

## 2007 ALEKS Summer Workshop

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### **The Summer Program**

From July 16 to August 3, 2007 a total of 57 students participated in a summer math program to improve their math skills. The ultimate goal was to acquire math skills that would enable them to begin the Fall 2007 semester at SCSU in a math class higher than the level they had placed in based on their SCSU Math Placement test scores.

Prior to this summer math program, all of the students took the SCSU math placement test and had scores indicating a lack of the math skills that would enable them to begin their Fall 2007 freshman year in a college level math class. They were all placed in the lowest level of SCSU developmental math courses, Elementary Algebra (MAT 095).

The summer math program was an intensive three week workshop of computer generated math drill and skill building work. The promise was that following the three weeks of math skill development, they would get a second chance to take the SCSU math placement test. If the retake placement tests scores placed them in a higher level math class, that would be their new class for the Fall 2007 semester.

### **The ALEKS Course Management System**

The 3-week workshop engaged students with an online educational system called ALEKS that used computer technology to promote the learning of mathematics. ALEKS is an online course management system where students do math work in an interactive learning environment. Through a process of assessments and practice problems, ALEKS determines the weak math skills of the students and then guides them through individualized learning paths to mastery of these skills.

The workshop allowed students to interact with ALEKS 3 hours per day, for five days a week in the Math Department computer lab. Four workshops were established with four different facilitators. Eighteen students signed up to participate in the first workshop from 8:45 to 11:45 am. Nineteen students signed up for the second workshop from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Twelve students signed up for the third workshop from 3:15 to 6:15 pm. Nine students signed up for the fourth workshop from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The facilitators stayed in the computer lab with the students, monitoring their progress with the math work, and assisting students with their individual problems or questions. The coordinator for the program assigned weekly assessment tests for the students and compiled progress reports on all students in the program.

### **RESULTS OF THE SUMMER WORKSHOP**

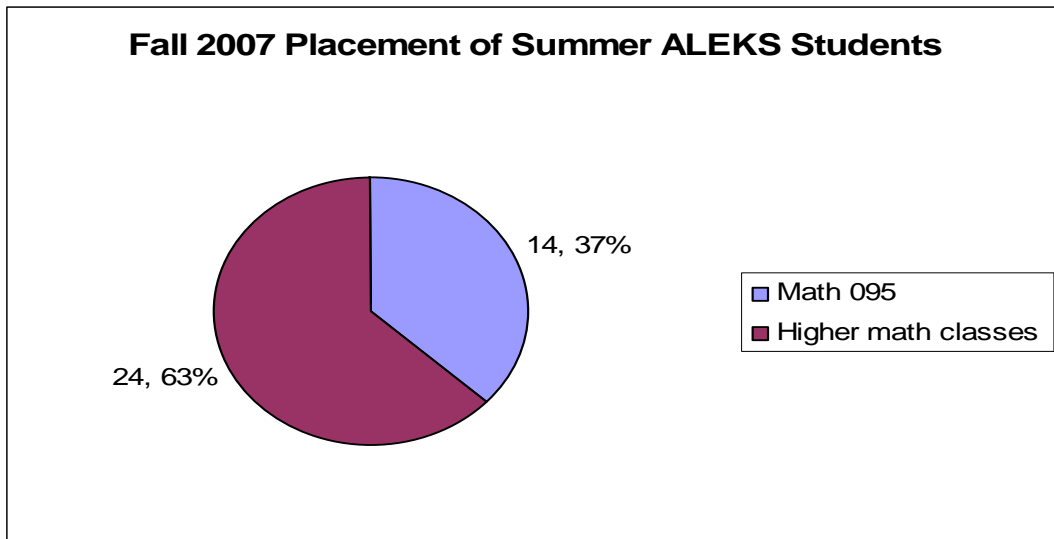
At the end of the three weeks, the final tally of students who endured to the end of the ALEKS workshop was 42. This total was the result of 19 students dropping out of the program and 4 new students adding into the program. The 42 students did a retake of the Math Placement test. The Placement tests scores identified 16 students who did not improve their math skills enough to get out of Math 095. The remaining 26 students improved their scores and were placed in math classes higher than Math 095. Ten

students placed into Math 100, nine students placed into Math 101, six students placed into Math 108 and one student placed into Math 139.

