



MTH 95 Intermediate Algebra, Winter 2021

Instructor: Mike Storrs

Email: storrs@linnbenton.edu

MTH 95 Intermediate Algebra Course Description

Intermediate Algebra is a 4-credit course that develops the concept of a function. It is designed for the student who has an algebraic foundation (Math 75). Topics include an investigation of different functions, their graphs, and properties. The functions included are linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, and exponential. Problem solving, technology, and cooperative learning is emphasized throughout the course. During the term, students will learn to recognize and express mathematical ideas graphically, numerically, symbolically, and in writing. Application problems are realistic with some data to be collected, analyzed and discussed in a group setting with results submitted in written form. Prerequisite: MTH 75 or Placement test.

MTH 095 Student Learning Outcomes

1. Interpret and analyze functions to find information such as domain, range, variable and function values by using a variety of tools that may include graphs, tables or given equations.
2. Model application problems using appropriate algebraic models, which may include linear, quadratic, and exponential.
3. Communicate mathematical concepts, processes and solutions.
4. Apply algebra skills to topics such as factoring polynomials, solving quadratic equations, and simplifying expressions.

Required Materials

- Tablet or Laptop, avoid Chromebooks. To check the minimum computer specifications to use ALEKS and the lockdown browser, go to the webpage at https://www.aleks.com/support/lockdown_system_requirements
- ALEKS 360 access code for 11 weeks. This should cost \$60. You can order it from the bookstore or purchase through ALEKS once your account is created. (If a 52-week code was previously purchased, that may be continued.)
- Computer Webcam, Computer Microphone, Reliable Internet Access
- For proctored testing there will be a required free lockdown browser and video monitoring.
- Course Materials Packet purchased from the bookstore.

Recommended Materials

- Non-graphing, scientific calculator. Graphing Calculators are not allowed on tests.
- Three ring binder for your course packet, ALEKS notes and class notes

Grading Policies

Category	Percent of Grade	Grading Scale
ALEKS Weekly Objectives	20%	A: 90 -100%
ALEKS Topics/Pie Overall	5%	B: 80 – 89%
Written or Moodle Work	25%	C: 70 - 79%
ALEKS Skills Test 1	5%	D: 60 - 69%
ALEKS Skills Test 2	15%	F: 0 - 59%
Midterm Exam	12%	
Final Exam	18%	

Students may view their grades on the ALEKS website in the ALEKS gradebook.

A grade of Incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor under special circumstances. The student must have completed the majority of the course, been in regular attendance, and maintained a passing grade in the course prior to the special circumstance.

ALEKS Adaptive Homework Platform and Ebook:

You will complete the majority of your assigned work through an online and adaptive program called ALEKS. **You are required to purchase the ALEKS 360 access code through the [LBCC Bookstore](#) or through the ALEKS website.** It is through ALEKS where you will have access to an ebook and any other videos or tutorials the ebook provides. It is rich in support if you use it well. You will access ALEKS through the ALEKS website.

Go to www.ALEKS.com or click on the ALEKS link in Moodle and sign in or create a new user account. You need the course code and you can use the free two-week access code to get started. **You will need to pay** for the code before the free two-week code expires and you can extend your access in ALEKS before it expires.

ALEKS Class Code: FGPRC-UGFTQ

ALEKS Free two-week access code: 57EDA-1B43A-35A55-02189

eBook:

Through the ALEKS site you will have access to the eBook. Each week you are required to read the sections we cover in the eBook. Your reading assignments are listed in Moodle within each week's schedule. The eBook also contains videos and is a valuable resource. If you really want a paper copy, you can order a paper version of the text through ALEKS. A paper copy of the eBook is not required.

Instructor Videos:

I will record several videos each week that offer direct instruction, just like you would get if you were in class. We will have live sessions each day where you can drop in and get help and I may record those to help those who could not make the class.

Homework and ALEKS:

There are 359 topics in ALEKS to master in this class. About half of these are prerequisite topics that you have already been exposed to in your previous math classes. You will find that you already have some topics mastered when you get into our ALEKS course. Each week there are topics assigned and the weekly deadlines are always Sunday at midnight. New topics will be added each Monday. In Moodle you will have videos that I made and written assignments but you should be getting into ALEKS each day to work on topics. This is your main homework. If you master all the topics for a particular week then you will be able to work ahead or you can go back and master topics you may not have learned from a previous week. This ALEKS program is adaptive and customizes to each student so you each will have a unique experience. If you have weekend plans that do not include homework then it is up to you to complete the ALEKS topics before the weekend. You have the freedom to decide when during the week to complete the assigned topics. However, if you wait until Sunday to start learning the weekly topics you will very likely run out of time. The best plan is to work hard early in the week so you have time to get help and then finish up any last topics on Friday. Each week your goal is to learn 100% of the topics.

Missing ALEKS Deadlines:

If you do not complete your ALEKS work by the due date then you will lose points no matter why you missed the deadline. There are ten weekly deadlines that you will see in your ALEKS gradebook. Deadlines are not generally extended for ALEKS topics. Your goal is to always finish all the topics for a week, however, if you still have a few left then you just will move on to the next week's topics each Monday. ALEKS will present you with missed topics if they are critical to the week's work but we always need you working with the current topics first. In any week where you learn all of the topics, ALEKS will then suggest you work on previously missed topics or allow you to work ahead.

