

Alamo Colleges
Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
Effective August 26, 2013
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What is the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)?

The Texas Success Initiative is a state mandated program that is 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 to 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 impact the amount of time and tuition cost you will have to spend on preparing for many of Alamo Colleges' programs and courses. Anyone wanting to advance in their developmental course sequence may retest on TSI Assessment.

Following the TSI Assessment, your goal/major will be used to 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)

1. Exam	Exemption in all three areas	English/Reading Exemption	Math Exemption
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+
PSAT - Dual Credit Students Only <i>Must be entering program as a sophomore or junior in high school</i>	CR + Math = 107+	Critical Reading = 50+	Math = 50+
PLAN – Dual Credit Students Only <i>Must be entering program as a sophomore or junior in high school</i>	Composite = 23+	English = 19+	Math = 19+
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.			
4. A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution (see Table 2).			

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. *[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]*
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. *[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]*
7. Students will not need to take the new TSI Assessment if they have met **both** of the following prior to fall 2013:
 - 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

8. 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 is required to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes.

Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness

Grade of "C" or Better (unless otherwise noted)

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 \geq 5]
Reading TSI Scores	351-390
Math TSI Scores	350-390

Students requiring developmental coursework:

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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 0305	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 0-3	310-342	WRIT 80+ and 6 on writing sample AND READ 34-64	
	363-390 w/ Essay 4	310-342		
	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 or below	343-350		
	363-390 with Essay 0-3	351-390		
	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—ENGL 1301 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 0305 (Pre-Algebra)	310-336	10	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	40	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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Cross-walk for students currently completing developmental education requirements:[Top](#)

The college preparatory courses in English, math, and reading have been updated. If you are in the process of completing developmental education requirements in English, math, and/or reading, please consult the cross-walk to the new sequences provided below (Tables 6 and 7). These are designed to accelerate your progress through requirements to enrollment in college-level courses.

Table 6: Integrated Reading and Writing Developmental Courses Crosswalk (formerly ENGL and READ)		
Passed/Failed		New Course
English	Reading	Integrated Reading and Writing
ENGL 0300	Failed READ 0301	INRW 0305
ENGL 0300	READ 0301	INRW 0420
ENGL 0300	READ 0302	INRW 0420
ENGL 0300	READ 0303	INRW 0420
ENGL 0301	Failed READ 0301	INRW 0420
ENGL 0301	READ 0301	INRW 0420
ENGL 0301	READ 0302	ENGL 1301+
ENGL 0301	READ 0303	ENGL 1301
Failed ENGL 0301	READ 0301	INRW 0420
Failed ENGL 0301	READ 0302	INRW 0420
Failed ENGL 0301	READ 0303	INRW 0420
Failed ENGL 0300	READ 0301	INRW 0305
Failed ENGL 0300	READ 0302	INRW 0305
Failed ENGL 0300	READ 0303	INRW 0420

Table 7: Mathematics Developmental Courses Crosswalk			
Fall 2013		Spring 2014	Additional Information
Passed/Failed		New Course	
MATH 0300	Pass	MATH 0310	If it has been longer than 2 semesters since the student completed MATH 0300, we recommend that they take the TSI assessment.
MATH 0300	Failed	MATH 0305	Students who have not previously passed MATH 0300 should enroll in MATH 0305.
MATH 0301	Pass	MATH 0310	Students who have previously passed, or are currently enrolled in, MATH 0301 can enroll in MATH 0310
MATH 0301	Failed	MATH 0305	Students who have not previously passed MATH 0301 should enroll in MATH 0305.
MATH 0302	Pass	MATH 0320 or MATH 1332 or MATH 1442	Students who have previously passed, or are currently enrolled in, MATH 0302 can enroll in MATH 0320
MATH 0302	Failed	MATH 0310	Students who have not previously passed MATH 0302 should enroll in MATH 0310.
MATH 0303	Pass	College ready	Students who have previously passed, or are currently enrolled in, MATH 0303 can enroll in MATH 1314, 1414, 1324, 1332, or 1442.
MATH 0303	Failed	MATH 0320 or MATH 1332 or MATH 1442	Students who have not previously passed MATH 0303 should enroll in MATH 0320, MATH 1332, or MATH 1442.
MATH 0350	Pass	MATH 1333	Students who have previously passed, or are currently enrolled in, MATH 0350 can enroll in MATH 1333
MATH 0350	Failed	MATH 0305	Students who have not previously passed MATH 0350 should enroll in MATH 0305.

For Dual Credit Students Only:

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Dual credit students must meet the same admission requirements as all other students. All students must complete the Go FAARR for Dual Credit module in AlamoENROLL.

Students seeking admission and enrollment in dual credit courses may submit SAT/ACT scores from the accrediting entity (i.e. College Board) for exemption consideration. If you are a freshman or sophomore wishing to take dual credit courses the following year, you may use PSAT or PLAN scores. If you do not have TSI Exemption scores on these exams (see Table 1), you must complete the TSI Assessment.

If you need to take the TSI Assessment, you will complete a pre-assessment activity prior to taking the test. If you wish to take the TSI Assessment at one of the Alamo Colleges test sites, you must complete the Test Prep module in AlamoENROLL. If you are taking the TSI Assessment at a test site outside the Alamo Colleges, you must complete the pre-assessment activity identified by the test site.

If you plan to take transfer courses as dual credit, you must meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) compliance (college ready scores) in at least one basic skill subject area (English, Math, Reading) to be considered for enrollment in transfer courses (see Table 3). You must meet the basic skills requirements identified for each core course. Each transfer course has basic skills requirements that must be met for eligibility for enrollment. These are identified in the eCatalog. (Example: To meet the transfer course requirement, you must be college ready in English, Math, or Reading. ENGL 1301 requires college readiness specifically in English and Reading.)

If you are a Traditional or Early College dual credit student taking only career/technical courses leading to a Level 1 Certificate, you are not required to complete any formal developmental courses prior to enrollment but will be required to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes. If you choose to take a course outside of the certificate requirements you will be required to meet TSI requirements as indicated above for the Traditional and Early College High School programs.

Additionally, if you are an Academy or Phoenix dual credit student, you are not required to complete any formal developmental courses prior to enrollment but will be required to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes. Academy and Phoenix dual credit students cannot choose to take courses outside the program of study and/or participate in various dual credit programs.

If you are a returning dual credit student please refer to Table 1 and bullets 4 and 7 for exemption possibilities. If you did not meet college readiness standards per a previous taken TSI approved exam, TSI Exemption exam and/or college course history, you will be required to meet TSI Requirements as indicated above for the Traditional and Early College High School programs (Table 8).

Table 8: Dual Credit Eligibility			
Dual Credit Seniors	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their senior year must take the TSI and/or submit exempting SAT or ACT scores through the accrediting entity. The test(s) should be taken during the junior year. See Tables 3, 5 and 6 for score requirements.		
Dual Credit Juniors	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their junior year can submit any of the following test result, through the crediting entity: TSI, SAT, ACT, PSAT, PLAN.		
Dual Credit Sophomores	Students entering dual credit for the first time in their sophomore year must take the TSI. The test should be taken during the freshman year. See Tables 4 and 5 for score requirements.		
PSAT	Combined score of Reading + Math = 107+	Critical Reading = 50+	Math = 50+
PLAN	Composite = 23+	English = 19+	Math = 19+
10th grade TAKS for entering Juniors 11th grade TAKS for entering Seniors		ELA = 2200+ WSAM = 3+	Math = 2200+
Dual Credit Sophomores and Freshmen			