

# ALEKS PPL Learning Module User Manual

This manual is a concise introduction to the features of the ALEKS PPL Learning Modules.

*Heads up:* The page numbers begin with 13!

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# HOMEPAGE

Students transition to their personal homepage. Upon first time use, students see quick tips that point out important features of the homepage, including the ALEKS Learning Pie and how it works. The number in the center of pie represents the total number of topics the student mastered in the Prep and Learning Module based on their Initial Placement Assessment.

The screenshot shows the ALEKS homepage for a student named Jane. The page header includes the ALEKS logo, the course "Freshman, Winter 2016", and progress indicators: "Mastered: 111", "Learned: 0", and "Remaining: 135". A notification bell and a "Hi, Jane!" greeting are also present.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- UP NEXT:** A blue box with the text "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Variables on..." and a "START MY PATH" button.
- PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT:** A grey box with "View Report" link, "Attempt: 2 of 5", "Time Limit: 48 Hours", and "Unproctored" status. It also shows a "Cool-off Period Ends" at "Sunday 12:41 PM" and "Time Remaining in Learning Module" as "4 hours 59 minutes".
- Module: Prep for PreCalculus:** A central section featuring a "Learning Pie" chart. A tooltip explains: "This is your Learning Pie. It is based on how you performed on your first Placement Assessment. Use it to review material, learn new topics, and prepare to retake your Placement Assessment." The pie chart has a central circle with the number "111".
- Learning Pie Legend:** A list of topics on the right side of the pie chart, each with a colored dot corresponding to a slice in the pie:
  - Real Numbers (30 Topics)
  - Equations and Inequalities (32 Topics)
  - Exponents and Polynomials (44 Topics)
  - Lines and Systems (33 Topics)
  - Functions and Graphs (29 Topics)
  - Rational Expressions (27 Topics)
  - Radical Expressions (26 Topics)
  - Geometry (25 Topics)

Selecting a slice in the Learning Pie opens more information about the slice, including the number of topics Mastered, Learned, and Remaining in each slice.

This screenshot shows the detail view for the "Real Numbers" slice of the Learning Pie. The central circle of the pie chart now displays the number "25".

The "Real Numbers" (30 Topics) slice is highlighted, and a detailed box shows the following statistics:

- Mastered: 25
- Learned: 0
- Remaining: 5

The rest of the Learning Pie legend remains visible on the right side of the screen.

## Key Areas of the Homepage

Below are some key areas of the homepage, and an overview description of each feature. For more details, please select the links to go to the applicable section in this document.

- 1) **Navigation Menu:** Provides access to important features in ALEKS.
- 2) **ALEKS Logo:** Returns students to their homepage from any page in the new Student Module.
- 3) **Cohort Name Display:** Displays the name of the cohort the student is enrolled in.
- 4) **Progress Bar:** Displays the number of topics Mastered, Learned and Remaining in real-time.
- 5) **Notifications:** Students are alerted with real-time notifications such as new messages.
- 6) **Account Settings:** Displays the student's account settings.
- 7) **Next Knowledge Check Indicator:** Displays when the next Knowledge Check will occur.
- 8) **Timeline/Learning Pie:** Students can toggle their view between the timeline to see their progress in the Prep and Learning Module (default view), or the Learning Pie to see their progress within each slice.
- 9) **Primary Guidance Menu:** Contains the primary call to action, which is working on the learning path. It also contains secondary tasks, such as taking additional Placement Assessments or viewing past assessment results.
- 10) **Timeline Marker:** Shows where the student is on the timeline.
- 11) **Timeline Detail:** Students can view their timeline detail and filter their view by week, month, or day.

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## Header Bar

The header bar area allows access to the Navigation Menu, displays the cohort name that the student is enrolled in, provides real-time cohort progress information, Message Center alerts, and access to the student's account settings.

**How to Find It:** Located at the top of first-level pages in the New Student Module.

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## Account Information

Students can access their account settings and log out of ALEKS by selecting their account name in the upper-right corner.

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## Settings

This page contains the student's email address and allows students to change their password.

**How to Find It:** Select the account name in the upper-right corner | Select **Settings**

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## Help

This page contains keyboard shortcuts.

**How to Find It:** Select the account name in the upper-right corner | Select **Help**

## Logout

**How to Find It:** Select the account name in the upper-right corner | Select **Logout**

## Notifications

The header bar displays a counter for real-time notifications and messages from administrators and ALEKS Customer Support. Students are alerted when there is a new notification. A number appears above the bell to show the number of unread notifications. When the bell icon is selected, a box displays a list of chronological notifications with the newest at the top. After viewing the new notification, the number disappears.

**How to Find It:** Located in the header bar at the top of first-level pages in the Student Module.

# WORKING IN THE PREP AND LEARNING MODULE

The Prep and Learning Module is where students practice Ready to Learn topics, and review previously learned and mastered topics to improve their knowledge. Students can start their individualized learning path from the Primary Guidance Menu by selecting **START MY PATH**.

**How to Find It:** Go to the Primary Guidance Menu | Select **START MY PATH**

UP NEXT :

Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Variables on...

START MY PATH

Module: Prep for Expires: 11/09/2016

You're all

Let's get started personalized le

## Learning Page

Before starting to work on a topic, students see a learning page that provides an example of the problem and explains how to solve it.

ALEKS offers quick tips when students encounter a Learning Page for the first time. The first problem in the topic begins after selecting **Start**.

EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES

Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...

QUESTION

Solve for  $w$ .

$$2(w-1) - 4 = -4(-5w+3) - 8w$$

Simplify your answer as much as possible.

EXPLANATION

We can solve the equation as follows.

$$2(w-1) - 4 = -4(-5w+3) - 8w$$
$$2w - 2 - 4 = 20w - 12 - 8w$$

Using the [distributive property](#) to remove parentheses.

$$2w - 6 = 12w - 12$$

Combining [like terms](#) on each side.

$$2w = 12w - 6$$

Adding 6 to each side.

$$-10w = -6$$

Subtracting  $12w$  from each side.

$$w = \frac{-6}{-10}$$

Dividing each side by  $-10$ .

$$w = \frac{3}{5}$$

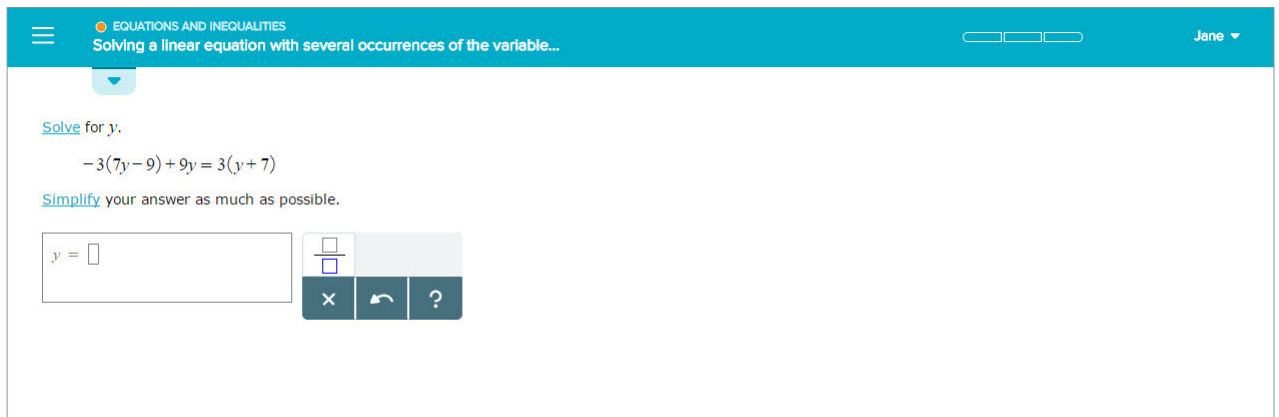
Simplifying.

This is your Learning Page. It is beneficial to review this material before you start learning.

Next

## Example of a Problem in Learning Mode

Below is an example of a problem in the Prep and Learning Module that points out key areas of the page with a description. For more details, please select on the links to go to the applicable section in this document.



