

Spring 2017 Outcomes in MATH 009A for Summer 2016 ALEKS Users

This brief provides an update on the 96 students who enrolled in MATH 009A in the spring of 2017 through a program that gave them the chance to change their fall math placement by working with ALEKS (an online, adaptive learning tool)<sup>1</sup> in the summer of 2016. These students were placed into MATH 006A in the fall of 2016 as a result of their favorable retest scores, and then moved into MATH 006B in winter 2017 and on to MATH 009A in spring of 2017.

Of the 96 students who took MATH 009A in the spring, 97% (93 students) successfully passed the course (by earning a C or better). The average grade point for ALEKS users was 2.99.

Table 1 presents summary statistics for all MATH 009A students as well as by section. The comparison group, labeled “Direct,” is students who placed directly into MATH 006A in fall and continued on to MATH 006B in winter and then MATH 009A in the spring. Overall grades are nearly identical for ALEKS users and direct placement students. When broken down by section we do see some variation in average grades between sections, although in most sections the ALEKS and direct placement groups earned grades that were very similar. Overall pass rates are somewhat higher for ALEKS students. This is also true when pass rates are broken down by section, with ALEKS students having higher pass rates in most sections. (In fact, in three of the five sections 100% ALEKS users passed.)

*Table 1: Outcomes in MATH 009A for in spring 2017 by section, with number of students in parenthesis*

	<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>ALEKS Avg.</b>	<b>Direct Avg.</b>	<b>Total Pass</b>	<b>ALEKS Pass</b>	<b>Direct Pass</b>
Section 001	3.18 (97)	3.00 (2)	3.19 (95)	94.8% (97)	100.0% (2)	94.7% (95)
Section 010	2.91 (98)	3.05 (21)	2.88 (77)	88.8% (98)	95.2% (21)	87.0% (77)
Section 020	2.87 (73)	2.96 (19)	2.84 (54)	91.8% (73)	100.0% (19)	88.9% (54)
Section 030	2.95 (127)	2.98 (33)	2.94 (94)	94.5% (127)	100.0% (33)	92.6% (94)
Section 040	3.05 (117)	2.97 (21)	3.06 (96)	93.2% (117)	90.5% (21)	93.8% (96)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3.00</b> <b>(512)</b>	<b>2.99</b> <b>(96)</b>	<b>3.00</b> <b>(416)</b>	<b>92.7%</b> <b>(512)</b>	<b>96.9%</b> <b>(96)</b>	<b>91.8%</b> <b>(416)</b>

Results from MATH 009A in spring, like results of similar analyses in fall and winter classes leading up to it, support the idea that there is a group of students who, upon retesting and changing their initial math placement, prove themselves to be at least as capable of college level math work as those students who initially placed into MATH 006A.

At this juncture it is also possible to make one additional observation: the 93 students who passed MATH 009A represent about two thirds (68%) of those students who changed their initial math placement for the fall of 2016 by using ALEKS.

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<sup>1</sup> Overall 562 students worked with ALEKS, not all of whom were able to change their placement.