

TIPS FOR LEARNING EFFECTIVELY AND GETTING THE GRADE YOU WANT Fall 13

A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT CAN BRING BIG GAINS:

- More than 75% of last year's students would have got a B- or better if they had worked just **ONE MORE HOUR A WEEK** in ALEKS.
- Fewer than 10% would have failed the course if they had worked just **ONE MORE HOUR A WEEK** in ALEKS.

LEARNING GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS:

- Aim to learn **20 – 25 topics a week**.
- Aim to learn **3 – 5 topics an hour**.
 - If you consistently learn fewer than 2 topics an hour, you are going too slowly. Please see your instructor for help and advice.
 - If you consistently learn more than 6 topics an hour, you may be going too fast to learn well.
- Aim to work at least **6 hours a week in ALEKS**.
- Aim to get at least a **B** for the best chance of success in the next course.
- Make your instructor's day – ask for help whenever you feel you need it.

EARN POINTS FOR REACHING YOUR OBJECTIVES:

- Go to class and earn *bonus points* for attendance (at least 20 in class hours) and doing assigned assessments (4).
- Works out side of class (at least three hours per week) for at least a total of 30 ALEKS hours (keep track using the report link!)
- For Midterm 2 try to receive at least 70% (00020-22) or at least 65% (00023-24).
- See syllabus for grading policy. If you do the work you can gain 3% after you receive a 73% on the final assessment. Otherwise you may lose 3% if you do not do the work.

THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE COURSE – your instructor is there to help and wants to help:

As you work on learning new topics in class, you can get **one-on-one assistance** by asking your instructor or an assistant. You can always get help from the ALEKS explanations or from the e-book. Please bring your own ear buds to see ALEKS videos.

HELP ALEKS TO HELP YOU:

- **Never rush and never cram.**
 - Our records show cramming is a waste of time and does not work.
- **Space out your learning.**
 - Our records show that students who work regularly in ALEKS several times a week are more likely to pass the course and get a good grade.
- **Give all assessments your best effort.**
- **Don't guess answers.**
 - If you guess wrong, ALEKS may direct you to learn topics you already know, and this will waste your time.
 - If you guess right, you will likely be directed to learn topics you are not ready to learn, and this will slow your progress.
- **Never select "I don't know" unless** you have no idea how to do the problem.

PROGRESS ASSESSMENTS: You will periodically take a progress assessment (normally after 5 hours of work and 20 topics gained) to reassess what you know and confirm recent learning.

- ALEKS also probes to see whether you have remembered more, so **don't be surprised to see a topic you haven't studied**.
- After each progress assessment, ALEKS redraws your pie to include all topics you know well. You may need to work some more on topics you studied before but didn't completely master.