The screenshot shows a digital learning interface. At the top, a teal header contains a hamburger menu icon, the text "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" with a small orange circle, and "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". On the right side of the header, there are three empty rectangular boxes and the name "Jane" with a dropdown arrow. Below the header, a blue downward-pointing arrow is visible. The main content area contains the text "Solve for y." followed by the equation  $-3(7y - 9) + 9y = 3(y + 7)$ . Below the equation is the instruction "Simplify your answer as much as possible." At the bottom left, there is a text input field containing "y = ". To the right of the input field is a calculator interface with a display showing a fraction  $\frac{\square}{\square}$  and three buttons: a close button (x), a back button (curved arrow), and a help button (?).

1. **Home:** Returns students to the homepage.
2. **Slice Name.**
3. **Topic Name.**
4. **Topic Carousel Tab:** Opens/closes the Topic Carousel where students can choose other topics to work on.
5. **Underlined Mathematical Terms:** Links to the dictionary. Students can select any term to get a complete definition.
6. **Progress Indicator:** Displays immediate feedback messages and a counter to show how many correct answers students need in a row.
7. **Explanation:** Opens a pop-up with an explanation of how to solve the problem. Using this button does not count against the student's score.
8. **Check:** Checks the answer submitted by the student.

## Resources Available on Problem Pages and Explanation Pages

For help on a problem or Explanation Page, students may have access to learning resources (i.e., tools on the right side of the page) such as the ALEKS dictionary or calculator (when available).

Below is an example showing resources available on a problem in the Prep and Learning Module. Selecting an icon opens a pop-up with more details about the resource.

The screenshot shows the ALEKS interface for the topic "EXONENTS AND POLYNOMIALS" and the subtopic "Scientific notation with negative exponent". The user's name "Jane" is visible in the top right. The page is divided into a "QUESTION" section and an "EXPLANATION" section. The question asks to write  $5.19 \times 10^{-2}$  in standard notation. The explanation details the process of moving the decimal point two places to the left to get 0.0519. A diagram shows the decimal point moving from its original position to the left of the first zero. A "More" button is present next to the equation  $5.19 \times 10^{-2} = 0.0519$ . The answer section states "The answer is 0.0519." On the right side, a "Dictionary" pop-up is open, showing "Additional Terms" such as "Powers of Ten". A "Calculator" icon is also visible in the top right corner.

## Progress Indicator

When students answer a problem in the Prep and Learning Module, they can immediately see how they performed. The progress indicator in the top-right corner displays messages and a counter to show when problems are answered right or wrong.

### How the Progress Indicator Works

Problems are based on a point system. ALEKS considers a topic learned when a student achieves a total of 5 points per topic. The bars in the progress indicator represent how many problems the student needs to answer correctly in a row before the topic is considered learned. The student is then moved on to the next topic in the Topic Carousel. This is helpful for students as they can visually see how close they are to achieving their goal. Students receive one point for each correct answer, and one point subtracted for each incorrect answer. If two problems are answered in a row correctly without using the **Explanation Page**, double credit (2 points) is received. The number of points cannot go below zero.

The progress bars are dynamic and change colors. Bars are shaded in green based on the number of points achieved after a correct answer. The goal is for students to have a fully shaded progress indicator:





The progress indicator changes in an array of colors and moves from yellow to orange, and finally, to red with each incorrect attempt.

Sometimes students may see that their progress indicator contains three bars instead of five; this is normal. ALEKS adjusts the progress bars based on the student's knowledge of the topic. Below are examples to demonstrate how the progress indicator works.



### Example #1: Student Answers an Entire Topic Correctly

**1st Attempt** The student receives the first problem in the topic. The student answers correctly. The following events occur: The message “Excellent! Keep going...” displays by the progress indicator to motivate students

- The first bar on the progress indicator fills in with the color green
- “+1” point is displayed by the progress indicator
- “Correct” is displayed on the page
- The “Next” button moves the student to a new problem in the current topic

The screenshot shows the ALEKS interface for the topic "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES". The current problem is "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". The progress indicator at the top right shows five bars, with the first bar filled green and a "+1" point icon next to it. The message "Excellent! Keep going..." is displayed above the progress indicator. The user's name "Jane" is visible in the top right corner. The main content area shows a "Correct" message in a green bubble. Below this, the instruction "Solve for x." is followed by the equation  $\frac{5x+4}{6} = \frac{x-3}{7} + 8$ . A note says "Simplify your answer as much as possible." The input field contains "x = 10". To the right of the input field is a calculator icon. At the bottom of the interface is a green "Next" button.

**2nd Attempt** The student answers the problem correctly without selecting Explanation. The following events occur:

The message “2 in a row! Double credit!” displays by the progress indicator to congratulate the student

- The next two bars on the progress indicator fill in with the color green
- “+2” points are displayed by the progress indicator
- “Correct” is displayed on the page
- The “Next” button moves the student to a new problem in the current topic

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, the title is "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and the problem is "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". The progress indicator shows "2 in a row! Double credit!" with a "+2" points icon. A "Correct" message is displayed in a green bubble. The problem asks to solve for  $v$  in the equation  $\frac{7v-4}{2} = 30 - \frac{3v+8}{8}$ . The instruction is to "Simplify your answer as much as possible." The student's answer is  $v = 8$ . A "Next" button is visible at the bottom.

**3rd Attempt** On the next problem the student answers correctly. The following events occur:

- The message “3 in a row!” displays by the progress indicator to congratulate the student
- The last two bars on the progress indicator fill in with the color green
- “+2” points are displayed by the progress indicator
- Correct is displayed on the page
- The “Next” button student moves the student to the next topic in the Topic Carousel

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, the title is "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and the problem is "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". The progress indicator shows "3 in a row!" with a "+2" points icon. A "Correct" message is displayed in a green bubble. The problem asks to solve for  $w$  in the equation  $\frac{5w-3}{2} + \frac{9w-4}{5} = 2$ . The instruction is to "Simplify your answer as much as possible." The student's answer is  $w = 1$ . A "Next" button is visible at the bottom.



## Example #2: Student Answers an Entire Topic Incorrectly

**1st Attempt** The student receives the problem below and answers incorrectly. The following events occur:

- The message “Try again...” displays by the progress indicator
- “Try Again” is displayed on the page
- The student has another attempt at the same problem in the current topic
- The “Check” button is replaced with “Re-Check”

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, it says "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". There is a "Try again..." button and a progress indicator. A red "Try Again" button is visible. The problem asks to solve for  $u$  in the equation  $-\frac{4}{5}u + \frac{2}{5} = -5u - \frac{1}{3}$ . The student has entered  $u = 2$  in the input field. Below the input field are buttons for "x", "undo", and "?". At the bottom, there are buttons for "Explanation" and "Re-Check".

**2nd Attempt** The student answers incorrectly. The following events occur:

- The progress indicator turns yellow
- “Incorrect. Try reading the explanation first, then continue” is displayed on the page
- The Explanation Page for the current problem is shown
- After two missed attempts at the same problem, the “Continue” button takes the student to a new instance of the problem in the current topic

The screenshot shows an explanation page for the same math problem. At the top, it says "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". There is a yellow progress indicator and a "Jane" dropdown. A red message box says "Incorrect. Try reading the explanation first, then continue." Below this is a "QUESTION" section with the same equation and instructions. The "EXPLANATION" section starts with "We first eliminate all the fractions in the equation. To do this, we multiply both sides of the equation by the LCD of the fractions." It then states "The LCD of  $\frac{4}{5}$ ,  $\frac{2}{5}$ , and  $\frac{1}{3}$  is 15." and "So, we multiply both sides by 15." followed by the equation  $15\left(-\frac{4}{5}u + \frac{2}{5}\right) = 15\left(-5u - \frac{1}{3}\right)$ . It then says "We then apply the distributive property and simplify." followed by the equation  $15\left(-\frac{4}{5}u\right) + 15\left(\frac{2}{5}\right) = 15(-5u) - 15\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$  and  $-12u + 6 = -75u - 5$ . Finally, it says "Finally, we solve this last equation for  $u$ ." followed by the equations  $-12u + 75u + 6 = -5$  and  $-12u + 75u = -5 - 6$ . There is a "How do we find the LCD?" callout box.

