

GRADING AND MOTIVATION IN ALEKS

Grading Best Practices

There are many different ways to assign a grade for students working in ALEKS. Following are some ideas and examples of possible ways to assign a grade. These are just examples; they are not meant to be used in a prescriptive manner. Use these ideas to begin a discussion regarding appropriate grading strategies for your school/district.

Please keep in mind...

- Set attainable goals for students. Involve students in the process and encourage them to take ownership of their learning.

- Communicate goals clearly to both students and parents

- Learning rates (topics learned per hour of use) may slow down as students progress through the course material since the topics become more complex and challenging. For this reason, goals based on topics learned per week may need to be adjusted throughout the school year.

- Since topics in some portion of the course may be more challenging, rates of progress toward mastery (as shown in the Progress Report) will vary over time.

- For students performing at or near grade level, we recommend at least 1 hour of usage in r66-14.399 -20

Weekly Grading

Time and Progress (based on Time & Topic Report)

Part One—Time:

In this example, the instructor's time goal for the students is 3 hours per week. Focusing on the time portion of the report, we see that John has spent 2 hours and 6 minutes in ALEKS over the selected week.



Since the goal was 3 hours, we will need to figure out what percentage of the goal John achieved:

1. Convert all time to minutes: 3 hours = 180 minutes / 2 hours 6 minutes = 126 minutes
2. Divide the actual time by the goal time to calculate John's time score: $126 \div 180 = 70\%$ or 7 points.

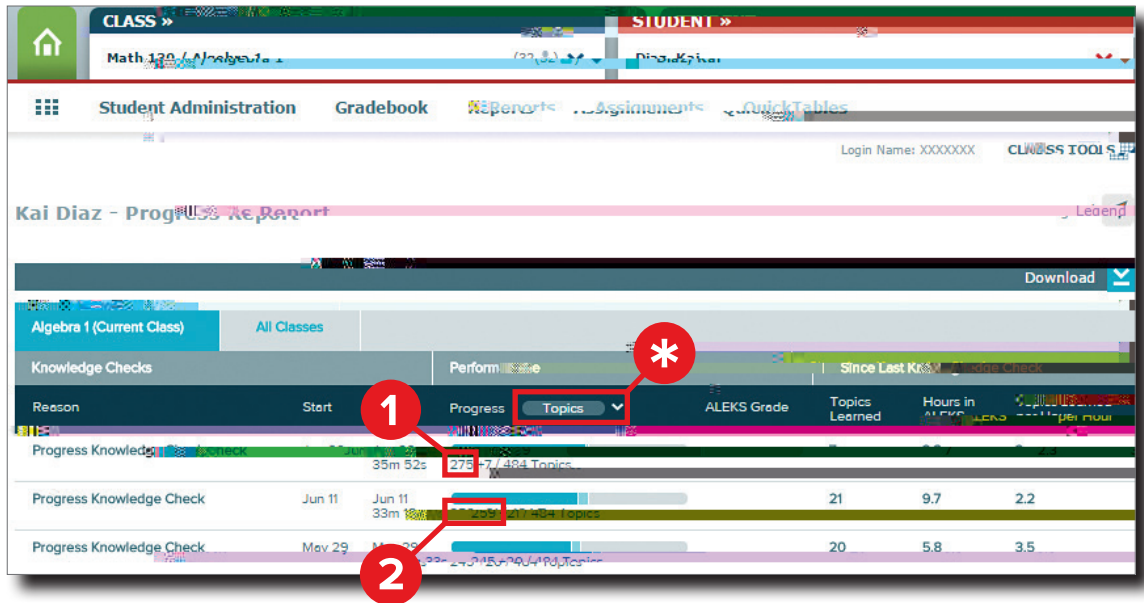
Note: Time in ALEKS does not necessarily reflect how much work a student has completed. For this reason, it is important to grade on student progress as well.

Monthly or Periodic Grading

Progress Retention Grade

You may choose to give a periodic grade based on the amount of learned information retained at the next Knowledge Check. Use the Progress Report for the individual student to calculate.

For example, on June 11th, Kai completed a Knowledge Check showing mastery of 259 topics in this course. He learned 21 new topics before his next Knowledge Check on June 29th.



* Note: Make sure your report is showing Topics.

1. This number indicates topics mastered on the most recent Knowledge Check.
2. These numbers indicate topics mastered on the previous check and topics learned since the previous check. Together they represent the total topics needed to earn 100% retention.

To calculate Kai's Progress Retention Grade, we would apply the following formula:

Most recent Knowledge Check ÷ (Previous Knowledge Check + Topics Learned Since)

Example from above: $275 \div (259 + 21)$

Retention Grade: 98%

Ideas for Motivation and Fun in the ALEKS Classroom

Motivating the Individual Student:

Each ALEKS topic learned equals a point or "buck" that can be used to earn privileges or purchase school supplies or goodies in the school store. (Follows the incentive program already in place in classroom/school.)

Students who achieve goals are highlighted in school announcements and/or assemblies.

Students who achieve goals are recognized in the school newsletter/website.

Personal pizzas delivered one day for lunch for students who reach their topic goal.

A special prize/award/recognition for students who spent the most time in ALEKS during the week/grading period.

