



MTH 50 Number Sense and Critical Thinking

Term: Winter 2021 CRN:33610 Class Code: N/A

Instructor: Phillip Jones

Class times: TR 10-10:50

Virtual Office: [Zoom Drop-in](#)

Class location: Virtual/Remote (see moodle for links)

Office Hours: TR 11-11:50 or by appt.

Email: Jonesp@linnbenton.edu

MTH 050 Number Sense and Critical Thinking Course Description:

Math 050 focuses on numerical literacy and on the four basic mathematical operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, exponents, and square roots, and using them to model problems with both estimations and exact answers. Students will develop skills in basic arithmetic algorithms, including the use of formulas and basic geometry. The metric system, conversion of measurement units, and scientific notation is introduced. Signed numbers are introduced, including operations. Math 050 is presented with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving.

Credits: 4 Prerequisite: none

MTH 050 Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in estimating and comparing results of mathematical calculations and determine the reasonableness of the answer.
2. Perform the four basic mathematical operations on whole numbers, fractions, and decimals to obtain exact answers both with and without a calculator.
3. Model and solve problems using the four basic mathematical operations.
4. Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of the use of units including labeling measurements, applying units to solutions, and converting units by using dimensional analysis.
5. Perform operations involving signed numbers including exponents and evaluating expressions.

Required Materials:

- Tablet or Laptop (available for purchase or rent in bookstore if you don't have one.) [Minimum specifications for use with ALEKS360 software:](#)
https://www.aleks.com/support/system_requirements
- ALEKS360 access code for 52 weeks (also used in MTH 75 and 95).
- to be ordered through the bookstore and mailed
- Scientific Calculator (if wanted for concept tests)
- For proctored testing there will be a **required (free) lockdown browser** download and video monitoring. (Note: chromebook won't work for the lockdown browser and tests)

Recommended Materials

- Three ring binder for your course activity packet, ALEKS notes and course notes.

TR classes - ALEKS temporary 2 week financial aid code for: 07B2C-AA12D-863EF-4EB62

Grading Policy:

Your grades will be approximately based on the following:

ALEKS Weekly Objectives/Homework	25%
ALEKS Whole Pie	5%
ALEKS Skills Tests (2)	20%
Concept Chats	6%
Class Activities	20%
Concept Exams (2)	24%

Grading Scale:

A: 90 -100% B: 80 – 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% F: 0 - 59%

Students may view their grades in their Moodle Gradebook.

Pass/No Pass Grading Option:

Students in this course have the option to select P/NP grading. Students earn a P grade if they opt for P/NP grading at registration and are otherwise earning an A, B, or C in the course. Students who opt for P/NP grading and are earning less than a C in the course will receive an NP.

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 passing the course prior to the “special circumstance”.

Tests:

All four of the tests in this class 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 download.

- The **Concept Exams** will be taken in Moodle and cover more conceptual understanding.
- The **ALEKS Skills Tests** will be taken in ALEKS and cover skills you are practicing.

None of the tests are timed, but will have to be completed in one sitting.

Homework:

ALEKS is an adaptive online homework website (www.aleks.com). You will need to purchase an access code in order to continue in the course. Each week’s skills will be available for a given length of time and you must learn those skills and demonstrate mastery by the deadline date and time. Your score at the time of the deadline will be recorded as a homework grade for that week. You should finish learning the topics AND complete the weekly knowledge check. You should also go back and relearn any topics still needed from previous weeks to keep up with your overall ALEKS pie. Students who finish their ALEKS work before the deadline can work on other topics in the course pie.

ALEKS Homework Guidelines:

Keep a notebook of loose leaf paper for your ALEKS homework. Work through each problem and write up neat, readable solutions for your notebook. Include the original problem to give you a study reference before testing.

Class Work and Activities:

Activities are the lessons for this course and are designed to help students develop and understand the concepts behind the math skills and how to apply them to various situations. Forums are a place to discuss concepts with classmates.

Drop for non-attendance or non-participation:

During the first week of the term, the instructor may drop students for not attending class, not completing work, and not completing the ALEKS knowledge check by a certain day.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Students will be actively participating in learning activities and group work in the weekly zoom meetings which cannot be made up, attendance and participation is therefore required. In the case of special circumstances, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible (in advance if possible) to see if alternatives might be available.

Late Work: For many assignments a day or two extension is possible, just ask (preferably before the assignment is due) and we will give you extra time. Note that an extension may not be possible for some collaboration assignments or if the request is too far beyond the due date. Many scheduling needs can be accommodated within the term if requested in advance.

Help:

If you have questions, PLEASE **drop-in** and ask! I have scheduled drop-in hours but you're welcome to make an appointment at other times too. **Study groups** are encouraged! 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 / Math Support / free LBCC tutoring:

The Learning Center is an excellent place to study and to get help with your homework. While we are learning remotely, you may get math help remotely.

- The Math Classroom Discord server provides virtual rooms for **study groups** to meet and work. Moreover, Misa will often be available to answer questions during her drop-in hours.
- Instructional assistants are available in the Math Support drop-in zoom to answer your math, ALEKS and study skills questions. Additionally the Math Cafe provides success coaching by offering
 - Study strategies, note-taking, learning with online homework, time management, scheduling, etc.
 - Make a catch up plan to get up to date on assignments
 - Preparing for an exam
 - Understanding and navigating online homework
- The Learning Center offers some **free individual and small group tutoring** in addition to the drop-in Math Support.

Computers:

Laptops are usually available for short-term check out from the Library.

Expectations:

- I expect that my students will be involved in class. This includes being present, asking questions and participating in discussions and group work.
- You should come to class prepared (this means you should find the activity in advance, have a notebook ready, and join the zoom three-five minutes before the zoom start time). Spend **at least 8 hours per week working on this class.**

- I expect you will be respectful of everyone in the class, in word as well as behavior. Along these lines, I ask that you **turn off and/or put away your cell phone, mp3 player, etc. during class unless it is being used for an activity so as to avoid causing a distraction.**

LBCC Email:

You are responsible for all communications sent via ALEKS 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 disciplinary action.

Special Circumstances:

Students who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, should **make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.**

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations

Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone [541-917-4789](tel:541-917-4789) or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at [1-800-735-2900](tel:1-800-735-2900) or [1-800-735-1232](tel:1-800-735-1232). Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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.symplcity.com/public_report

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (Resources@linnbenton.edu, 541-917-4877, or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/rcc or under Student Support for Current Students). This office can help students get connected to resources to help.

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