

Alamo Colleges
Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

Updated 04/29/2016

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What is the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)?

The Texas Success Initiative is a state mandated program, effective August 26, 2013, designed to help determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics (Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 4, Subchapter 3). The program will help you know what type of courses or interventions will assist you be prepared for college level course work.

All students not meeting the exemptions defined below (Tables 1 and 2) must take the TSI Assessment as a diagnostic tool to determine reading, writing, and mathematics basic skills. Performing your best on the test will affect the amount of time and tuition cost you will have to spend on preparing for many of Alamo Colleges' programs and courses. Students may retest on TSI Assessment at any time if they want to advance in their developmental course sequence.

Following the TSI Assessment, your goal/major will determine what level (if any) of developmental coursework and/or interventions will be required.

If you are required to take the TSI Assessment, several options are available for you to review and prepare for the test. Spending a short time reviewing information about the test and the type of questions you can expect may assist you in maximizing your performance on the exam. Please request information about these options.

You will be advised based on the results of your TSI Assessment scores and the courses you plan to take.

You will not be denied admission to the Alamo Colleges based on your TSI Assessment scores.

Table 1: TSI Exemptions			
Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment) Exemption must be met in all areas listed			
1. Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
ACT <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>	Composite = 23+	English = 19+	Math = 19+
SAT <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>	CR + Math = 1070+	Critical Reading = 500+	Math = 500+
Exit Level TAKS <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>	ELA = 2200+	ELA = 2200+ WSAM = 3+	Math = 2200+
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>		English III = minimum score of Level II of Reading 2000+ and Writing 2000+	Algebra II = minimum score of Level II of 4000+
2. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.			
3. A student who transfers to an institution from a private or independent institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework as determined by the receiving institution (see Table 2).			
4. A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.			

Other Exemptions or Exceptions (not required to take the TSI Assessment)	
5.	A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment. <i>[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]</i>
6.	A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States. <i>[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]</i>
7.	A student who earns a grade of 75 or above for ELAR and/or Mathematics College Preparatory Course under Texas Education Code §28.014 is exempt for a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of high school graduation and must register in respective course of content area within one (1) year of enrollment date. This exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that collaborates with the school district (MOU) in which the student is enrolled. Evidence for completion of CP course may include PEIMS Code on High School Transcripts: CP110100 College Preparatory Course English Language Arts / CP111200 College Preparatory Course Mathematics OR Local Design Evidence.
8.	Students will not need to take the TSI Assessment if they have met both of the following prior to fall 2013: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Taken one of the four previously approved tests for TSI purposes (ACCUPLACER, THEA, COMPASS, Asset) 2) Received a letter grade (A,B,C,D,F, IP or W) for any course while they attended a public Texas college or university Test scores will be honored for placement purposes for five years from the test administration date.
Certificate Seekers	
9.	A student who is seeking a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) will not be required to take any formal developmental courses, but will be administered the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes only.

Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness Grade of “C” or Better <i>(unless otherwise noted)</i>	
Writing/English	ENGA 0351 with a B or better, ENGA 0361, INRW 0420, ENGL 0301, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302
Reading	READ 0303, ENGA 0353 with a “B” or better, ENGA 0363, INRW 0420, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, ENGL 2327, ENGL 2328, HIST 1301, HIST 1302, PSYC 2301
Mathematics	MATH 0303, MATH 0320, MATH 1314, MATH 1324, MATH 1325, MATH 1332, MATH 1333, MATH 1350, MATH 1351, MATH 1414, MATH 1442, MATH 2412, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 2415

Table 3: Minimum Standards for College Readiness	
TSI Assessment	Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework
Writing TSI Scores	[363+ and Essay of 4+] OR [Essay ≥ 5]
Reading TSI Scores	351-390
Math TSI Scores	350-390

Students requiring developmental coursework:[Top](#)

You will be required to enroll in developmental coursework if you plan to enroll in **college-level transfer courses** and do not meet a TSI exemption (Table 1), the TSI Minimum Standards (Table 3), or placement scores based on the TSI Assessment. The basic skills requirements for transfer courses are included with the course description in the eCatalog. Tables 4 and 5 provide course placement information.

Table 4: English/Reading Placement				
	Writing/English TSI Score AND	Reading TSI Score	ACCUPLACER	THEA-IBT
INRW 0120 <i>(replaces INRW 0305)</i>	310-350	310-342	WRIT<49 AND READ 34-77	N/A
			WRIT 50-79 and a minimum of 5 on writing sample AND READ 34-48	
INRW 0420	310-350	343-390	WRIT<49 AND READ 78+	N/A
	351-362	310-350	WRIT 50+ and a minimum of 5 on writing sample AND READ 49+	
	363-390 with Essay 4 or below	310-342	WRIT 80+ and 6 on writing sample AND READ 34-64	
	Essay Score of 5	310-342		
ENGL 1301+ Ready, Set, Go (RSG) ENGL 1301	351-362	351-390	WRIT 70+ and a minimum of 5 on writing sample AND READ 65+ OR A student who has completed ENGL 0300 and READ 78+	220+ and 3/ college level required for READ
	363-390 w/ Essay 4	343-350		
	Essay Score of 5	343-350		
ENGL 1301	363-390 w/ Essay of 4	351-390	WRIT 80+ and 6 on writing sample AND READ 78+	220+ and 3/ college level required for READ
	Essay Score of 5	351-390		

