ALEKS are below 20 or your progress is less than 15% (5% per week), you may be dropped from the class.**

Grading:

To receive a passing grade in this course, you must:

(1) Qualify for the final assessment. To qualify, you must:

- Complete 90% of your *Mastery* pie.
- Attend classes regularly.
- Satisfy the weekly ALEKS requirement of 8 hours each week.

(2) Pass the final assessment.

If you do not qualify for the final assessment, you will not pass for the semester. The final grade will be determined by your final ALEKS assessment. Letter grades will be assigned as follows (see the next section for additional 096 requirements):

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, Not passing: below 60%

You will need a C or better to qualify for the following class in the sequence.

At the end of the semester, the student's registration will switch from 90 to the appropriate class they will be getting credit for (93, 95, 96). If the student has completed a class earlier in the semester, and has shown significant progress toward completing a higher-level class, they will be placed in the new class and given the opportunity to receive credit for the higher-level class. Please note this is at the professor and student's discretion. A general guideline would be that the student has completed 65% of the mastery pie of the next class by four weeks from the semester's end.

Additional Exam for 096 students:

To successfully get credit for 096, students will need to pass the department 096 written exam. This exam will constitute 40% of your class grade. The other 60% will come directly from the final ALEKS assessment.

Help:

It is essential that you seek help immediately if you get stuck.

- Ask questions during the class period.
- Another option is the TMCC Math Center. They have free tutoring and are open late and on Saturdays (674-7517). They are located at TMCC, in the Vista Building, Room B106. Please check the Tutoring Center webpage for more info.

TMCC's Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Statement:

Qualified, self-identified students with documented disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at Truckee Meadows Community College. For assistance, contact TMCC's Disability Resource Center at 775-673-7277, TTY 775-673-7888, come by the Red Mountain Building, room 315 B, or visit www.tmcc.edu/drc.