



ALEKS[®]

Setting Up a Course Without Textbook Integration, and How to Create Custom Objectives and Modules

User Guide

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Use ALEKS Without a Textbook

This document describes the steps for setting up a new course without textbook integration, including how to create Custom Objectives and Modules. This feature is available for all Higher-Ed Math and Business courses.

From the Course Set-Up wizard, instructors select “No” to indicate they will **not** be using a textbook with ALEKS.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Textbook Integration, Custom Objectives and Modules

December 3, 2013

You have the option to integrate a textbook^(*) with your course and to create objectives.

(1) *Textbook Integration.* With Textbook Integration, ALEKS will automatically place chapter and section references on the ALEKS explanation pages. This way, your students can easily look up parallel material in their textbook to expand on what they are doing in ALEKS.

Using Textbook Integration, you can also create Objectives (with due dates) based on the textbook chapters. These chapter objectives include all the ALEKS topics that correspond to the textbook chapter. The students' goal is to master all of these topics by the due date for the objective, and the percentage of topics mastered by the due date is automatically sent to the gradebook.

(2) *Custom Objectives.* When using Textbook Integration you also have the option to create and assign Custom Objectives, where an Objective can contain material across multiple chapters of the textbook.

(3) *ALEKS Modules.* You also have the option to create a set of Modules, which are all Custom Objectives. You determine the entire content of each Module without regard to the organization of the material in the ALEKS Pie or the textbook (if you are using a textbook).

Do you plan to use a textbook with ALEKS?

Yes

No

Do you plan to use:

ALEKS Modules (Custom Objectives)

No Modules

(*)References to any part of any textbook are for identification purposes only. No implication is intended that ALEKS Corporation is endorsing any textbook, or that any textbook author or publisher is endorsing ALEKS. ALEKS Corporation is solely responsible for the development, selection, and sequencing of all ALEKS content.

[Save for Later] Previous Step Next Step

Instructors have two options for their course:

1. [ALEKS Modules \(Custom Objectives\)](#) – There are no pre-built chapter Objectives. Organization is based on the ALEKS pie rather than a textbook. Instructors start with a clean slate and build all Objectives using the [Custom Objectives](#) feature.
2. [No Modules](#) - Student learning will not be directed in any way. After selecting this option, instructors arrive at the [Content Editor](#) .

Instructors can adjust the content they want to include in the course. They will continue with the course set-up process until they arrive at a confirmation page indicating that the course set-up is complete.

1. ALEKS Modules (Custom Objectives)

Do you plan to use a textbook with ALEKS?

Yes

No

Do you plan to use:

ALEKS Modules (Custom Objectives)

No Modules

How to Create a New Custom Objective and Split Chapters

After selecting the “ALEKS Modules (Custom Objectives)” option, instructors arrive at a page where they can create the Custom Objectives they want to include in the course.

Below are three examples of how instructors can create Custom Objectives to use with their course.

Instructors click on the “Create a New Custom Objective” button.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Select Objectives

[Switch to Objectives without End Dates](#) ?

Objective	Start Date	End Date ?
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>

Create a New Custom Objective

How to use this tool:

Step 1:
Click on the "Create a New Custom Objective" button to create as many Objectives as needed for this course.

Step 2:
Drag and drop your Objectives so they are in the order in which your students should take them – the first Objective at the top and the last Objective at the bottom.

Step 3:
Select the end dates. Objectives are due by 11:59pm on the end date.

ALEKS will automatically assign a start date for each Objective to follow the previous Objective's end date.

Instructors arrive at a page where they can select the topics they would like to include in the Custom Objective.

Checking the box at the folder level automatically checks all sections and topics in that folder. Clicking on the “+” sign by the folder expands the view so instructors can see the sections. Clicking on the “+” by the section folder displays topics.

Example 1: In this scenario, an instructor wants to create a Custom Objective with topics from different sections of the ALEKS Curriculum.

1. First, the instructor checks the box next to the sections to be included.
2. Next, the instructor enters a name for the Custom Objective. The system automatically generates a default name, but the instructor can overwrite the default with a preferred name.

3. Finally, the instructor clicks on the “Done” button.

The instructor then returns to the Course Setup Wizard. Custom Objective #1 can be found at the top of the table.

Objective	Start Date	End Date ?
Custom Objective #1 Edit (18 goal topics)	12/03/2013	

Example 2: In this scenario, an instructor wants to create a Custom Objective including the section that was excluded from Custom Objective #1 (i.e. Converting Between Customary and Metric Units) and all of the next section (i.e. Geometry).

