

# ALEKS PPL Provides Developmental Support, Places Students More Accurately, and Improves Student Success

## Institution Profile

The University of Kentucky, located in Lexington, Kentucky, was founded in 1865. In the fall of 2014, just over 30,000 students enrolled and pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees in 16 colleges on an urban campus that covers 784 acres.

## A Change for Math Placement



specific college readiness standards for the state of Kentucky. Students who have a sub-score of 30 or above may enroll in any math class up to Calculus I.

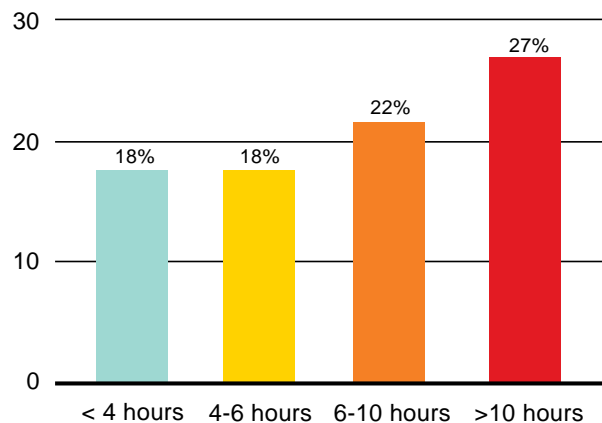
Students who test into developmental math courses are placed into courses that were designed by the math department and Academic Enhancement, the department on campus that provides centralized academic support

## University of Kentucky (cont.)

In a pilot implementation of ALEKS, the university saw more accurate placement, resulting in decreased need for students to retake courses. Additionally, implementing ALEKS in developmental math coursework alone saved the university more than \$150,000 compared to the previous model of outsourcing to a community college. This cost savings alone was sufficient to fund the initial year of nearly universal ALEKS PPL for incoming students.

At University of Kentucky, ALEKS PPL is configured to require students to work in the Prep and Learning Modules a minimum of three hours before taking the placement exam again. During the spring 2015 term, 367 students accessed a second attempt. Of those, 226 spent more than the required three hours in the Prep and Learning Modules. Data shows, on average, for any student who spends at least three hours in Prep and Learning mode, and then takes a second assessment, their placement score increases by 18.46 percentage points. Jim Breslin says, "We see significant correlations between time spent in the Prep and Learning Modules and score increases on a second test attempt."

Impact of Time in ALEKS PPL Prep and Learning Modules on Placement Scores



### Conclusion

ALEKS PPL has made a significant impact on the University of Kentucky's ability to place students in appropriate math courses. Additionally, students who are placed in developmental math courses are able to efficiently remediate to math readiness, pass the course, and stay enrolled at the University of Kentucky.

More appropriate math course placement early in students' college careers helps them succeed academically and save money by reducing testing fees and the amount of time the students spend in math readiness courses. Jim Breslin states, "Research is clear that math success is connected to overall student success."