

**Alamo Colleges District**  
**Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**  
**Common Entry Requirements**  
*Updated 07-01-2022*

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**What is the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)?**

The Texas Success Initiative is a state mandate, effective August 26, 2013, designed to help students achieve college readiness in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics (Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subchapter C). The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is the mandated instrument used to determine college readiness. The TSIA has a version 2.0 effective January, 11, 2021 (TSIA2). Alamo Colleges District implements TSI requirements by offering various types of courses or interventions to prepare students 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 readiness. 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.

Following the TSI Assessment, your goals/program of study/transfer goals will determine what level (if any) of developmental coursework and/or interventions may 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.***

<b>Table 1: TSI Exemptions</b>			
<b>Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)</b>			
<b>1. Exam</b>	<b>Combination Score</b>	<b>English/Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>
<b>ACT</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	(A050) = 23+ Composite	(A010) = 19+ English	(A020) = 19+ Math
<b>SAT</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: SAT taken on or AFTER March 5, 2016</i>	NA	(S11) = 480 Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	(S12) = 530 Math
<b>SAT</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: SAT taken prior to March 5, 2016</i>	(STOT) = 1070+ CR + Math	(S01) = 500+ Critical Reading	(S02) = 500+ Math
<b>Exit Level TAKS</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	NA	(TKEE) = 2200+ English/Language Arts (TKEW) = 3+ Writing Essay	(TKEM) = 2200+ Math
<b>STAAR end-of-course (EOC)</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(STRW) = 4000+ English III (Level 2 or Meets Standard)	(STRM) = 4000+ Algebra II (Level 2 or Meets Standard)
<b>General Educational Development (GED)</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: GED taken on or AFTER January 1, 2014</i>		(GDRL) = 165 + Reasoning Through Language Arts	(GDMA) = 165 + Mathematical Reasoning
<b>High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: HiSET taken on or PRIOR to August 31, 2021</i>		(HSTR) = 15 + Reading <u>and</u> (HSTW) = 15 + Writing <u>and</u> (HSTWE) = 4 + Essay	(HSTM) = 15 + Math

### Other Exemptions or Exceptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)

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.
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. A student who earns a grade of 75 or above for English Language Arts Reading [ELAR] (Reading & Writing) or Mathematics (Math) 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 content area within one (1) year of enrollment date. This exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district (MOU) in which the student is enrolled. Texas College Bridge Certificates are equivalent to College Prep for TSI purposes as Alamo Colleges District has a statewide MOU in place to accept Texas College Bridge ELAR and Math as College Prep using the same PEIMS Codes.  
Evidence for completion of CP course may include PEIMS Code on High School Transcripts AND/OR any other Local Design Evidence: **CP110100** College Preparatory Course English Language Arts (ELAR)  
**CP111200** College Preparatory Course Mathematics

### 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 developmental coursework and/or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption, however, may be administered the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes only.

### [Texas Administrative Code for Texas Success Initiative](#)

<b>Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness</b> Grade of "C" or Better <i>(unless otherwise noted)</i>	
<b>English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) (Reading/Writing)</b>	ENGA 0351 with a "B" or better, ENGA 0353 with a "B" or better, ENGA 0361, ENGA 0363, <del>READ 0303</del> , INRW 0420, <del>ENGL 0304</del> , ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, HIST 1301, HIST 1302, HIST 2321, PSYC 2301
<b>Mathematics</b>	<del>MATH 0303</del> , MATH 0320, MATH 1314, MATH 1316, MATH 1324, MATH 1325, MATH 1332, MATH 1333, MATH 1350, MATH 1351, MATH 1414, MATH 1342, MATH 1442, MATH 2412, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 2415

<b>Table 3: TSIA 2.0</b> <b>Minimum Standards for College Readiness</b> <i>(Effective 1-11-2021 scores valid for 5 years)</i>	
TSI Assessment	Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework
English Language Arts & Reading [ELAR] (TS2E) Essay (TS2S) ELAR Diagnostic (T2DE)	≥ 945 <b>AND</b> Essay ≥ 5 <b>Or</b> < 945 <b>AND</b> Diagnostic Level ≥ 5 <b>AND</b> Essay ≥ 5
Math TSI Scores (TS2M) Math Diagnostic (T2DM)	≥ 950; <b>Or</b> < 950 <b>AND</b> Diagnostic Level = 6

