

Math 199 Algebra/Precalculus Gateway, Fall 2019

Locations and Times:

- Online learning independently on your own time through *ALEKS* software.
- Weekly Testing: Ashby Testing Center, Fridays 5:00-8:00pm (***doors close at 7:00***)
- Weekly Help Sessions: Burruss 030, Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm
(*Provided during weeks 2-6 of the course only, through October 1.*)
- Science/Math Learning Center (SMLC):
 - Location: SSC 1100
 - Sunday 5-8pm
 - Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm
 - Friday 10am-2pm

Course Contacts:

- Dr. Joshua Ducey, Coordinator, duceyje@jmu.edu
- Ms. Abby Eget, Math 199 Tutor and Proctor
- Ms. Robin Rosewelsh, Math 199 Tutor and Proctor

Course Materials: We will be using the online program *ALEKS*. Detailed instructions for obtaining an access code and registering for the course can be found below. Additional course information can be found at the class website, <http://educ.jmu.edu/~duceyje/fa19/199>.

Objective of Course: Math 199 is a six-week course designed to help you rapidly master basic algebra and precalculus skills, focusing on those skills that are most critical for success in the calculus course that you are taking (either Math 205 or Math 231/233). You are required to take Math 199 based on your score on the Calculus Placement Test. This is an independent online course; if you feel that you need more instruction or course hours, then you should take the 3-credit Math 155 course instead of Math 199. For general university policy information please see <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus>.

Absence Policy: Each Friday testing session is an opportunity for you take a “knowledge check” to demonstrate mastery of the skills you have been learning at home. You do not have to attend all of the Friday testing sessions, but you must test at least once. It is, however, in your interest to prepare for and attend the sessions (see Evaluation below). Friday testing sessions cannot be made up or rescheduled.

Structure of Math 199: When you register for the *ALEKS* software and join our course, you will be asked to take an “Initial Knowledge Check”. It is very important that you

1. Do the best you can. Have a pencil and paper nearby, and don't press the “I don't know” button unless you truly have no idea. *ALEKS* will award you partial credit for your attempts.

2. Work without any outside assistance. No google, no Khan Academy, no roommate, no calculator. If the software thinks you know more than you have actually mastered, you are going to have a rough time for the rest of the course.

If you work hard to do well and do not receive any outside assistance then the ALEKS software will calibrate a learning map that is optimized specifically for you. After the Initial Knowledge Check, you can begin using the ALEKS software to learn topics that you are ready for. Most of your work in the course will be learning topics on your own time.

Evaluation: There are three components to your grade in Math 199.

34% of your grade will be determined by how much work you are getting done at home. You are responsible for learning at least 25 topics each week, on your own, for each of the five weeks between the six testing sessions. (The first week you are graded on this is between 5:00pm August 30 and 5:00pm September 6. So if you learned 20 topics during that time you would have earned 80% of the possible points for that week.)

33% of your grade will be determined by the best score you earn at one of the six Friday testing sessions held in the Ashby Testing Center. Any lower score than your best score is not considered. (So your lowest five scores are dropped.) The testing session dates are :

Testing Session 1	Friday August 30	5:00-8:00pm
Testing Session 2	Friday September 6	5:00-8:00pm
Testing Session 3	Friday September 13	5:00-8:00pm
Testing Session 4	Friday September 20	5:00-8:00pm
Testing Session 5	Friday September 27	5:00-8:00pm
Testing Session 6	Friday October 4	5:00-8:00pm

You do not need to stay the entire time, and you are not required to attend all of the sessions (a missed session will count as a grade of zero). Allow approximately 30-45 minutes for your testing. You will not be permitted to test if you arrive later than 7:00pm.

33% of your grade will be determined by your total progress made through all of the possible topics by the course end date (October 4, 8pm).

How to register for the online software and join our course:

In Math 199 we will be using the online program *ALEKS*. To join our course you will need to type in the correct class code, and then purchase access.

How to purchase access:

- Go to www.aleks.com.
- Click on the yellow "SIGN UP NOW!" button.
- **If you are taking Math 205** your Class Code is:
DCGPD-4EGKD
- **If you are taking Math 231/233** your Class Code is:
UHJ6C-FTFK4
- The cost for access should be 25 dollars.