Placement Exams Overview:

What Are Placement Exams?

Placement exams are tests that measure your current skills in a subject area. Your test score allows academic advisors to place you into a course at your appropriate level.

At IUPUI, students take placement exams in English and/or Mathematics. The two placement exams at IUPUI are called:

- **English:** English for Academic Purposes (EAP) exam
- **Math:** ALEKS exam (abbreviation for Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces)

What Placement Exams Do I Have to Take?

Review the “Additional Letter Material” included with your admissions letter to see which test(s) you may have to take.

- Most international students will need to take the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) exam.
- Most undergraduate (bachelor's) students will need to take the math assessment.
Why Are Placement Exams So Important?

You should take your placement exams seriously because they can affect the amount of time and money it takes to complete your degree!

It is very important that you review the information for each exam and follow the instructions. This will help you to be placed into the appropriate course to ensure you are successful in your degree program. If you place into preparatory courses, please note that these courses typically do not count toward your degree, yet they must be completed and do require tuition.

Placement Exam Fees

IUPUI has a $50 placement exam fee that covers both the EAP exam and the ALEKS math assessment. This fee will be placed on your Bursar bill.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Exam:

Most international students are required to take the EAP exam if not from a country where the predominant language is English; review your admissions letter “Additional Letter Material” to see if you are required to take this exam.

You can find more information about IUPUI’s EAP program online, and view sample exam questions on the COMPASS website.

You are exempt from taking the EAP exam if:

- **Undergraduates** - You scored at least:
  - 95+ on TOEFL,
  - 7.0+ on IELTS, OR
  - 550+ on SAT Critical Reading

  *If exempt, you will automatically be placed into a section of ENG-W131 (English Composition) specifically for EAP students. Students wishing to take a non-EAP section of W131 may take the placement test to see if the revised placement is appropriate.*

- **Graduates** - You scored at least:
  - 100+ on TOEFL OR
  - 7.5+ on IELTS
There are two ways you can take the EAP exam:

1. **You can take the exam at a COMPASS Testing facility.**

   Before taking the exam, contact the IUPUI Testing Center at +1 317-274-2620 to set up the remote exam. You will take 3 of the 4 test components: Grammar/Usage, Reading, and Listening at the remote site. Then you would take the final component (written essay) once you arrive at IUPUI. **Be aware, you would need to pay the testing fee at both COMPASS locations.**

2. **Take the exam when you arrive at IUPUI.**

   I. *If you will arrive as scheduled on your I-20,* the EAP exam will be included in your International Welcome Week activities. **Be prepared to take the exam on Tuesday, January 5th.**

   II. *If you arrive before the orientation date on your I-20,* you can schedule to take your test early.

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**If you must re-take the EAP exam:**

- **Undergraduate students (Bachelor’s):**
  
  Incoming undergraduate (bachelor’s) students may re-take the EAP exam once (2 exams total). Students should plan at least 6 weeks in between exam re-takes, though you may request an earlier re-take if you believe that travel jetlag impacted your score.

- **Graduate students (Master’s, Ph.D., LLM, DDS):**
  
  Incoming graduate (Master’s, Ph.D., LLM, DDS) students may re-take the EAP exam as follows:
  - Students must re-take the exam before the 2nd week of classes.
  - Results from the 2nd exam will remain as the final score.

  English courses for Graduate students will begin the 2nd week of classes, so students may register in any required English proficiency courses.
### “ALEKS” Math Assessment:

The math assessment and placement tool used at IUPUI is called “ALEKS”: Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces.

ALEKS is *not* a traditional exam; it is a tool to help you find the course where you’ll have the best chance to succeed. This test can be taken *anywhere*, as long as you have an internet connection!

#### How to determine whether you have to take this exam:

If you have taken a math course at a post-secondary institution within the last two years and received transfer credit for a specific IUPUI course in math (as indicated by your transfer credit evaluation), then you do *not* need to take the math placement exam.

However, if you do *not* have previous math credit within the last two years that will transfer to IUPUI: you may decide to take the exam before arriving in Indianapolis. This will help you to begin your math courses at IUPUI sooner. Your academic advisor will not be able to help you select a math course without either a math placement exam score OR previous post-secondary math credit received within the last two years.

#### Helpful Tips!

1. Review your math skills first
2. Take the exam seriously
3. Use the learning modules
4. Re-take the exam if you want to score better

#### You can (and should!) take the math exam more than once:

With the ALEKS math exam, **you can re-test up to 4 times** *(5 tries total)*. After taking the exam, the ALEKS software will provide you with “learning modules” and you are encouraged to use them. The learning modules will help you review material in order to place into the appropriate math course, and they will also make you more likely to succeed in that course!

(Learning Modules are based on your first exam attempt only, so take your first exam attempt seriously.) With the learning modules, you can practice the math problems you did not do well on in order to improve your score the next time you take the exam—allowing you to likely place into a higher math course that will better meet your degree requirements (and save you time and money!).

**Review your math skills prior to taking the exam.** Those who study before the exam typically score much better than those who do not, and have higher chances of being placed into math levels directly required for their degree.
Where to take the math exam:

Visit the [IUPUI Testing Center website](#) to log in to the ALEKS math placement exam and also to access the learning modules (the learning modules become available only after your first exam try). You will log in to the website using your IUPUI university username and passphrase. (Set up your university account [here](#) if you have not already done this.) After you log in to the ALEKS exam system and begin the test, you will have 48 hours to complete your first exam attempt.

If you encounter problems with the ALEKS math placement exam, or have any questions about it, please read the [frequently asked questions](#) and then contact the appropriate person if need be.

ALEKS scores & IUPUI course placement:

[View this chart](#) to see how your ALEKS test score correlates to your placement in IUPUI math courses.

Be aware, there are some skill levels that require students to take courses at a local community college (Ivy Tech) before they are able to take higher math courses at IUPUI. If your placement scores are below 25, contact [iadvisor@iupui.edu](mailto:iadvisor@iupui.edu) for help identifying an academic advisor to best assist you with this.

Good luck with your placement exam(s)!