The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is committed to student success in the courses delivered through our department. Mastery of the prerequisite information is a key component of student success in mathematics and statistics courses. Therefore, in order to foster a positive learning opportunity and maximize the likelihood of student success in mathematics and statistics courses, we require that students have the appropriate placement to enroll in each mathematics or statistics course at Northern Arizona University. The purpose of math placement is to determine, based on students’ knowledge of prerequisite mathematics skills, which mathematics or statistics course is most appropriate for them.

Procedure for Placement into NAU Mathematics and Statistics Courses
NAU will use the NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test for placement into mathematics and statistics courses. The NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test is designed to accurately measure students’ mathematics knowledge, and will indicate a specific math placement for each student.

Most students who are admitted to NAU for Fall 2010 or later will need to take the NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test in order to establish their math placement:
ACT, SAT and ACCUPLACER exam scores will NOT be used to determine mathematics placement as of Fall 2010. Students admitted to NAU for Fall 2010 or later must take the NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test, unless they have

- earned credit for a college-level mathematics or statistics course via CLEP exam, AP exam, IB exam, or
- earned credit for a college-level mathematics or statistics course (equivalent to MAT101X or higher) via dual enrollment or via transfer from another college or university.

The NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test
The NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test is an online exam, and can be done at any computer with an Internet connection. Students do not need to be on an NAU campus to take the NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test. In fact, it is assumed that most students will take the placement test from their home computer. The NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test can be accessed through the website http://mathplacement.nau.edu. The website provides answers to many of the questions students may have about the test.
NAU will use two different tests for placement into our mathematics and statistics courses, NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test A and NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test B. Whether students take Test A or Test B will be determined by what courses are needed to satisfy the requirements of their degree and their own personal mathematics preparation.

It is each student's responsibility to determine which NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test to take. Here are some general recommendations:

- **NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test A**—Placement Test A can place students into the following courses: MAT 108, MAT 114, MAT 119, MAT 125, MAT 136, MAT 150, and STA 270. Students who have passed the equivalent of Advanced Algebra or Algebra 2 in high school should take Placement Test A. Students who feel that their mathematics background is relatively strong should take Placement Test A. Students whose score on Placement Test A is between 20 and 34 should study/review (on their own, with a tutor, or using the ALEKS Learning Module) and take Placement Test A again. Students whose score on Placement Test A is 20 or below should take Placement Test B.

- **NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test B**—Placement Test B can place students into the following courses: MAT 101X and MAT 102X. Students whose most advanced high school math class was Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 or Geometry should take Placement Test B. Students are in need of a refresher math course before proceeding to college-level material should take Placement Test B. Students whose score on Placement Test B is 70 or higher should take Placement Test A.

**Number of attempts allowed**
After testing, students will be given a score that indicates the mathematics or statistics courses they are eligible to enroll in. Students can attempt to improve their math placement by taking the NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test again. Students will be allowed to attempt each test (Test A and Test B) a maximum of three times. The highest score earned will be used for placement. It is strongly recommended that students go through a thorough study/review process (on their own, with a tutor, or using the ALEKS Learning Mode) before testing again. Even after reviewing, a student may not be able to improve their placement. Some students need to complete a refresher course before moving on. This should not be considered a setback. Rather, it is establishing a firm mathematical knowledge foundation on which to build future courses.

**Test fees**
NAU will cover the cost of a student’s first attempt at each test (Test A and Test B). Students will be charged $10 for each additional attempt. The fee will be paid directly to ALEKS.

**Length of time a test score is valid**
NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test scores are valid for two years. If it has been longer than two years from the original test date, and a student has not yet earned college mathematics or statistics credit, the student should take NAU ALEKS Mathematics Placement Test again to reestablish their placement. Additional test(s) would be at the students’ expense.

**Questions and Information**
Placement Website: [http://mathplacement.nau.edu](http://mathplacement.nau.edu)
Katie Louchart, Placement Coordinator, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
(928) 523-0962 Katie.Louchart@nau.edu

February 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2010