**3rd Attempt** The student receives a new instance of the problem. The student answers incorrectly. The following events occur:

- The message “Try again...” displays by the progress indicator
- “Try Again” is displayed on the page
- The student has another attempt at the same problem in the current topic
- The “Check” button is replaced with “Re-Check”

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, it says "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". The user's name "Jane" is in the top right. A progress indicator shows two yellow bars. A red "Try Again" button is visible. The problem asks to solve for  $u$  in the equation  $5u - \frac{1}{4} = -\frac{7}{3}u - \frac{5}{3}$ . Below the equation, it says "Simplify your answer as much as possible." The input field contains  $u = 4$ . At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Explanation" and "Re-Check".

**4th Attempt** The student answers incorrectly. The following events occur:

- The progress indicator turns orange
- “Incorrect. Try reading the explanation first, then continue” is displayed on the page
- The Explanation Page for the current problem is shown
- After two missed attempts at the same problem, the “Continue” button takes the student to a new instance of the problem in the current topic

The screenshot shows the "Explanation Page" for the same math problem. The progress indicator is now orange. A red message box says "Incorrect. Try reading the explanation first, then continue." The problem text is repeated. Below the problem, there is an "EXPLANATION" section. It starts with "We first eliminate all the fractions in the equation. To do this, we multiply both sides of the equation by the LCD of the fractions." It then states "The LCD of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{3}$ , and  $\frac{5}{3}$  is 12." and "So, we multiply both sides by 12." followed by the equation  $12\left(5u - \frac{1}{4}\right) = 12\left(-\frac{7}{3}u - \frac{5}{3}\right)$ . It then says "We then apply the distributive property and simplify." followed by the equation  $12(5u) - 12\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = 12\left(-\frac{7}{3}u\right) - 12\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)$  and  $60u - 3 = -28u - 20$ . Finally, it says "Finally, we solve this last equation for  $u$ ." followed by the equation  $60u + 28u - 3 = -20$  and  $60u + 28u = -20 + 3$ . There is a "How do we find the LCD?" callout box.

**5th Attempt** The student receives a new instance of the problem. The student answers incorrectly. The following events occur:

- The progress indicator turns red
- “Let’s Take a Break. Your answer is incorrect.” is displayed on the page
- The correct answer is presented on the page
- The “**Work on Something Else**” button, directs the student to take a break from the current topic he/she is struggling with and try a new one. The current topic is moved to the last card in the Topic Carousel and the student starts on the next topic in the carousel.

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, it says "EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES" and "Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable...". A progress indicator shows 3 out of 5 bars. A message box says "Let's Take a Break" and "Your answer is incorrect." The correct answer is given as  $u = -\frac{52}{45}$ . Below this, the problem asks to "Solve for u." and shows the equation  $-\frac{5}{4}u - 4 = \frac{5}{2}u + \frac{1}{3}$ . It then asks to "Simplify your answer as much as possible." The student's answer is  $u = 3$ . A button at the bottom says "Work on Something Else".

### Example #3: Student Answers a Topic with a Combination of Correct and Incorrect Answers

Below are examples of the progress indicator when points are added or deducted from the total points received.

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, it says "REAL NUMBERS" and "Finding the original price given the sale price and percent discount". A progress indicator shows 4 out of 5 bars, with the 4th bar filled and a "+1" icon. A message box says "Correct". The problem text is: "At a sale, a suit is being sold for 29% of the regular price. The sale price is \$284.20. What is the regular price?" The student's answer is "\$980". There are buttons for "x", "↶", and "?".

The screenshot shows a math problem interface. At the top, it says "REAL NUMBERS" and "Finding the original price given the sale price and percent discount". A progress indicator shows 1 out of 5 bars, with the 1st bar filled and a "-1" icon. A message box says "Try Again". The problem text is: "A table is on sale for \$342, which is 28% less than the regular price. What is the regular price?" The student's answer is "\$6". There are buttons for "x", "↶", and "?".

One point is received for each problem answered correctly. Double credit (2 points) is received when two problems in a row are answered correctly without selecting Explanation. One point is subtracted from the point total when a problem is answered incorrectly.

## EXPLANATION PAGE

Students can view a detailed explanation of how to solve the problem after selecting **Explanation**. Blue underlined words within the explanation link to the dictionary.

The screenshot shows the 'EXPLANATION PAGE' for the problem 'Simplify.  $(-3x^3y^4)^2$ '. The page is titled 'EXONENTS AND POLYNOMIALS' and 'Power rules with positive exponents'. It is for a user named 'Jane'. The page is divided into three sections: QUESTION, EXPLANATION, and ANSWER.

**QUESTION:** Simplify.  $(-3x^3y^4)^2$ . Write your answer without parentheses.

**EXPLANATION:** We simplify the expression as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} (-3x^3y^4)^2 &= (-3)^2(x^3)^2(y^4)^2 && \text{By the power of a product rule} \\ &= 9x^6y^8 && \text{By the power of a power rule} \end{aligned}$$

**ANSWER:** The answer is  $9x^6y^8$ .

## Topic Carousel

In the Prep and Learning Module, students can access the Topic Carousel by selecting the downward arrow tab. Topics are sorted from easiest to hardest so students first work on topics with the highest likelihood of being learned and retained. Each topic has its own card containing the slice name, the topic name, and attributes (if any). The Topic Carousel shows three cards at a time and is easy to scroll through by using the scroll bar or back/forward arrow. ALEKS offers quick tips when students encounter the Topic Carousel for the first time.

The screenshot shows the 'Ready to Learn' section of the ALEKS interface. It displays three topic cards in a carousel format. The first card is 'Equations and Inequalities' with the description 'Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Variables on both sides and fractional coefficients'. The second card is 'Radical Expressions' with the description 'Square root addition or subtraction'. The third card is also 'Radical Expressions' with the description 'Square root of a perfect square monomial'. A tooltip message says: 'These cards list your easier Ready to Learn topics first. To select a topic, choose a card.' with a 'Got It' button. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Ready to Learn', '52 Topics', 'Filters', and the user name 'Jane'.

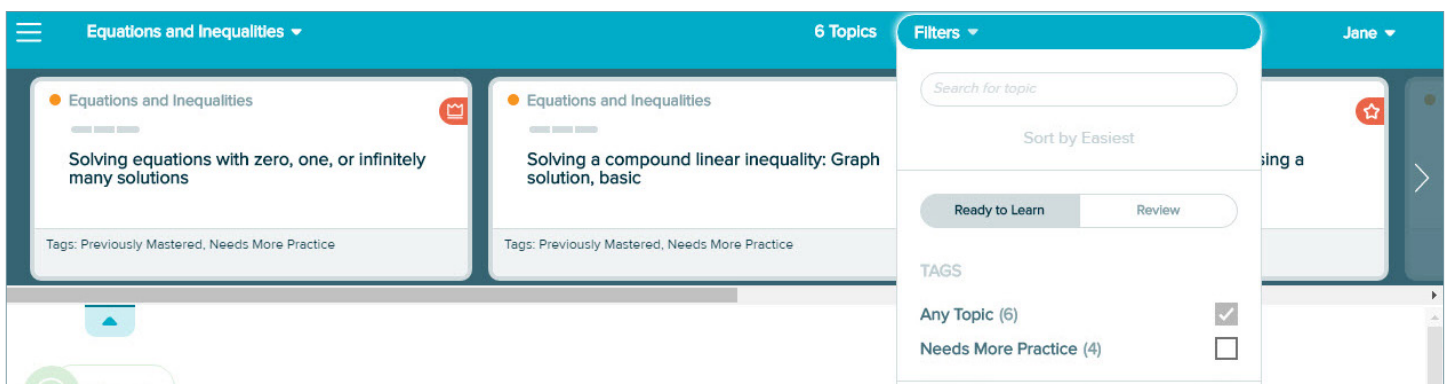
**How to Find It:** Go to Learning Mode | Select the Topic **Carousel pull-down** tab

Below are some key areas of the Topic Carousel with an overview description of each area. More details about each feature are provided in respective sections in this document.

