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## Introduction (Cont.)

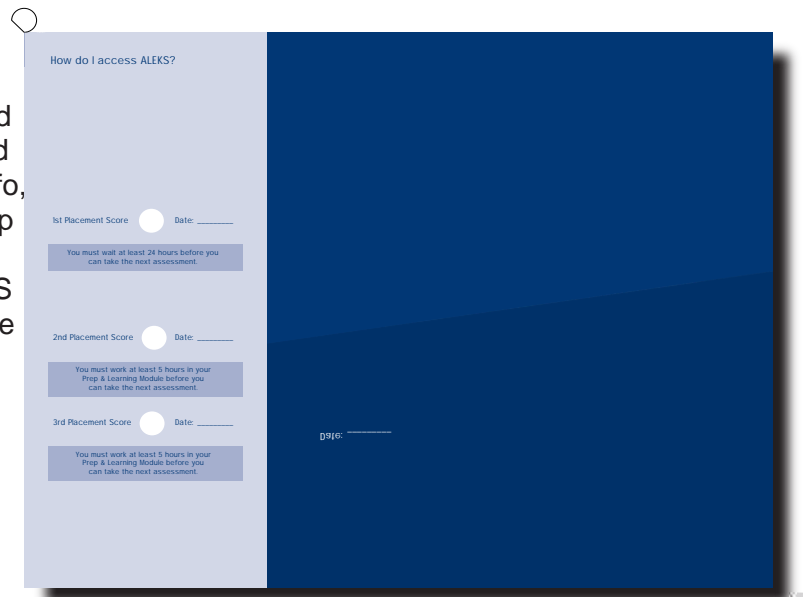
Before ALEKS PPL, Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) was not getting the results it wanted for students with its placement tools. Prior to 2000, advisors would suggest math courses appropriate to the skill set of the student, but students could enroll in any course for which they met the prerequisite. The high school GPA and/or the scores of the ACT, SAT, and COMPASS test were used as placement. This led to high failure rates and students repeating courses. Seeing the need for change, Iowa Central implemented mandatory placement in the fall of 2000, with COMPASS and ACT scores being the most commonly used placement tools.

Even though Iowa Central began to see some immediate improvement in student success and retention, it was not enough. College-level math course success rates were 8% for students who started in Fundamentals of Math, and 27% for those who started in Elementary Algebra. After 14 years of not getting the results it wanted, the school was ready to try something new. It began a pilot project with McGraw-Hill in the summer of 2014 to implement ALEKS PPL for placement. The pilot was part of a state-wide initiative to gather data concerning placement and success rates in math courses. Much of the decision to move to ALEKS PPL was due to retention concerns. Iowa Central was losing, on average, about 900 students from fall to spring, in part from them failing their math course.

## Implementation

### Initial Setup

A single sign-on for ALEKS PPL was setup through the school's student portal TritonPass. Once a student applied to Iowa Central, they received a TritonPass username and password to access their grades, courses, financial aid info, and ALEKS PPL. It was simple to implement, with the help of ALEKS tech support. Additionally, Iowa Central worked with local high schools for them to help proctor the ALEKS PPL placement assessments. Because student scores are automatically uploaded to the administrative software, Datatel, it is no longer necessary to run separate weekly reports to update student records. To inform incoming students of ALEKS PPL, the school sends out a brochure containing the information they need.



## Implementation (Cont.)

### Cut Scores

Iowa Central worked with experts at ALEKS to define the cut scores based on the topics covered in its course curriculum. As part of the pilot, the school was required to submit data (scrubbed of personal information) to McGraw-Hill, which included the ALEKS scores used for placement, the courses in which students were placed, and students' final grades in those courses.

ALEKS PPL Placement Cut Scores

Score Percent Range	Course Placement
0% – 13%	MAT – O45 Fundamentals of Math (Developmental)
14% – 29%	MAT – O63 Elementary Algebra (Developmental)
30% – 45%	MAT – 102 Intermediate Algebra (Developmental) MAT – 111 Math for Liberal Arts MAT – 117 Math for Elementary Teachers MAT – 140 Finite Math MAT – 156/157 Statistics (3 credit hr), Statistics (4 credit hr) MAT – 165 Business Calculus
46% – 75%	MAT – 120 College Algebra MAT – 127 College Algebra with Trigonometry MAT – 130 Trigonometry
76% – 100%	MAT – 210 Calculus I

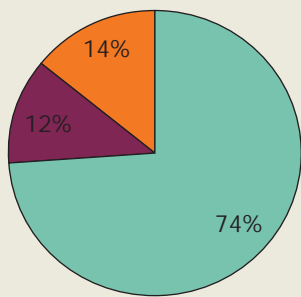
### Current Setup

ALEKS PPL offers each student five attempts at the placement assessment and six months of access to the Prep and Learning Modules. ALEKS PPL assessments are setup to be proctored. However, the first attempt can either be proctored or un-proctored, the latter of which does not count toward placement results. The average assessment attempt is 61 minutes, compared to only 13 minutes for Compass and Accuplacer.

