### BACKGROUND

Students must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), (Texas Education Code §51.3062) to enroll in Texas public institutions of higher education. The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in reading, writing and math unless the student qualifies for an exemption or demonstrates college readiness through successful completion of college-level coursework. Each non-exempt student who does not meet the college-readiness benchmark of the TSI Assessment must be provided with a plan for academic success which may include co-requisite or other developmental education interventions. Since fall 2013, the TSI Assessment (TSIA) replaced the four assessments previously available.

### DETAILS

**Which students must take a TSI Assessment?**

Unless exempt, students entering a Texas public college or university must take the TSIA and meet or exceed the minimum college readiness benchmarks to enroll in entry-level college credit courses.

Students who qualify for a TSI exemption can enroll in entry-level college credit courses without restrictions (see list of exemptions on the right). Students may also demonstrate college readiness by transferring a successfully completed college-level course from another institution of higher education.

*For a complete list of TSI exemptions, see Texas Education Code, §51.3062 and Coordinating Board rules, §4.54.*

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<tr>
<th>Texas Success Initiative Exemptions</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>TAKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Composite score of 23 or higher or at least 19 on the English test and at least 19 on the math section</td>
<td>Combined critical reading and math score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the verbal test and a minimum of 500 on the math test</td>
<td>Minimum score of 2200 on the English and/or math sections with at least a 3 on the writing component of the 11th grade TAKS (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)</td>
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<td>New SAT</td>
<td>Minimum score of 530 on the math section and a minimum score of 480 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) for tests taken prior to March 2016</td>
<td>Minimum score of 2200 on the English and/or math sections with at least a 3 on the writing component of the 11th grade TAKS (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)</td>
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<td>Military</td>
<td>Veterans, active duty personnel, and a student who is serving as and, for at least 3 years preceding enrollment, has served as a member of a reserve component of the U.S. armed services.</td>
<td>Enroll in a certificate program of one year or less (Level One certificates, 42 or fewer credit hours or equivalent) at a public community or technical college.</td>
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<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Transfer from another institution having satisfactorily completed college-level coursework, based on receiving institution’s approval.</td>
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When do students take the TSI Assessment?

Students must complete the TSI Assessment (TSIA) and meet the college readiness benchmarks by subject area before they can enroll in entry-level college-level courses. TSIA results are available immediately after completion of the assessment and can be emailed to students. Students wishing to use their TSIA scores at an institution where they did not take the test can ask that their scores be pulled by a testing administrator at the institution where they plan to enroll.

A student must participate in a Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) before taking the TSIA. The activity varies by institution but must include at minimum the following:

- An explanation of the importance of the TSI Assessment and its use by institutions;
- Practice test questions with feedback;
- An explanation of all options for students who do not meet the college readiness benchmarks; and
- Information on campus, academic, and community resources to help support student success.

What happens if a student does not pass one or all parts of the TSI Assessment?

Students who do not pass at least one subject area component (reading, writing and math) of the TSIA must work with an advisor to develop a plan for academic success that outlines the options for students to become college ready, including traditional semester-long stand-alone developmental courses. Institutions must also provide the following:

- Co-requisite/mainstreaming – a student enrolls at the same time in the applicable entry-level college credit course and a developmental education intervention designed to support the student’s success in the college credit course.
- NCBO (non-course competency based options) – a student enrolls in an intervention that is flexible and individualized to address the student’s weak areas and is shorter than the traditional 48 hour course.
- Modular/technology-based – a student enrolls in an intervention that offers flexible scheduling with strong technology-based options and individualized, just-in-time support. Modular options can be offered via NCBO and/or co-requisite delivery.

Minimum Passing College Readiness Standards on the TSIA

**Math** 350

**Reading** 351

**Writing**

- Multiple choice score of 350 and essay score of 5, or
- Multiple choice score of 363 and essay score of 4, or
- Multiple choice score below 350, ABE Diagnostic score of 4, and essay score of 5.

For more information:
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