- 1) **Home:** Returns students to the homepage.
- 2) **Ready to Learn Drop-Down Menu:** Allows students to see progress in Ready to Learn pie slices. It is also used to navigate to other pie slices.
- 3) **Slice Name.**
- 4) **Progress Indicator:** Shows how much progress the student has made on the topic and matches the progress indicator in the Prep and Learning Module.
- 5) **Topic Name.**
- 6) **Topic Icons:** Appear as applicable to display quick information about the topic. Selecting the icon slides it to the left and displays the icon label.
- 7) **Tags:** Topics are tagged to display attributes (if any). (e.g., Previously Mastered, Needs More Practice).
- 8) **Topic Carousel Tab:** Opens/closes the Topic Carousel.
- 9) **Number of Topics:** Displays the number of topics that are loaded in the Topic Carousel.
- 10) **Topic Carousel Filter:** Opens a filter menu to allow students to sort or filter the Topic Carousel by tags.
- 11) **Right Arrow:** Use to scroll through a set of three topics at a time. Tip: Double clicking or tapping on the arrows go to the start/end of the list.
- 12) **Scroll:** Use to quickly scroll through topics.

## How to Switch Topics

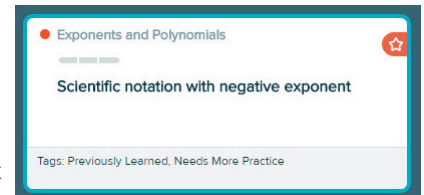
Topics can be switched at any time by selecting a new topic card in the **Topic Carousel**. After selecting a card, a sample problem is available for preview in the bottom half of the window. Students can begin working on the new topic after selecting **Start** from the Learning Page or the Preview.



**Note:** Switching topics mid-way through working on a topic will not cause students to lose their work. ALEKS remembers the progress made on the topic and the next time students return to that topic, they can resume where they left off.

## TOPIC CAROUSEL FILTER

The Topic Carousel is useful for filtering specific topics, reordering topics in the carousel, or filtering topics by specific attributes, such as needs more practice, goal topic, etc. Students can also enter words to search for topics by name. Topics are tagged to display attributes (if any). Here is an example of a topic that is tagged with attributes.

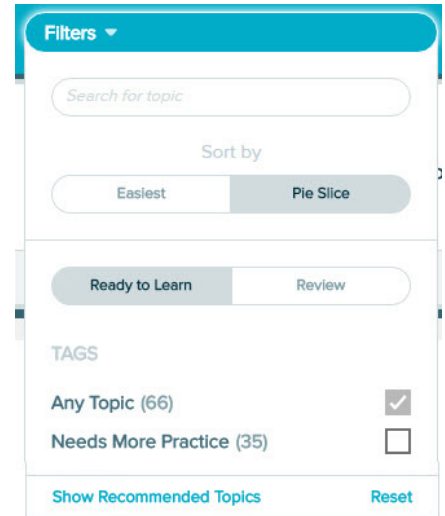


**How to Find It:** Go to Learning Mode | Select **Filters** in the upper-right corner

By default, the Topic Carousel is sorted from the easiest to hardest Ready to Learn topics. However, if students prefer to work on Ready to Learn topics by pie slice, they can use the filter to reorder the Topic Carousel by selecting Pie Slice.

By default, the **Show All Topics** filter is selected to show all Ready to Learn topics in the Topic Carousel. Students can select **Show Recommended Topics** to filter the Topic Carousel to approximately 30 topics and focus on a limited amount of problems.

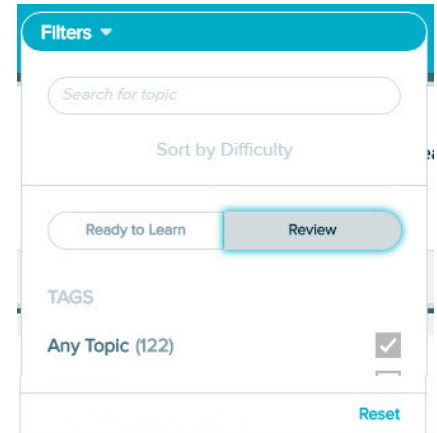
**Note:** The sort setting is saved until a change is made, meaning that if the filter default settings are modified, they will remain as such until the student resets or updates the filter or logs out of ALEKS.



## REVIEW FILTER

By default, the Topic Carousel displays Ready to Learn topics. However, if students want to review and practice previously learned and mastered topics, they can use the filter to load the Topic Carousel with review topics by selecting Review.

**How to Find It:** Go to the Prep and Learning Module | Select **Filters** | Select **Review**

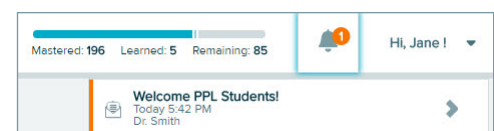


## NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications appear on the homepage or in Learning Mode. The notification appears in the upper-right corner of the page the student is currently on.

Most notifications are actionable and students can navigate to the corresponding content by selecting on the notification. For example, students can select on a new message notification to open the message in the ALEKS Message Center.

Notifications must be closed with the **X** button. They do not close on their own and will stay open until closed by the student or when the student navigates to a different screen.

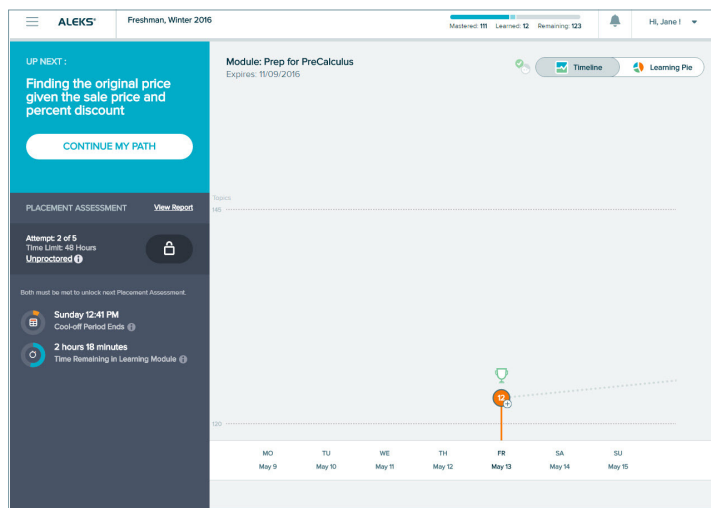


# TIMELINE AND ALEKS PIE

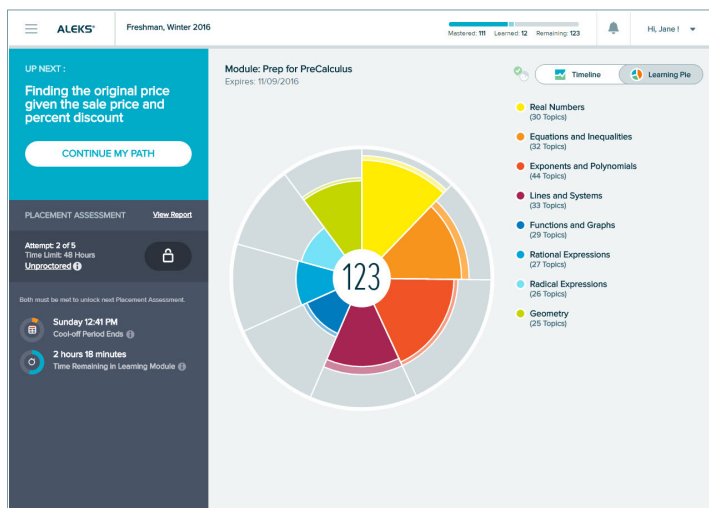
There are two different views for the homepage: **Timeline** or **Learning Pie**. Students can toggle between views and choose their default view by selecting a tab. This view will be displayed on their homepage each time they log into ALEKS; the display can be changed at any time.

**How to Find It:** Located on the upper-right side of the homepage.

## Timeline



## Learning Pie

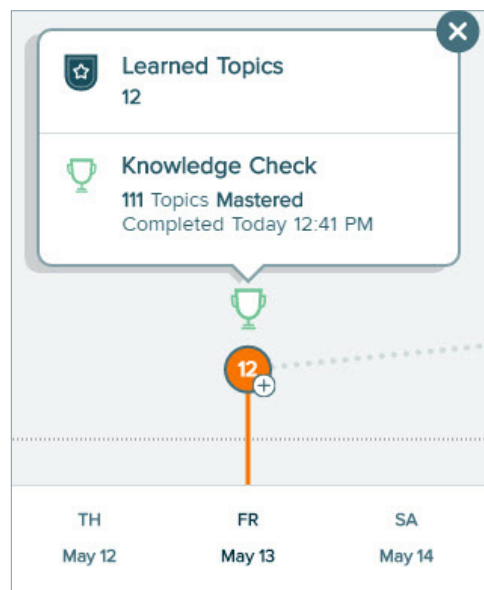


## Timeline

The timeline is a visual tool that graphs students' progress and growth over time. The timeline shows only work completed in the Prep and Learning Module, and not in the Placement Assessments. It helps students understand how to achieve learning goals and reach milestones. Students can use the timeline to view what they worked on in the past and where they are at on the timeline so that they can plan their work accordingly. As students learn or lose topics, the timeline is updated with real-time information.