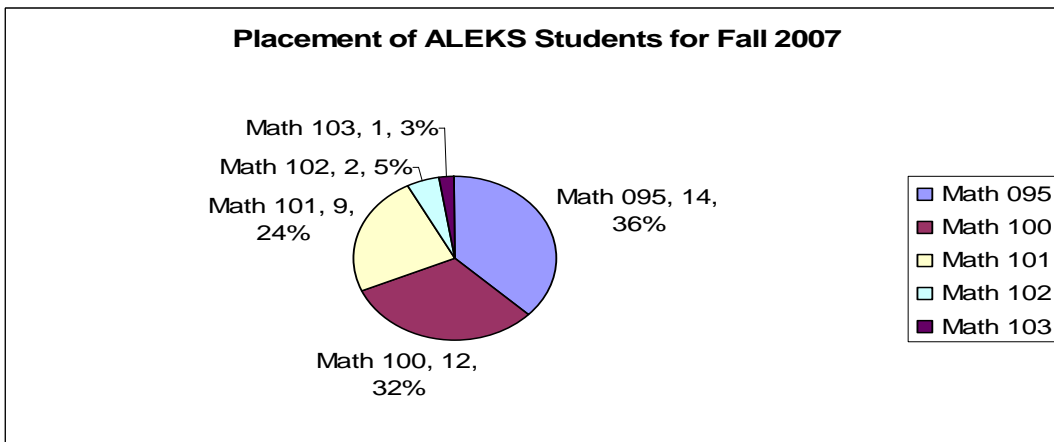
The next objective of the program was to track these students to see how the ALEKS Math Workshop affected their Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 math performances at SCSU.

**Fall 2007 Placement of ALEKS Students**

For Fall 2007, 14 of the 16 Math 095 students enrolled in the appropriate classes. Two students did not enroll in SCSU math classes. Twenty-four of the 26 students eligible for classes higher than Math 095 enrolled in SCSU classes.

