

Winter 2017 Outcomes in MATH 006B for Summer 2016 ALEKS Users

This brief provides an update on the 126 students who enrolled in MATH 006B in the winter of 2017 through a program that gave them the chance to change their math placement by working with ALEKS (an online, adaptive learning tool)¹ in the summer of 2016. These students were placed into MATH 006A in the fall of 2016 as a result of their retest, and then moved into MATH 006B in winter 2017.

Of the 126 students who took MATH 006B in the winter, 93 (73.81%) successfully passed the course (by earning a C or better). The average course grade point for ALEKS users was 2.23.

Table 1 presents data for all sections, with the two sections with the greatest concentration of ALEKS students highlighted in light blue. The comparison group, labeled “Direct,” is students who placed directly into MATH 006A in fall and continued on to MATH 006B in winter.

Pass rate and course grade varied by MATH 006B section. In section 010, average course grade and pass rate were significantly lower for the ALEKS group compared with the direct placement group. Average course scores in the rest of the sections were fairly similar between the groups, with no significant differences between the two groups. In two of the sections (001 and 030), the ALEKS pass rate was higher than the direct pass rate; however, these differences were not significant. Overall, the ALEKS group’s average course grade was significantly lower than the direct placement group; however, this finding is largely driven by differences in one of the sections (010).

Table 1: Outcomes in MATH 006B for in winter 2017 by section, with number of students in parenthesis (Note in each set of columns the overall section average is broken out for ALEKS students and direct placement student)

	Total Avg.	ALEKS Avg.	Direct Avg.	Total Pass	ALEKS Pass	Direct Pass
Section 001	2.69 (114)	2.70 (22)	2.69 (92)	83.33% (114)	90.91% (22)	81.52% (92)
Section 010	2.43 (122)	2.05 (45)	2.65 (77)	81.15% (122)	71.11% (45)	87.01% (77)
Section 020	2.46 (128)	2.44 (19)	2.46 (109)	70.31% (128)	63.16% (19)	71.56% (109)
Section 030	2.13 (124)	2.08 (40)	2.16 (84)	73.39% (124)	73.81% (40)	72.50% (84)
Total	2.42 (488)	2.23 (126)	2.49 (362)	76.84% (488)	73.81% (126)	77.90% (362)

The majority of ALEKS students who changed their initial placements were CNAS students (80.12%) and very few ALEKS or direct placement students switched colleges before or during winter 2017. (About 2% of each group did so.)

These data suggest that ALEKS opened up a path for some students to move into MATH 006A in fall and then on to pass into MATH006B in winter. The ALEKS group passed MATH 006B at a rate, and with average grades, slightly lower than students in MATH 006B (after placing directly into MATH006A).

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