

San Diego State University

Fall 2015 Preparation for Math 124, Calculus for Life Sciences

This year SDSU is encouraging students entering life sciences programs to review and strengthen their algebra and trigonometry skills during the summer before attempting to take Math 124.

ALEKS PPL

We are using an online tool called ALEKS PPL (which stands for preparation, placement and learning) for this purpose. ALEKS is already widely used at other universities and has been shown to be an excellent tool to help students review and strengthen their math skills and to place students into the best class for their ability.

The cost is \$25 for a 6-month license. Each student who chooses to use ALEKS gets an individual ALEKS PPL account, and uses his or her Red ID to establish the account.

How to access ALEKS PPL

Go to the website

www.aleks.com

and click on

Sign Up Now

Enter the Course Code

NAGYU-RRMA9

Alternatively, clicking the link below leads directly to the SDSU Math 124 page.

http://www.aleks.com/sign_up/class?class_code=NAGYU-RRMA9

Enter your name, Red ID, email address and demographic information.

How to use ALEKS PPL

The first step within ALEKS PPL is to take an initial placement assessment. The system will adapt to your answers, choosing easier or harder questions to test understanding of arithmetic, algebra, trigonometry, etc. Based on the results the system creates a pie chart showing your strengths and weaknesses in each area.

From this baseline you can use ALEKS PPL as a learning tool. The system creates lessons and presents tutorial information about topics that will continue to strengthen your ability and confidence. Once you master a set of skills, ALEKS PPL advances another step. You can take additional placement assessments (up to 4). After each assessment, your score will be shown, and an email will be sent to you from ALEKS confirming it. A score of 74 or better should be sufficient for entering Math 124.