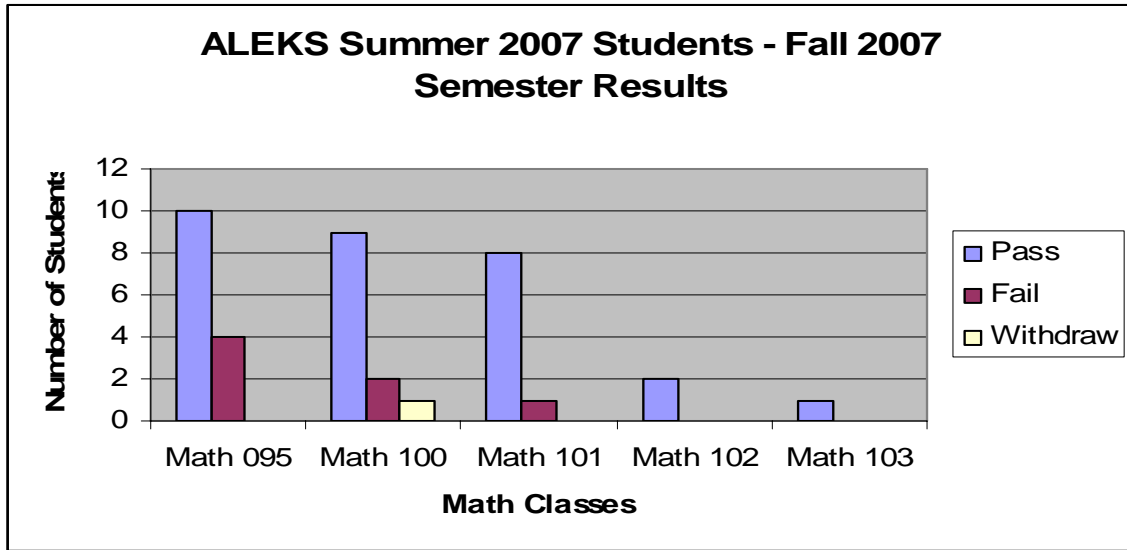


All 10 of the students who placed into Math 100 enrolled in Math 100 classes. Two of the students who were placed into the Math 108 classes decided to enroll in Math 100. All nine of the students who placed into Math 101 enrolled in the appropriate classes. The other students who placed in Math 108 classes signed up as follows: 2 signed up for Math 102 classes, one signed up for Math 103 and one student did not attend SCSU in the fall. The student who got placed in Math 139 did not enroll in a math class.

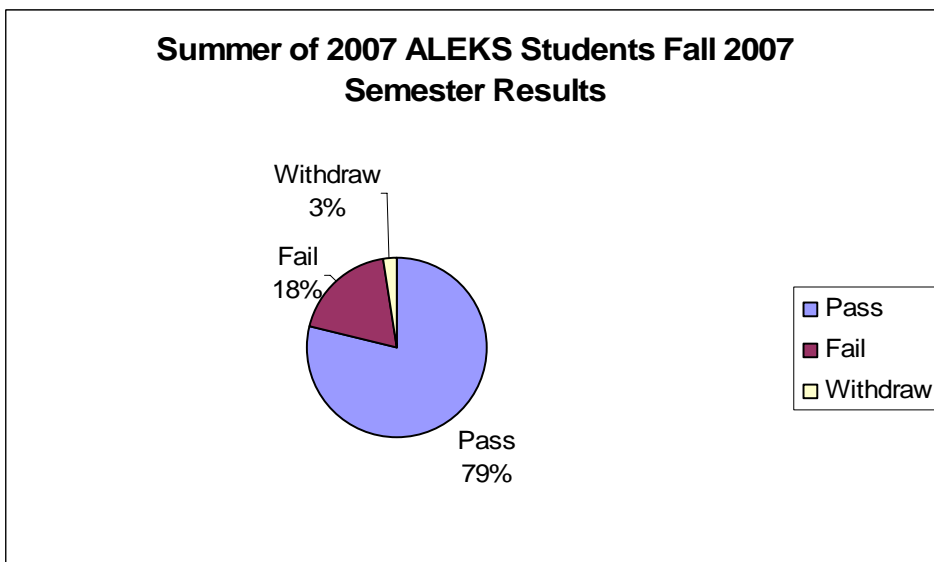


**END OF FALL SEMESTER RESULTS FOR ALEKS STUDENTS**

At the end of Fall 2007, ten of the 14 Math 095 students passed the course and four failed. Nine of the 12 Math 100 students passed the course (1A, 2B's, 4C's, 2D's), 2 failed and one withdrew from the class. Eight of the 9 Math 101 students passed the course (1 A, 2B's, 4C's, 1D) and 1 failed. The two students who signed up for Math 102 passed the course (2B's). The student who signed up for Math 103 got an A for the course.



Hence, of the 38 ALEKS Summer workshop students who entered SCSU in the fall and took math classes immediately, 79% (30) of the students passed their math classes, 18% (7) failed, and 3% (1) withdrew from their math classes.



### **Summary**

All of the 38 students were originally assigned to Math 095 for Fall 2007 but because of the intervention from the ALEKS summer workshop, 63% (24) of the students took math classes higher than Math 095. The success rate for these students was remarkable since 83% (20) of them passed their classes and have moved on to the next level. The next level, for 11 of these students, includes being ready for a college level math class in the spring of 2008. Two students were college math ready in the fall of 2007.

The 2007 ALEKS Summer Workshop was a success as an intervention program. Because of this program, students who would have been on a more than 4 year track to complete their college degree can now look forward to finishing their course work on time. Because of this program, developmental math became less of an obstacle to many of these students. We would hope to see a continuation of this program in the summer of 2008. An early start in the advertisement for this program and recruitment of students would be highly recommended with the goal of more than doubling the enrollment figure of the 2007 Workshop for the summer of 2008.