After clicking on the “Create a New Custom Objective” button, the instructor arrives at a page to select the sections and topics to be included in the Custom Objective.

The instructor completes steps 1-3 as outlined in [Example 1](#).

Create a Custom Objective

Select the chapters, sections, and topics that you would like to include in this Custom Objective. Please enter a relevant name for your Custom Objective. The name will be reflected in the gradebook, reports, and other areas visible to you and your students.

(Required) Custom Objective Name: 25 characters max

You have selected **68 topics** out of **395 available**. Reset Changes

- Decimals, Proportions, and Percents
- Measurement
 - Customary Units of Measurement
 - Metric Units of Measurement
 - Time and Temperature
 - Converting Between Customary and Metric Units
- Geometry
 - Lines and Angles
 - Triangles
 - Polygons and Quadrilaterals
 - Circles
 - Volume and Surface Area
 - Similarity
- Data Analysis and Statistics

Done or Cancel

Example 3: In this scenario, an instructor wishes to create a Custom Objective with a combination of sections (i.e. Whole Numbers, Fractions, and Decimals, Proportions, and Percents) for students to review before a mid-term.

After clicking on the “Create a New Custom Objective” button, the instructor arrives at a page to select the sections and topics to be included in the Custom Objective.

The instructor completes steps 1-3 as outlined in [Example 1](#).

Create a Custom Objective

Select the chapters, sections, and topics that you would like to include in this Custom Objective. Please enter a relevant name for your Custom Objective. The name will be reflected in the gradebook, reports, and other areas visible to you and your students.

(Required) Custom Objective Name: 25 characters max

You have selected **159 topics** out of **395 available**. Reset Changes

- ALEKS Curriculum [[open all](#) | [close all](#)]
- Whole Numbers
- Fractions
- Decimals, Proportions, and Percents
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Data Analysis and Statistics
- Real Numbers
- Algebraic Expressions and Equations
- Graphs of Linear Equations
- Exponents and Polynomials

Done or Cancel

Once created, all Custom Objectives can be found in the table. Instructors can now order and assign end dates for these Custom Objectives.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Select Objectives

[Switch to Objectives without End Dates](#) ?

Objective	Start Date	End Date ?
Custom Objective #1 Edit (18 goal topics)	12/03/2013	<input type="text"/>
Custom Objective #2 Edit (68 goal topics)		<input type="text"/>
Custom Objective #3 Edit (159 goal topics)		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>
		<input type="text"/>

[Create a New Custom Objective](#)

How to use this tool:

Step 1:
Click on the "Create a New Custom Objective" button to create as many Objectives as needed for this course.

Step 2:
Drag and drop your Objectives so they are in the order in which your students should take them — the first Objective at the top and the last Objective at the bottom.

Step 3:
Select the end dates. Objectives are due by 11:59pm on the end date.

ALEKS will automatically assign a start date for each Objective to follow the previous Objective's end date.

Instructors can select a preference for how ALEKS will behave when students complete an Objective before the scheduled end date.


When students complete an Objective assignment *before* the scheduled End Date, they can either be automatically assessed on this material or moved to the next Objective.

Choose your preference below:

- Students who complete the current Objective before the End Date will be given an assessment to ensure mastery of the Objective material. (Recommended)
- Students who complete the current Objective before the End Date will be allowed to move to the next Objective without being assessed.

Note: After the Objective End Date, all students will move to the next scheduled Objective.

Objective Pie



Enable the Objective Pie view for students in this class. (Recommended)

 Make Objective Pie the default view for students.

When this option is enabled, students can switch between the full ALEKS Pie, encompassing all topics in this course, and the Objective Pie, encompassing the topics involved in the current Objective. ?

[Save for Later]
[Previous Step](#)
[Next Step](#)

Please note: If instructors are using the Basic Instructor Module, they continue through the course creation wizard with the additional page below.

Instructors click on the “Next Step” button.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Select Objectives (Review)

Your custom syllabus is shown below:

Objective	Start Date	End Date
Custom Objective #1	12/04/2013	12/17/2013
Custom Objective #2	12/18/2013	12/27/2013
Custom Objective #3	12/28/2013	12/31/2013

To make changes, please click the "Previous Step" button below.

Students who complete the current Objective before the End Date will be given an assessment to ensure mastery of the Objective material.