<b>Table 3: TSIA</b> <b>Minimum Standards for College Readiness</b> <i>(Prior to 1-11-2021 scores valid for 5 years)</i>	
TSI Assessment	Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework
Writing TSI Scores (TSIW) Essay (TSIS)	[340+ <b>AND</b> Essay of 4+] <b>OR</b> [<340 <b>AND</b> ABE of at least 4 <b>AND</b> Essay of 5]
Reading TSI Scores (TSIR)	351-390
Math TSI Scores (TSIM)	350-390

### Students requiring Corequisites/Developmental Education (DE) coursework:

You will be required to enroll in developmental coursework/corequisites if your TSIA score is below College Ready based on your degree plan and you do not meet a TSI exemption (Table 1), the TSIA Minimum Standards (Table 3), or college ready 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. Your individual college may require additional placement for math based on your program area of study.

Table 4: English Course Placement Effective 1-11-2021			TSIA 2.0			
	English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) (TS2E)		Diagnostic Level (T2DE)		Essay (TS2S)	REFRESHER Exit Score (INRW)
<b>INRW 0420</b>	910-929	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 1-3		N/A	10
<b>Corequisites</b>						
<b>ENGL 1301 + 0201 (1301++)</b>	930-990	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 3		N/A	20
	910-944	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 4-6	<b>AND</b>	Essay 1-2	
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	<b>AND</b>	Essay 1-2	
<b>ENGL 1301 + 0100 (1301+)</b>	910-944	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 4	<b>AND</b>	Essay 3-8	30
	910-944	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 5 & 6	<b>AND</b>	Essay 3-4	
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	<b>AND</b>	Essay 3-4	
<b>College Ready</b>						
<b>ENGL 1301</b>	910-944	<b>AND</b>	Diagnostic Level 5-6	<b>AND</b>	Essay 5-8	40
	945-990	<b>AND</b> <b>*Note: ELAR score range 945-990 Diagnostic Test is not given</b>			Essay 5-8	

\*TSIA Lower Levels Referral Options: Contact DE English Chairs and/or Advising Directors for more Information

I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) / AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

**NEW:** Refreshers – Required for students placing only in INRW 0420: ELAR score 910-929/Diagnostic Levels 1-3

**Questions? English Department Chairs:**

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<b>PAC</b>	Jennifer Scheidt	jscheidt@alamo.edu	486-3250
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<b>SPC</b>	Kimberley Irving-Conaway	kirving@alamo.edu	486-2611

<b>Table 4: English Course Placement Prior to 1-11-2021</b>				
	<b>Writing/English TSI Score (TSIW/TABW/TSIS)</b>		<b>Reading TSI Score (TSIR/TABR)</b>	<b>REFRESHER Exit Score (INRW)</b>
<b>*ABE Referral Options (I-Best or Region 20 AEL)</b>	310-335 w/ABE 1-2	<b>Or</b>	310-335 w/ABE 1-2	5
<b>INRW 0420</b>	310-339 w/ABE 3-4	<b>And</b>	310-350 w/ABE 3 -4	10
<b>ENGL 1301+0201 (1301++)</b>	310-349 w/Essay 3 or below	<b>And</b>	351-390	20
	351-390 w/Essay 4 or below	<b>And</b>	343-350	
	340-390 w/Essay 4 or higher	<b>And</b>	310-329	
	310-390 w/Essay 5+	<b>And</b>	310-329	
<b>ENGL 1301+0100 (1301+)  Ready, Set, Go (RSG)</b>	310-390 w/Essay 5+	<b>And</b>	330-350	30
	350-390 w/Essay 3 or below	<b>And</b>	351-390	
	340-390 w/Essay 4 or 5	<b>And</b>	330-350	
	310-339 w/Essay 4	<b>And</b>	351-390	
<b>ENGL 1301</b>	340-390 w/ Essay of 4	<b>And</b>	351-390	40
	310-339 w/Essay Score of 5+ AND ABE 4, 5, or 6	<b>And</b>	351-390	

\*TSIA Lower Levels Referral Options: Contact DE English Chairs and/or Advising Directors for more Information  
I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) / AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

