

OVERVIEW: TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2016

BACKGROUND

Students must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), to enroll in Texas public institutions of higher education per Texas Education Code. 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 take the 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.

Texas Success Initiative Exemptions

ACT

Composite score of **23** or higher with at least a **19** on the English test and at least **19** on the math section

SAT

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 for tests taken **prior to March 2016**

New SAT

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 **March 5, 2016 or later**

TAKS

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)

Military

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.

Certificate

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.

Transfer

Transfer from another institution having satisfactorily completed college-level coursework, based on receiving institution's approval.

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, Adult Basic Education Diagnostic score of 4, and essay score of 5.

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Students entering Texas public institutions of higher education must take the TSI Assessment, or be exempt, to enroll in credit-bearing college courses.

A student may retake the TSIA at any time to determine the student’s readiness to enroll in entry-level college credit coursework. It is highly recommended that students engage in some sort of formal or informal intervention (workshops, online resources such as Khan Academy, or tutoring) before retesting.

For more information:
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