**How to Find It:** Go to the homepage | Select the **Timeline** button

- 1) The orange marker depicts the student's progress today.
- 2) The timeline is intended to show information at a macro level. Students can select on points on the graph to access information.
- 3) Selecting the orange marker shows what was completed on that day.



## Learning Pie

The Learning Pie provides an opportunity for students to see their overall progress toward completion of the Prep and Learning Module. Slices represent topic categories. Mastered, Learned, and Remaining topics are shown as different colors within each slice. Each pie slice is color-coded to match up with learning progress information shown in the list next to the Learning Pie. The darker color in the slice represents topics Mastered; the lighter color represents topics Learned, and the outer space without color represents the topics Remaining to be learned and mastered.

**How to Find It:** Go to the homepage | Select the **Learning Pie** button

### Learning Progress Information

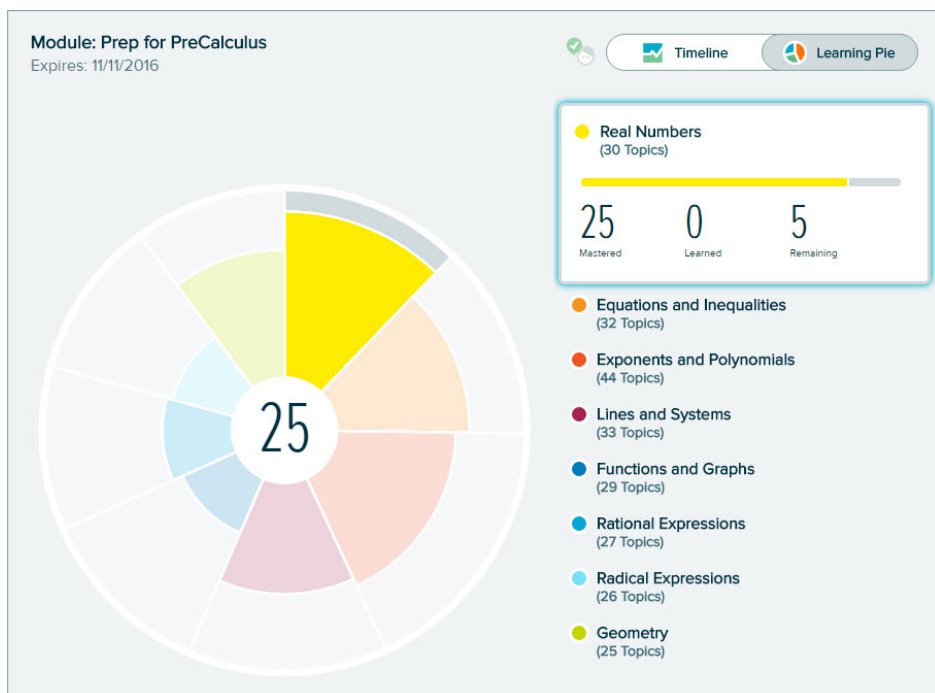
Students can view their real-time learning progress information by selecting a pie slice. The area to the right is a legend that updates with the slice name and the number of topics Mastered, Learned, and Remaining in each category for the correlated slice. The delineation is helpful for understanding that topics learned in the Prep and Learning Module are not considered mastered until retention is demonstrated in a **Knowledge Check**.

**Mastered**—The number of topics the student has demonstrated mastery of in a Knowledge Check.

**Learned**—The number of topics that the student has practiced successfully in the Prep and Learning Module, but has not yet been assessed on through a Knowledge Check.

**Remaining**—The number of topics the student has left to learn.

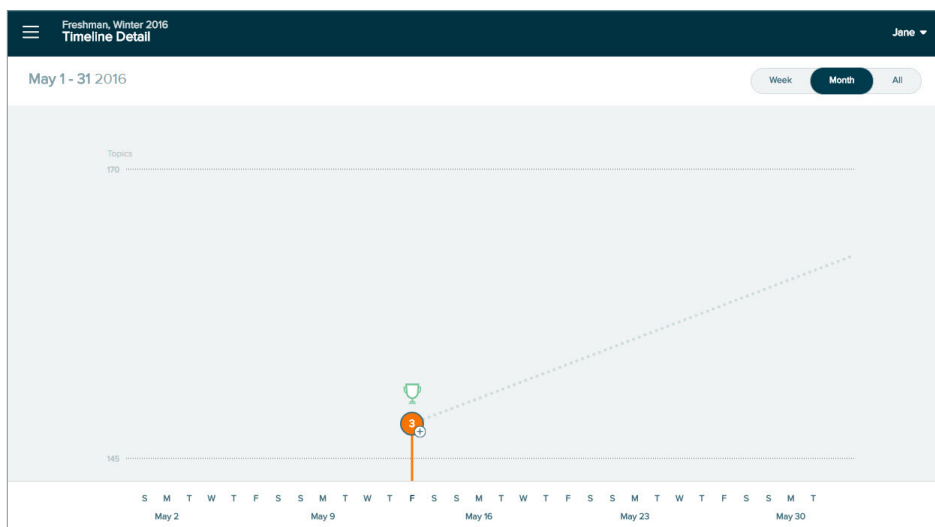
The number in the middle of the Learning Pie is a counter that represents the number of topics the student has **mastered plus learned**.



### TIMELINE DETAIL BUTTON

This view of the timeline provides a more detailed full-screen view and longer time range than the timeline shown on the homepage. Students can filter their timeline view by day, week, or month.

**How to Find It:** The Timeline Detail button is located on the bottom-right corner of the homepage





# HOW TO NAVIGATE

There are two ways to navigate the New Student Module: The Primary Guidance Menu and the Navigation Menu, indicated on the upper-left corner of the screen by this icon: ☰

## Primary Guidance Menu

The Primary Guidance Menu is the most important area on the homepage because it contains what the student should work on next. Generally, the most important task for students is to continue on their personalized learning path. Items that appear in this menu are contextual to each student's unique learning path and update according to priority, which also include Knowledge Checks. Students are directed to the task by buttons that appear on the Primary Guidance Menu.

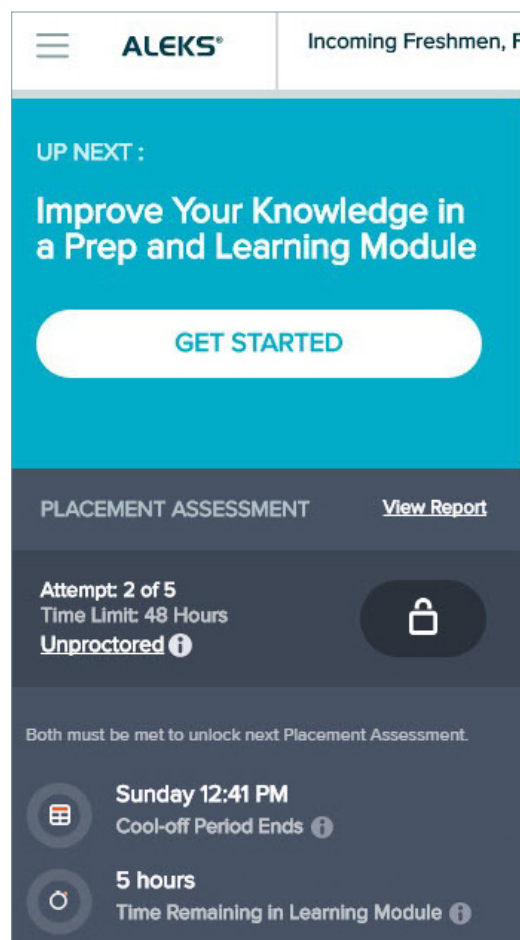
The Primary Guidance Menu also contains secondary tasks which allow students to retake Placement Assessments when they become available and view past Placement Assessment Results.

