

INSTRUCTOR WIN STORY

Personalized learning experience succeeds.

THE TEACHING CHALLENGE

Good grades on homework, but not exams.

Instructors want nothing more for their students than to learn and retain the course material and succeed in their class. So, what do you do when your students get good grades on homework, but those grades don't translate to exams?

"It was definitely time to try something different," said Hadi Arman, Chemistry Professor at the University of Texas San Antonio. "**There was some kind of disconnect in retention from homework to exams,**" Professor Arman explains. "I was trying to help students retain concepts and have some level of mastery in the material that would translate into improved exam grades."

Arman decided to switch from using McGraw Hill Connect® in his class to using ALEKS® — an adaptive online learning platform, to see if it would raise exam grades.

THE ACTION PLAN

Teach the same course with the same exams, but use different materials.

"I used the same exact exams in the semester I used ALEKS," Arman said, "as I did the semester that I used Connect, so that I could compare course data."

ALEKS uses Artificial Intelligence to determine what students know and don't know upon entering the course and provides them with a personalized learning experience to help them master those topics.



Hadi Arman, Chemistry Professor at the University of Texas San Antonio.

CHE 1113 COURSE COMPARISON

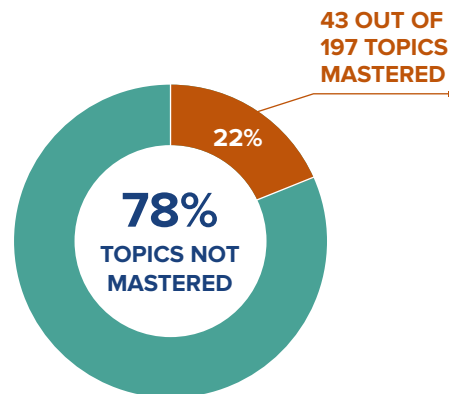
FALL 2020 CHE 1113

- ▶ Used McGraw Hill Connect
 - Homework problems and LearnSmart assignments

SPRING 2021 CHE 1113

- ▶ Used ALEKS 360
 - Chapter Objectives, Knowledge Checks, Pie Progress
 - 4 partial exams
 - ACS final exam

BENCHMARK DATA

BEGINNING OF SEMESTER:
INITIAL KNOWLEDGE CHECK

Mastered: Topics the student knows based on the Initial Knowledge Check.

THE FINAL RESULTS

Students' exam grades were higher in ALEKS.

"For students who completed topics, their exam grades were better than students who did not complete or do the objectives in ALEKS," Arman reports. "This tells me they have a better understanding of the concepts than those who didn't complete the Pie in ALEKS. Also, students' exam grades in ALEKS were always higher than students' grades when I used Connect."

	CONNECT	ALEKS
Students Who Had Taken Exam ¹	115	94
Average Homework Grade ²	86	—
Average % Overall Pie Progress ²	—	83% ³
Average Exam Grade ³	49	61
% Students >60 Exam Average	30%	57%
% A's	2%	10%

¹ Does not include students who received a zero for the final exam
² Does not include students who received a zero for Connect/ALEKS
³ Does not include students who did not take the final exam

WHY IT WORKS

PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO STUDENT BEHAVIOR

"In Connect, there wasn't a way to analyze a student's behavior — I can do that in ALEKS," Arman said. "In ALEKS, I can individually look at a student and see their behavior in ALEKS, which helped me intervene and see what they're doing, or not doing in the course."

ADAPTS TO EACH STUDENT

"I think ALEKS eliminates student stress because now they are starting at their own starting point," Arman stresses. "So, it's not equality — it's justice, because everyone is presented content based on their baseline of knowledge."

EASY TO IMPLEMENT

"Some faculty are afraid to use ALEKS because they think switching platforms is a lot of work," Arman pointed out, "but I only met with my Implementation Manager twice before the semester started and she had everything for my course set up and ready to go."

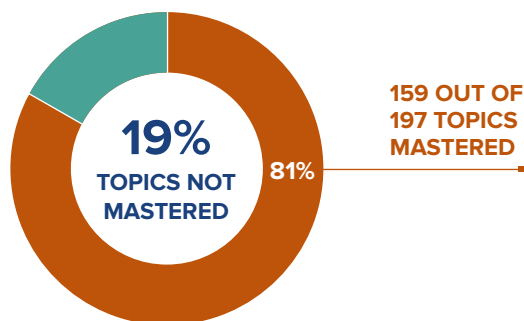
HANDS-ON SUPPORT TEAM

"I ask each instructor I work with to tell me about their class, what's worked and what hasn't and then we use this information to brainstorm the best course build, tailor made for each instructor. I'm there to answer questions and support them during the build and after."

— **Nathalie Vega-Rhodes**, Implementation Manager

PROGRESS DATA

Topics the student knows are added to the Pie after taking a Knowledge Check.



Provides a positive learning experience.

"ALEKS presented the topics learned in the actual class and had explanations that were easy to understand. The more I used ALEKS, the more prepared I felt for an exam."

— **Jaela Marie Macabulos**, Student,
University of Texas at San Antonio

"I liked how ALEKS allowed me to go back and re-learn topics that I still had to master."

— **Kimberly Tax**, Student,
University of Texas at San Antonio

"ALEKS gave me more opportunities to practice the material before exams and helped me learn everything fast."

— **Lauren Alexander**, Student,
University of Texas at San Antonio

Ready to explore your move to ALEKS?

CONTACT THE ALEKS TEAM TODAY

ALEKS@MHeducation.com

ALEKS.COM