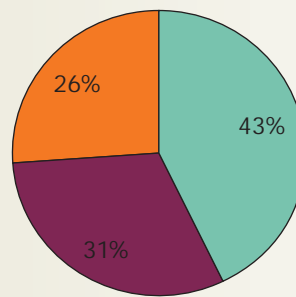
The students must complete five or more hours in the ALEKS PPL Prep and Learning Modules before the third attempt at the placement assessment, and again before the fourth and fifth attempts. Once a student takes their first ALEKS PPL assessment, the Prep and Learning Module is then created based upon the student's individual skill level. Since initial implementation, approximately 10-15% of the students use the Prep and Learning Modules. In contrast, Compass and Accuplacer have study modules that can be purchased extra by the students. They are designed to help students prepare for the placement exam and are not individualized to the student's skill set.



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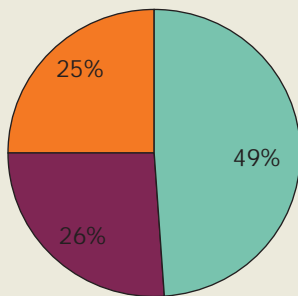


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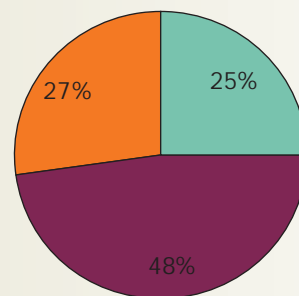
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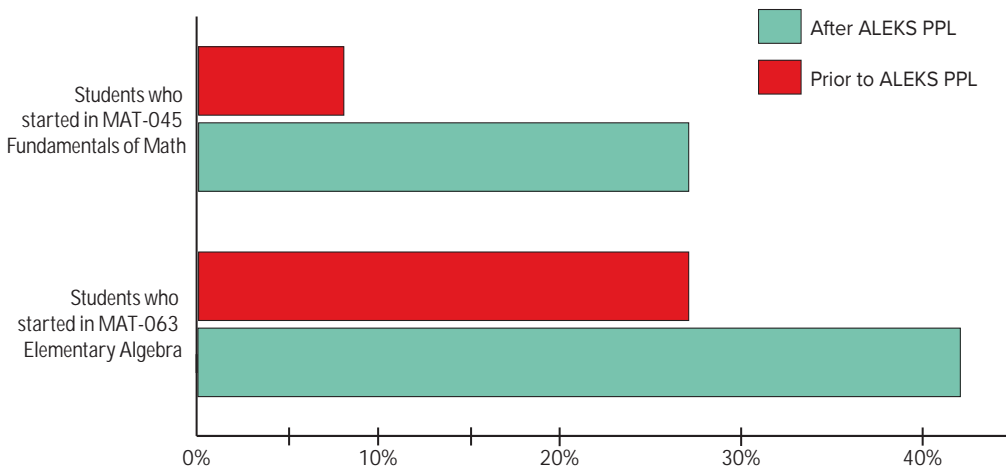
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## Results (Cont.)

A course-by-course analysis also shows students who placed into certain courses with ALEKS PPL had higher passing rates and lower failure rates, versus students who placed into the same courses with a non-ALEKS PPL placement tool.

In the fall of 2012, Iowa Central introduced the emporium model with ALEKS PPL for the developmental math sequence, which includes MAT-045 Fundamentals of Math, MAT-063 Elementary Algebra, and MAT-102 Intermediate Algebra. Prior to this implementation, the college-level math success rate of students was 8% for those who began in MAT-045 and 27% for those who began in MAT-063. After ALEKS PPL, that success rate increased to 27% and 42% respectively (Figure 3)

(Figure 3) College-Level Math Success Rates for Students who Started in Developmental Math Courses



## Results (Cont.)

Iowa Central also saw an increase in the success rates of non-traditional students (Figure 4) and concurrent enrollment students (Figure 5)