**How to Find It:** Locate the blue navigation bar on the student's homepage

The Primary Guidance Menu is broken down as follows:

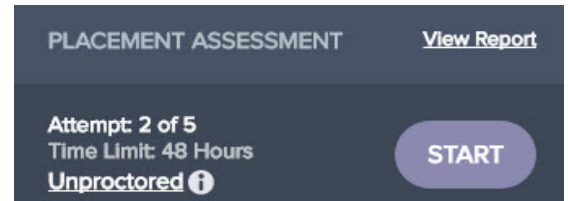
1) **UP NEXT**—Contains buttons such as **START MY PATH/CONTINUE MY PATH** primary call to action buttons to direct students to the Prep and Learning Module where they will practice problems that they are Ready to Learn.

2) **Placement Assessment**—This section contains additional Placement Assessment attempts, if any. By default, Placement Assessments are locked until students meet the requirements set up by their institution to unlock the next attempt. For example, in the screenshot to the right, the student is informed that the next Placement Assessment is available after meeting both requirements: spending 5 hours in the Prep and Learning Module AND after the cool off period has ended on Sunday at 12:41 PM.



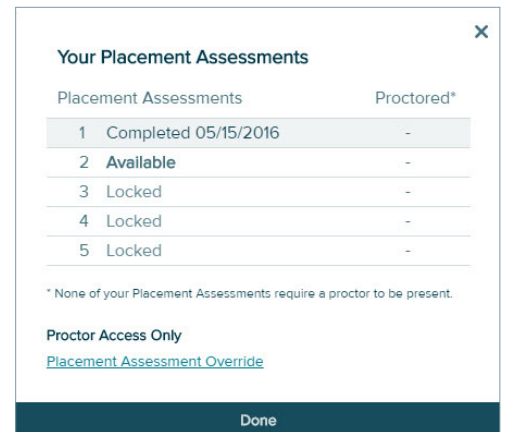
## Unlocking Placement Assessments

After students meet the requirements to unlock the next Placement Assessment, the lock icon will be replaced with a START button.



## Proctored vs Unproctored Placement Assessments

Students can view details about their Placement Assessments and if future assessments are proctored or unproctored by selecting the Proctored/Unproctored link. A pop-up box appears which displays the total number of Placement Assessments in the cohort and their status: Completed, Available, or Locked.



**Your Placement Assessments** ✕

Placement Assessments	Proctored*
1 Completed 05/15/2016	-
2 Available	-
3 Locked	-
4 Locked	-
5 Locked	-

\* None of your Placement Assessments require a proctor to be present.

Proctor Access Only  
[Placement Assessment Override](#)

Done

## NAVIGATION MENU

The left-side navigation menu (☰) provides access to features in the New Student Module.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | The menu slides open to display menu options | Close the menu by selecting the X or selecting the menu icon again.

### Home

When the menu is open, students can return to their homepage by selecting **Home**.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Home**

## Learn

Takes students to the Prep and Learning Module where they can practice topics.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Learn**

## Review

Takes students to review mode where they can practice previously mastered and learned topics.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Review**

## Reports

Takes students to their Reports Dashboard

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Reports**

## Message Center

Students have access to the ALEKS Message Center. Students can only send messages to ALEKS Customer Support, but can also receive messages from their Placement Administrator.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Message Center**

## Dictionary

Students can search an online dictionary of terms relevant to their course subject.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Dictionary**

## Manage My Classes (Student Account Home)

Students can manage their Placement Cohorts from their Student Account Home. The Account Home groups all cohorts and ALEKS classes for a single student under the same umbrella account, meaning students can manage past and current cohorts and sign up for more ALEKS classes within their umbrella account. With Student Account Home, students have one ALEKS login name and password for all their ALEKS classes. Current and previous cohorts /classes are listed and include options to sign up for new classes, switch classes, etc.

The screenshot shows the ALEKS interface for a student named Jane. At the top right, it says "Hi, Jane!". The main heading is "My Classes" with a "+ NEW CLASS" button. Below this, there are two sections: "Active (2)" and "Inactive (0)". Under "Active (2)", there are two class entries for Mountain High College. The first is "Incoming Freshman Spring Cohort- Tracy Smith, Spring 2016 / Higher Education Math Placement" with details: Last Login: 05/10/2016, Placement End Date: 09/30/2016, Latest Placement Result: 51, and Prep and Learning Module End Date: 11/06/2016. The second is "Incoming Freshmen, Fall 2016 / Higher Education Math Placement" with details: Last Login: 05/15/2016, Placement End Date: 12/16/2016, Latest Placement Result: 51, and Prep and Learning Module End Date: 11/03/2016. Both active class entries have a "Show Details" link. The "Inactive (0)" section states "There are no inactive classes."

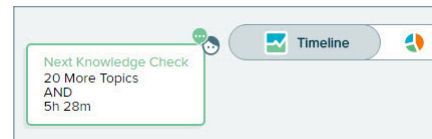
**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Manage My Classes**

# PROGRESS KNOWLEDGE CHECK

Within the Prep and Learning Module, students are prompted to complete Knowledge Checks to confirm mastery of topics learned.

## Next Knowledge Check Indicator

The Knowledge Check indicator is always available and located on the homepage. This indicator allows students to check when their next Knowledge Check will occur so that they are not surprised, and they have time to prepare for it. Selecting the indicator expands the box and displays information about the Knowledge Check, including the number of topics that must be completed and the time spent in ALEKS before a Knowledge Check triggers.

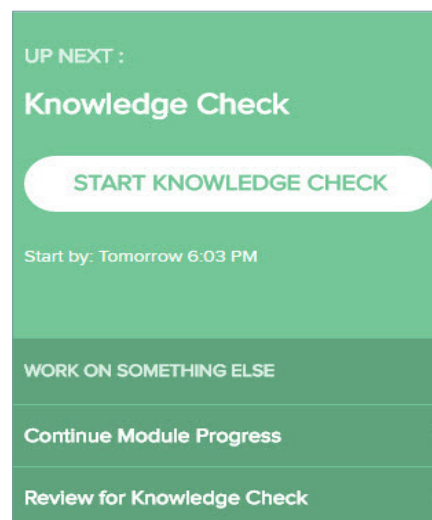


When it is time for a Knowledge Check, a notification appears in the Prep and Learning Module or on the homepage. Students have up to 24 hours to start the Knowledge Check. During the 24 hours, students can continue working in the Prep and Learning Module, start the Knowledge Check, or prepare for the Knowledge Check by reviewing previously learned and mastered topics through the Review feature. Students can easily navigate to those pages by selecting on the provided links from the Primary Guidance Menu.

## Starting a Knowledge Check

Students can begin a Knowledge Check from the Primary Guidance Menu by selecting on **START KNOWLEDGE CHECK**.

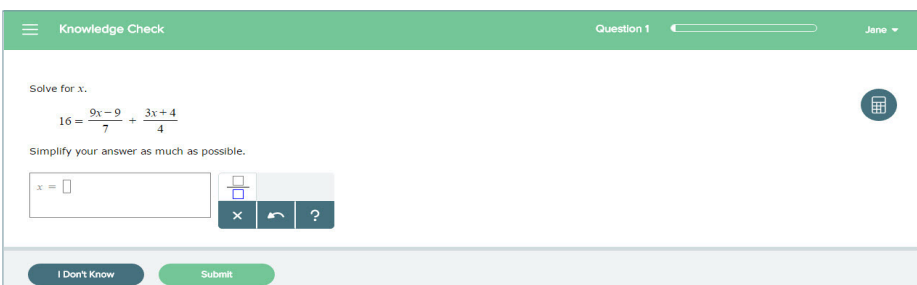
If they are prompted while working in Learning Mode, they can start the Knowledge Check through the **Start Knowledge Check** button.