[Save for Later] [Previous Step](#) [Next Step](#)

Topic Recommendation (TREC) Tool

If instructors do not select the appropriate prerequisite topics in their course content to optimize student learning, the Topic Recommendation (TREC) tool appears and provides instructors with a way to add prerequisite topics to their content. See the [“Topic Recommendation \(TREC\) Tool”](#) document for details.

The course details are displayed on the Review and Save page. Instructors conclude the course set-up by clicking on the “Save” button.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Review and Save

Here is how your course will be set up:

- **Course Name:** Basic Math ([edit](#))
- **Section Name:** ALEKS Modules Custom Objectives ([edit](#))
- **ALEKS Course:** Basic Math ([edit](#))
- **Subscription Type:** Higher-Ed any access code ([edit](#))
- **Start Date:** 12/04/2013 ([edit](#))
- **End Date:** 12/03/2014 ([edit](#))
- **Textbook:** n/a ([edit](#))
- **Objectives:** 3 custom Objectives selected ([edit](#))
- **QuickTables:** n/a ([edit](#))

Please click on "Save" below to finalize your course, or click on "Previous Step" to make any changes.

[Previous Step] [Save](#)

Instructors arrive at a confirmation page where the course details are displayed. There is a link to “Download ALEKS Course Syllabus.” Clicking on this link generates a PDF or HTML webpage that includes the Course Syllabus, topics, Custom Objectives, and due dates.

Your changes have been saved successfully.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Confirmation

Course Code: JFMHV-TJMNM

Course details:

- **Course Name:** Basic Math
- **Section Name:** All Modules Custom Objectives
- **ALEKS Course:** Basic Math
- **Subscription Type:** Higher-Ed any access code
- **Start Date:** 12/04/2013
- **End Date:** 12/03/2014
- **Textbook:** n/a
- **Objectives:** 3 custom Objectives selected
- **QuickTables:** n/a

[Download ALEKS Course Syllabus](#)

ALEKS Course Syllabus

Below is an example of the ALEKS Course Syllabus.

ALEKS[®] Course Syllabus

Course Name: Basic Math – All Modules Custom Objectives	Course Code: JFMHV-TJMNM
ALEKS Course: Basic Math	Instructor: Ms. Pham (Admin)
Course Dates: Begin: 12/04/2013 End: 12/03/2014	Course Content: 272 topics

Dates Covered	Objective
12/04/13 - 12/19/13	1. Custom Objective #1
12/20/13 - 12/27/13	2. Custom Objective #2
12/28/13 - 12/31/13	3. Custom Objective #3

Custom Objective #1 (18 topics, due on 12/19/13)

- Choosing U.S. Customary measurement units
- Conversions involving measurements in feet and inches
- Adding measurements in feet and inches
- U.S. Customary unit conversion with whole number values
- U.S. Customary unit conversion with whole number values: Two-step conversion
- U.S. Customary unit conversion with mixed number values: One-step conversion
- U.S. Customary unit conversion with mixed number values: Two-step conversion
- U.S. Customary area unit conversion with whole number values
- Choosing metric measurement units

2. No Modules

Do you plan to use a textbook with ALEKS?

Yes

No

Do you plan to use:

ALEKS Modules (Custom Objectives)

No Modules

After selecting the “No Modules” option, instructors arrive at the Content Editor (see Content Editor section below). The Content Editor appears when the course has been set-up with **no** Objectives. Instructors can adjust the content they want to include in the course.

Content Editor

The Content Editor should be used to completely remove topics from the course. Any topics or sections taken out of the Content Editor will be removed completely from the course. After making any necessary selections, the instructor clicks on the “Next Step” button.

Course Set-Up Wizard - Edit Content

Check the box next to content you want to include in your course.
Uncheck the box next to content you want to exclude.

You have selected **278 topics** out of **395 available**. Reset Changes

Basic Math [[open all](#) | [close all](#)]

- [-] Whole Numbers
 - Expanded Form and Numeral Translation
 - Addition and Subtraction
 - Multiplication and Division
 - Ordering, Rounding, and Estimating
 - Exponents and Order of Operations
 - Properties of Operations
- [-] Prime Numbers, Factors, and Multiples
 - Even and odd numbers
 - Divisibility rules for 2, 5, and 10
 - Divisibility rules for 3 and 9
 - Factors
 - Prime numbers
 - Prime factorization
 - Greatest common factor of 2 numbers
 - Least common multiple of 2 numbers

[Save for Later]
Previous Step
Next Step

Instructors continue with the course set-up process until they arrive at a confirmation page indicating that the course set-up is complete.



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