

ALEKS Placement Lowers D/F/W Rates by 15%

Institution Profile

Oklahoma State University, established on Christmas Day in 1890, provides educational opportunities to more than 25,000 students on its OSU -Stillwater and OSU -Tulsa campuses and more than 37,000 students across the OSU system. OSU has a presence in every Oklahoma county through its extension offices and experiment stations and graduates 5,000 students annually.

Oklahoma State University had unsatisfactory student success rates because of the difficulty placing incoming students into courses where they were more likely to succeed. Some students placed into College Algebra were bored because they already knew it.

Before ALEKS, the 1000-level courses (entry-level courses through Precalculus) had D/F/W rates of 40% or above. Now, the overall D/F/W rate is mostly stable at around 25% (Figure 1).

Prior to using ALEKS for placement, many students were taking courses three or more times, which was counterproductive and frustrating for the students and the instructors. After using ALEKS Placement, the D/F/W rate in Calculus I is now around 35% or lower (Figure 2). That is a 10% or greater improvement.

Because students are succeeding at the lower-level courses more efficiently, enrollment and success rates have grown in Calculus II, Calculus III, and Differential Equations even faster than enrollment growth at the university and in the College of Engineering. The enrollment in Differential Equations specifically has skyrocketed, growing nearly 50% in just a few years. Additionally, 92% of students who earned an "A" or a "B" in Calculus I earned an "A," "B," or "C" in Calculus II.

Conclusion

OSU is pushing for all students to take the ALEKS Placement, Preparation and Learning (PPL) assessment and work more with the Prep and Learning