## Review for Knowledge Check

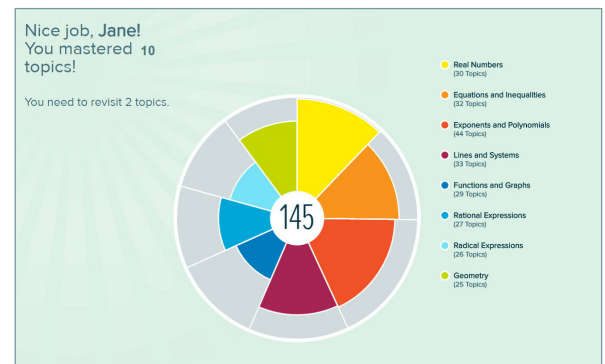
Students can optionally review previously mastered and learned topics through the Primary Guidance Menu or Review link from the left navigation Menu.

In Review Mode, students will begin working on previously mastered or learned topics.



## Topics Lost in Knowledge Check

After completing a Knowledge Check, students may gain or lose topics from their mastery count. This is normal as the Knowledge Check is meant to ensure learning retention, and students do not retain everything they learn. The topics in the Learning Pie are updated after a Knowledge Check to show the student's current knowledge state. The topics lost in Knowledge Check are tagged as **Needs More Practice**. In general, ALEKS will automatically queue up these topics in the beginning of the **Topic Carousel** to help students quickly relearn them.



## Review Topics Lost in Knowledge Check (Needs More Practice)

### Needs More Practice Filter

If students want to practice the topics that were lost in a Knowledge Check, they can use the Needs More Practice filter in Learning Mode.

**How to Find It:** From the Topic Carousel, select **Filters** | Select **Needs More Practice**

### Needs More Practice Sample Problems

From their Reports dashboard, students can view the Needs More Practice tile to see the topics they need more practice on. Selecting a topic displays a pop-up with a sample of the problem.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Reports** | Locate the Needs More Practice tile

Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Fractional forms with binomial numerators

? SAMPLE QUESTION

Solve for  $u$ .

$$\frac{6u-4}{3} - \frac{9u-2}{6} = 3$$

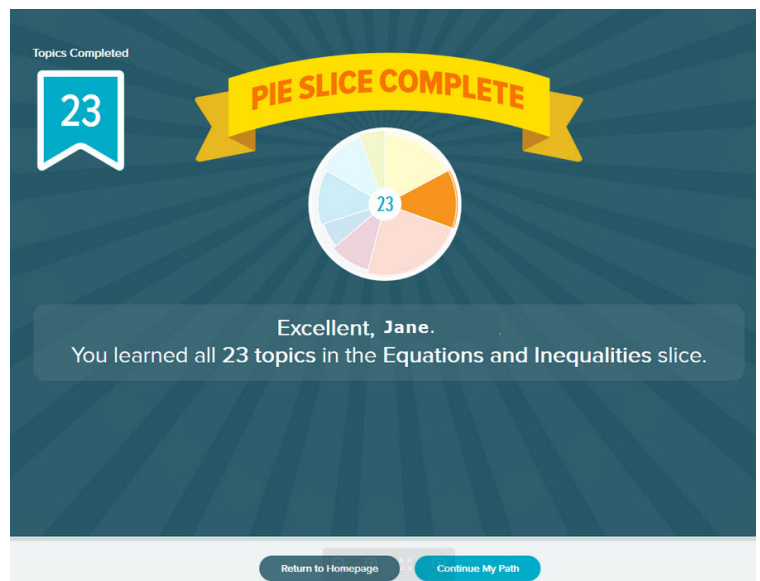
Simplify your answer as much as possible.

# CELEBRATION

When students complete milestones such as Topic goals, ALEKS acknowledges their accomplishments by displaying congratulatory messages. Feedback is given to highlight all the topics the student has learned.

Below are some examples of various celebration pages:

## Pie Slice Completion



## Learning Streak



# REPORTS

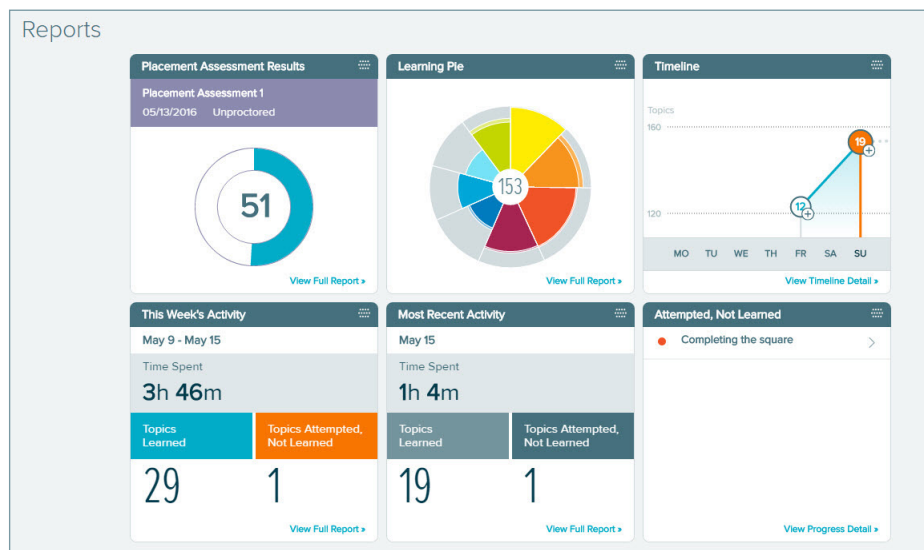
Reports can be accessed through the Reports dashboard. A dashboard displays snapshots that provide quick overviews of important data applicable to students. Students can use the dashboard to navigate to pages containing more detail regarding the information listed on the dashboard tile.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Reports** | From the Report dashboard, select **View Full Report** on the applicable tile

The tiles can be moved around on the page and placed in order of importance by selecting the tiles icon in the upper-right corner of each tile to move it into a new position on the page or onto the second page.

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Reports**

Below are examples of the tiles on a student's dashboard.



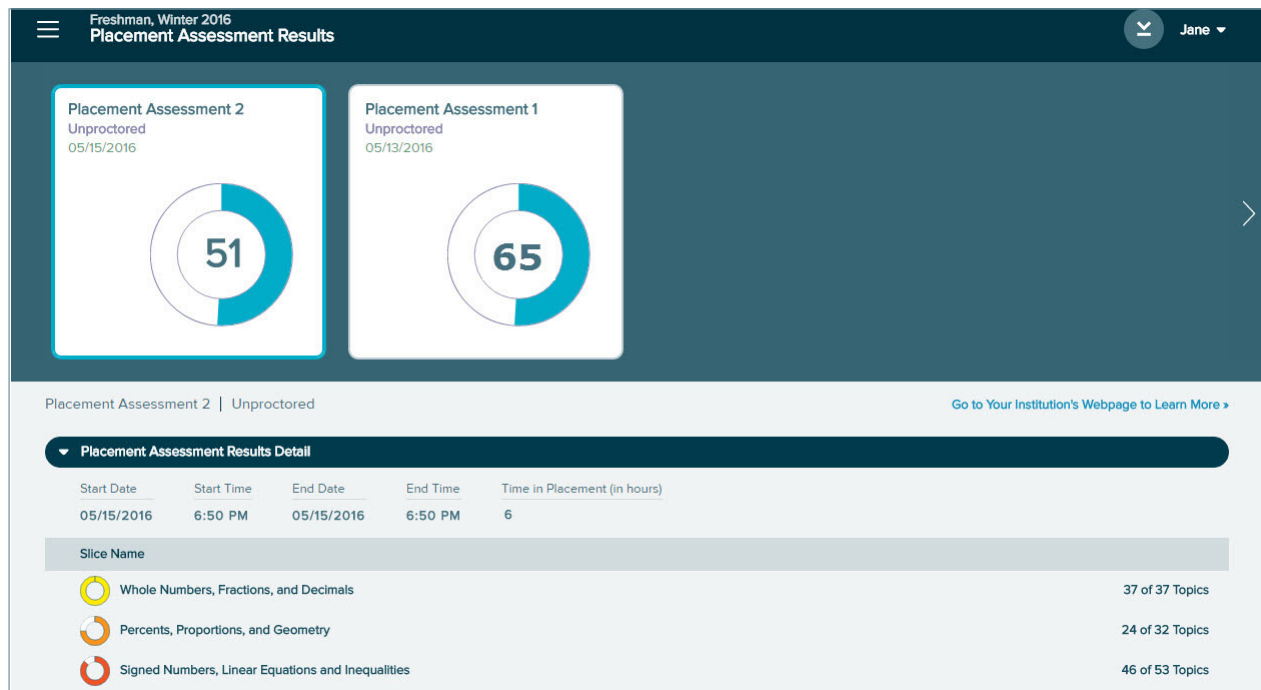
## Most Common Reports

Reports provide students with reflection on how they performed on past activities and allow them to see their class progress. Popular reports viewed are the Placement Assessment Results, Learning Pie, Learning Progress History, and Learning Time and Topic reports

**How to Find It:** Select the menu in the upper-left corner | Select **Reports** | From the Report dashboard, select **View Full Report** on the applicable tile

## Placement Assessment Results

This report shows the student's result on Placement Assessments taken, cut score information, Placement Assessment details, and the slice names. Students can also select the provided link to navigate to their institution's placement webpage.