<b>Table 5: Math Course Placement</b>	<b>Scores effective 1-11-2021</b> <b>Math TSIA2 (TS2M)</b> <b>Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)</b>	<b>Prior to 1-11-2021</b> <b>Math TSIA Scores (TSIM)</b> <b>Math ABE (TABM)</b>	<b>MATH Refresher Exit Exam</b>  (MATH)
<b>*Adult Education Literacy (AEL) or I-BEST Program Referral Options</b>		310-335 w/ABE 1-2	10
<b>Math 0410 + 0105</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 1-3	310-335 w/ABE 3-4	20
<b>Math 0415 [Stand-alone] (STEM)</b> <b>(NVC Only)</b>	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 1-4	310-335 w/ABE 3-6 OR 336-342	20 or 30
<b>Math 0320 (STEM)</b> <b>(NVC Only)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 5	343-349	40
<b>Co-Requisites</b>			
<b>1314 + 0114</b> College Algebra <b>(NVC, PAC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 5	343-349	40
<b>1314 + 0214</b> College Algebra <b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
<b>1414 + 0114 (STEM)</b> College Algebra <b>(PAC Only)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 5	343-349	40
<b>1414 + 0214 (STEM)</b> College Algebra <b>(NLC, PAC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
<b>1414 + 0314 (STEM)</b> College Algebra <b>(SPC Only)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
<b>1332 + 0132</b> Liberal Arts Math <b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
<b>1342 + 0142</b> Statistics <b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
<b>1324 + 0124</b> Business Math <b>(PAC, SAC)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	343-349	30 or 40
<b>1324 + 0224</b> Business Math <b>(NLC, NVC, SPC)</b>	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40

Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules

7-01-2022

College Ready Test Scores valid for 5 years	College Ready Effective 1-11-2021 Math TSIA2 (TS2M) Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)	College Ready Prior to 1-11- 2021 Math TSIA Scores (TSIM)	MATH Refresher Exit Exam (MATH)	Accuplacer CLM Prior to 1-11- 2021 (ACCL)	Accuplacer Next Gen Effective 1-11- 2021 (AAF)	ACT (A020)	SAT (S12)
<b>MATH 1314; 1414; 1332; 1342; 1324</b>	950-990 <b>OR</b> 910-949 <b>AND</b> Diagnostic Level 6	350-390	Refreshers only applicable for placement in corequisite courses	N/A	N/A	19-25	530-580
<b>MATH 1316, 2412</b>	N/A	N/A		>=85	263-275	26-27	581-639
<b>MATH 2413</b>	N/A	N/A		>=103 AND with Department permission	>=276	28+	640+

**\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT--- Recommendation: Before enrolling in a Math corequisite course, consult with your academic advisor**

\*\*See Transfer Advising Guides (TAGs) for appropriate Math course

\*TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact DE Math Chairs and/or Advising Directors for more information

Possible Options: I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) and/or AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

**NEW: Refreshers Required for students placing in Math Diagnostic Levels 1-3 Only**

**Questions? Math Department Chairs:**

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## High School Programs (Dual Credit, ECHS, P-TECH, T-STEM) Only:

Table 6: High School Programs Exam Eligibility			
<p><b>TSI Exemptions and Minimum Standards Apply:</b>  <b>See Table 1: TSI Exemptions and Table 3: TSIA Minimum Standards for College Readiness</b>  <b>Texas Administrative Code:</b>  <a href="https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=1&amp;ch=4&amp;rl=85">https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=1&amp;ch=4&amp;rl=85</a></p>			
Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
<b>STAAR end-of-course (EOC) alternate option</b> <i>(Regular STAAR EOC for ISD)</i>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(STDW) English II = 4000+	(STDM) Algebra I = 4000 + <b>and a</b> passing grade in the Algebra II course (Grade: DCMG)
<b>PSAT – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b>  New PSAT/NMSQT <i>(On or after October 15, 2015)</i>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(PSRW) EBRW = 460	(PSMA) Math = 510
<p><b>*Note:</b> <u>Mixing or combining scores from the PSAT/NMSQT administered prior to October 15, 2015 and the PSAT/NMSQT administered on or after October 15, 2015 is not allowable. Also note that dual credit eligibility scores on the PSAT/NMSQT do not determine a student's college readiness under Texas Success Initiative (TSI) statute or rules</u></p>			
<b>PSAT – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b>  PSAT/NMSQT <i>(Prior to October 15, 2015)</i> Scores eligible only if taken on PSAT/NMSQT version prior to 10-15-2015  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	(PSTL) CR + Math = 107+ (Former=PTOT)	(PSO1) Critical Reading = 50+ (Former=P01)	(PSO2) Math = 50+ (Former=P02)
<b>PLAN – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b> <b>PLAN Scores eligible only if taken prior to Spring 2014</b>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	(PLCO) Composite = 23+	(PLEN) English = 19+	(PLMT) Math = 19+
<b>ACT – Aspire</b>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(ASPE) English = 435+	(ASPM) Math = 431+