Written Work in Moodle:

As often as possible, you will be assigned activities from the Math 95 materials and activities packet to write up and turn in through Moodle so it can be graded. You will either scan and upload your written work or you will take a photo of your work and upload the photo to Moodle. There are nice apps for your phone that create PDF files easily with your phone. Keep in mind that Moodle will lock at 11:59pm on the deadline day and will not accept additional submissions. When you upload your work you must click on the SUBMIT button to finalize that your homework has been turned in through Moodle. There may be tasks during the term where you post your work, post to a forum, or make a video for others in the class to see. There may be a quiz in Moodle or in ALEKS during the week as well. These tasks will always be listed in Moodle so on Monday of each week it is important to check Moodle so you can plan your week.

What if I am not sure whether my work is actually submitted in Moodle?

After you submit your written work to Moodle and you exit the program, you can always go back in and see that your assignment is attached. Be sure when you upload it that you actually scroll down a bit and click on the SUBMIT button. That tells me you are ready to be graded.

You need to buy the Math 95 Course Materials packet from the [LBCC Bookstore](#) so you can write up your answers carefully, showing your support work on the activity pages. Your scratch work should be done separately and then your final work written up neatly. If you don't have a scanner then take photos of your activity pages, make sure they are not blurry and are well lit, then upload them to Moodle.

Oh No! My Written Assignment is Late and Moodle Won't Take It!

Late work is not accepted in Moodle. However, each student may have TWO Written Assignment Late Passes that can be used ONLY on the written assignments collected from the Math 95 packet of activities. The late pass gives a 24 hour extension to get the written assignment done. Moodle will not accept it late so you will have to email the assignment to your instructor and be sure to tell your instructor you are using one of your two late passes. Your instructor will ALWAYS email you back to let you know the assignment was received. **If you use a late pass then your assignment must be emailed within 24 hours of the original deadline.**

Help

- Ask questions by sending your instructor an email.
- Connect with other students from class. There is a forum in Moodle where you can post a request to work with others.
- Send your instructor a photo of your work so she can see what you are doing.
- Request a Zoom meeting with your instructor and you can get your questions answered. These Zoom meetings can be five minutes or half an hour but it is the most efficient way to get help, so please seek your instructor when you need help.
- There is remote math help through the Learning Center and linked in Moodle.

Tests

All exams and skills tests will be taken from your own home and will be proctored using a lockdown browser and video camera monitoring. The lockdown browser is a one-time free download. There are no graphing calculators allowed during any of the tests. All exams have specific due dates, so it is important that you stay on schedule during the term.

- The **Midterm Exam** will be taken in ALEKS and it has a time limit of two hours. It must be completed by Thursday, February 11.
- The **Comprehensive Final Exam** will be taken during finals by Wednesday, March 17. Students have 3 hours to complete the exam. It will be taken in ALEKS.
- The two **ALEKS Skills Tests** will be taken in ALEKS. These tests are not timed.

Drop for NonAttendance or NonParticipation

During the first week of the term, the instructor may drop students for not participating in class and not completing the ALEKS initial knowledge check by Tuesday of the first week.

Help

If you have questions, PLEASE ask! Email your instructor, who is very happy to help you understand the material for this class. **Study groups** are encouraged and you can post to the Moodle forum to request to work with others from our class. Many students find that working with classmates is the best way to learn and understand the material. Don't forget about the **e-book and videos** available on ALEKS.

Use the Learning Center and Math Café

The Learning Center will offer remote help with your homework. On the LBCC website you will find information about how to get help from math instructional assistants or tutoring. Go to the website at the link:

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/>

Additionally, the Math Café offers success coaching by appointment that can include

- study strategies, note taking, learning with online homework, time management schedule, etc.
- making a catch-up plan, to get up to date on assignments.
- preparing for an exam.
- understanding and navigating online homework.

Expectations

- I expect that my students will be involved in class. This includes showing up live or watching the recorded videos, reading the eBook, working on ALEKS, asking questions, and participating in discussions and any group work. (I will note excellent participation/attitude and will sometimes “bump up” a borderline grade.)
- Spend time each week reading the eBook, and completing ALEKS assignments. Spend **at least 8 hours per week working on this class**. The Moodle shell will always be available prior to the start of a week so you will know what is expected for that week.
- I expect you will be respectful of everyone in the class, in word as well as behavior.

LBCC Email

You are responsible for all communications sent via ALEKS, Moodle, and to your LBCC email account. You are required to use your LBCC provided email account for all email communications at the College. You may access your LBCC student email account through Student Email.

Academic Honesty

I assume that you are ethical and honest. However, if there is an incident of academic dishonesty (cheating), you will receive a score of zero for that test/assignment and the incident will be reported to the college administration for possible further disciplinary action. If there is a second offense, you will receive a grade of F for the course and the incident will be reported to the college administration with a recommendation for additional disciplinary action. Cheating includes but is not limited to telling others what exam questions to expect, sharing answers to tests or activities, copying another student’s work, giving out your own work for others to copy, using math solver sites to do algebra for you, and using outside resources while testing, such as other books, notes, electronic devices, phones or people. Even when we work in groups, you are responsible for writing up answers using your own words.

Special Circumstances

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR), please visit the **CFAR Website** for steps on how to apply for services or call (541) 917-4789. Online or virtual course accommodations may be different than those for on-campus courses, so it is important that you contact CFAR as soon as possible.

LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. For further information see Board Policy P1015 in our [Board Policies and Administrative Rules](#). Title II, IX, & Section 504: Scott Rolen, CC-108, 541-917-4425; Lynne Cox, T-107B, 541-917-4806, LBCC, Albany, Oregon. To report: linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus/calendar at any time.