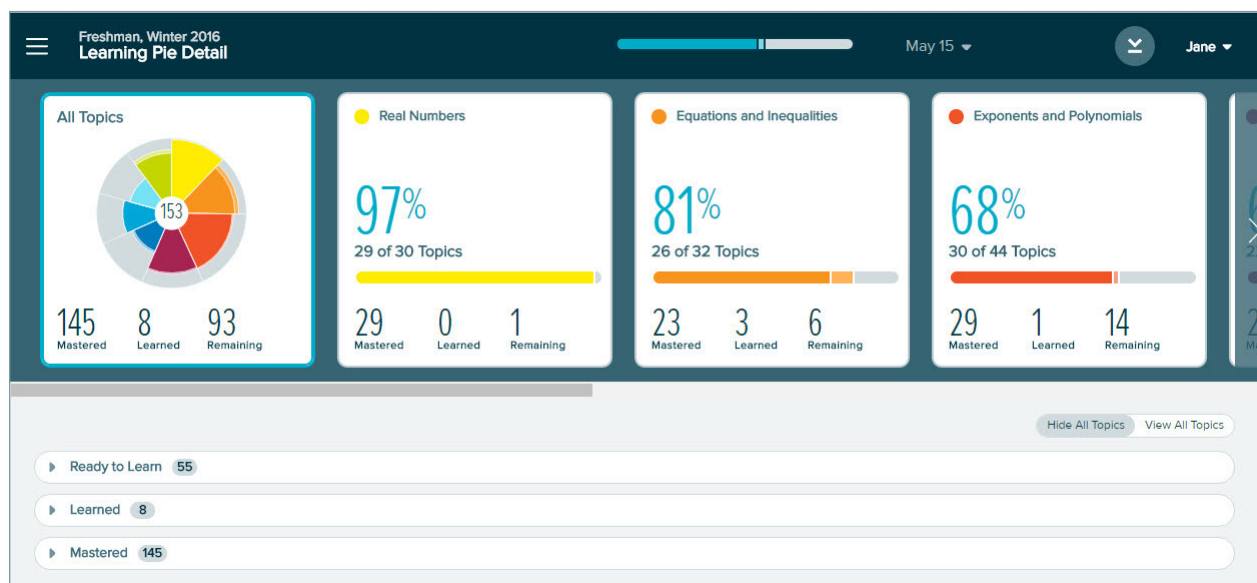


## Learning Pie

This report shows the Learning Pie progress broken down by the topics the student has Mastered, Learned, and Remaining in each pie slice.

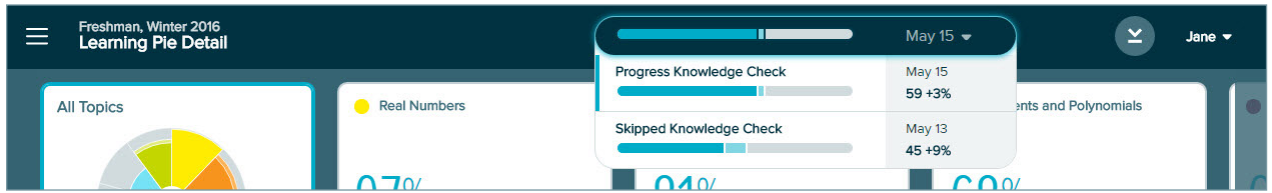
**How to Find It:** From the Report dashboard, locate the Learning Pie tile | Select **View Full Report**

Category headings can be expanded to view progress and sample problems from the Ready to Learn, Learned, or Mastered categories.





The drop-down menu at the top of the report displays progress in Knowledge Checks. Students can use this drop-down to track how they have performed across all Knowledge Checks in their Prep and Learning Module.

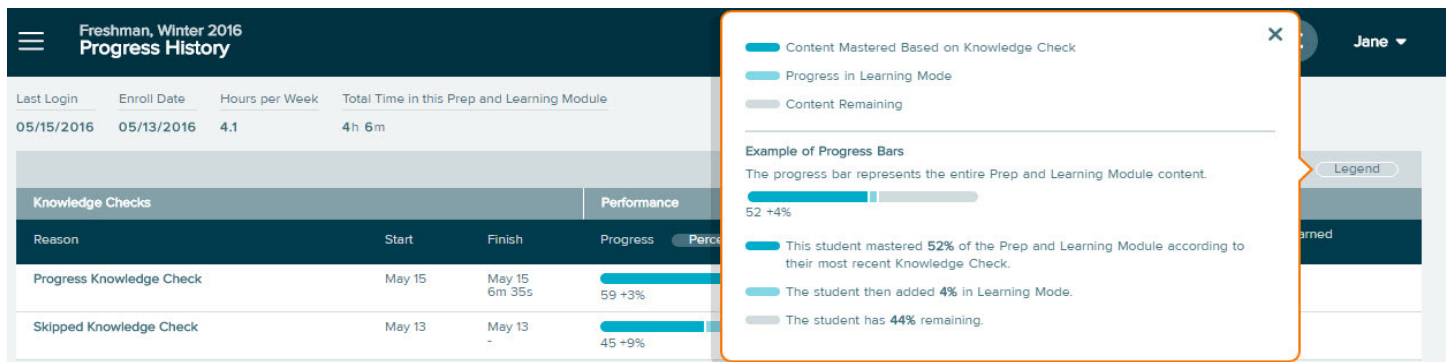


## Learning Progress History

Students can see their progress on Knowledge Checks and in the Prep and Learning Module

**How to Find It:** From the Report dashboard, locate the Progress History tile | Select **View All**

Selecting on the Legend above the report opens a pop-up legend that displays the meaning of the colors in the progress bar.



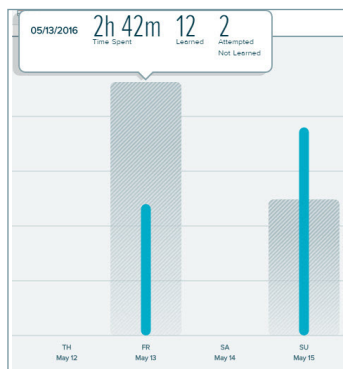
## Learning Time and Topic

This report helps students see their accomplishments, including a daily breakdown of time spent in the Prep and Learning Module. The view can be adjusted to a weekly, monthly, cumulative view, or a specific date range.

**How to Find It:** From the report dashboard, locate the This Week's Activity tile | Select **View Full Report**



- 1) Hovering over the bars shows a snapshot of how much time was spent and which topics were learned vs. attempted on that day.
- 2) Students can select on a bar to see the Learning Sequence Log, which shows the sequence of actions they took to learn the topic.
- 3) The exact problems practiced and the answers entered can be viewed from the Learning Sequence Log.
- 4) Selecting the magnifying glass shows the student's answer and the correct answer if different.



05/13/2016 12 Learned | 2 Attempted, Not Learned | 2h 42m

Duration	Topic	Status
3:06 PM   9m 35s	Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Variables on both sides and two distributions	Attempted
3:11 PM   4m 46s	Solving a decimal word problem using a linear equation of the form $Ax + B = C$	Learned
3:16 PM   0m 8s	Solving a linear equation with several occurrences of the variable: Variables on both sides and two distributions	Learned
3:16 PM   0m 7s	Graphing a line through a given point with a given slope	Learned

3:16 PM | 0m 7s | Graphing a line through a given point with a given slope

Lesson

3:16 PM | 0m 1s