*ENGL—English

*INRW—Integrated Reading and Writing

*READ—Reading

*WRIT—Writing

*ENGL 1301 + Ready, Set, Go = ENGL 1301 with a 1 hour support course

*INRW 0120 + INRW 0420 = INRW 0420 with a 1 hour support course

Questions? English Department Chairs:

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Table 5: Mathematics Placement					
	Math TSI Score	Math Refresher (MATH)***	ALEKS Score (ALKM)***	ACCUPLACER	THEA-IBT
MATH 0105 (Pre-Algebra)	310-335 With ABE score of 3 or 4	10 With ABE score of 3 or 4			
MATH 0305 (Pre-Algebra)	336 or 310-335 with ABE score of 5 or 6	10 With ABE score of 5 or 6	0-34	EAR < 50	≤ 179
MATH 0310 (Begin. Alg)	337-342	20	35-59	EAR 50 – 69	180-229
MATH 0320 (Inter. Alg)	343-349	30	60-79	EAR 70 – 85	230-269
MATH 0442 (NVC Only)	321-342	20	25–59	EAR > 31	140-269
College Ready/College Level Math Courses					
MATH 1333 (SPC Only)**	337-390	20	35–100	EAR ≥ 41 and	≥ 140
MATH 1332	343-390	30	60-100	EAR ≥ 70	230-269
Ready, Set, Go MATH 1314	343 and department permission	40	60-100 and department permission	EAR ≥ 70 and department permission	≥ 230 and department permission
MATH 1442	343-390	30	60-100	EAR ≥ 70	≥ 230
MATH 1314, 1414, 1324	350-390	50	80-100	EAR ≥ 86	≥ 270
MATH 1316, 2412	N/A	N/A	N/A	CLM ≥ 85	N/A
MATH 2413 or higher	N/A	N/A	N/A	CLM ≥ 103 AND permission from Math Dept.	N/A

**MATH 1333 is only for AAS degrees (please refer to the student's degree plan).

*** Math Refresher test score is coded MATH on SOATEST. ALEKS score is coded ALKM on SOATEST.

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For High School Programs Students Only:

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Table 8: High School Programs Eligibility	
Dual Credit Seniors	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their senior year can submit any of the following test results, through the crediting entity: TSI, SAT, ACT. The test(s) should be taken during the junior year. See Tables 1, 3, and 8.1.
Dual Credit Juniors	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their junior year can submit any of the following test results, through the crediting entity: TSI, SAT, ACT, PSAT, PLAN. The test(s) should be taken during the sophomore year. See Tables 1, 3, and 8.1.
Dual Credit Sophomores and Freshmen	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their sophomore or freshman year can submit any of the following test results, through the crediting entity: TSI, SAT, ACT, PSAT, and Plan. See Tables 1, 3, and 8.1.

Table 8.1: High School Programs Exam Eligibility			
Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
ACT <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>	Composite = 23+	English = 19+	Math = 19+
SAT <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>	CR + Math = 1070+	Critical Reading = 500+	Math = 500+
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) <i>Can't be more than 5 years old</i>		English III = minimum score of Level II of Reading 2000 and Writing 2000	Algebra II = minimum score of Level II of 4000
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) alternate option <i>(Regular STAAR EOC for ISD)</i>		English II = Level II final recommended score of 4000	Algebra I = Level II final recommended score of 4000 and a passing grade in the Algebra II course
PSAT – Dual Credit & ECHS Students Only <i>Note: Scores eligible only if taken on former PSAT version prior to October 2015.</i> New PSAT/NMSQT Scores not eligible Effective 10-14-2015 (date of implementation)	CR + Math = 107+	Critical Reading = 50+	Math = 50+
PLAN – Dual Credit & ECHS Students Only <i>PLAN Scores eligible only if taken prior to Spring 2014</i>	Composite = 23+	English = 19+	Math = 19+
TSI Assessment		English 363-390 w/ Essay of 4 or an Essay of 5+ and Reading 351-390	Math 350-390

******Traditional and Early College High School Dual Credit Students:** An eligible high school student who enrolls in a dual credit course requiring TSI completion in reading, writing, or mathematics under the PSAT/NMSQT, PLAN, or Aspire provisions and earns a grade of C or better has demonstrated eligibility to enroll in dual credit courses in the 12th grade. A request to demonstrate eligibility in the 12th grade may occur if the student is seeking a subject area not earned in the previous academic year.