

# TESTING

It is the intent of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that Texas public institutions of higher education use the flexibility and responsibility granted under the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) rules to improve individualized programs to ensure the success of students in higher education. Effective with the Fall 2013 semester, all public colleges and universities shall assess the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student prior to enrollment of the student.

Beginning Fall 2013, the Student Assessment Center administers the New TSI Assessment Exam throughout the year. Information on test dates, registration deadlines, and general information is available upon request and/or can be found on our Marketplace website ([http://catalog.southtexascollege.edu/general-admissions/placement-testing/%20https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193\\_ustores/web](http://catalog.southtexascollege.edu/general-admissions/placement-testing/%20https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193_ustores/web)).

Call 1-800-742-7822 for information or contact the Student Assessment Center at the Pecan Campus: 956-872-3484, Mid-Valley Campus: 956-447-6602, or Starr County Campus: 956-488-6976 for more information or visit the web site at <http://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/testing/index.html>.

## Who Must Take the TSI Assessment Exam?

As of the Fall 2013 semester, all students who plan to enroll at South Texas College (STC) and students in high school enrolling in a college-level course **MUST** take the TSI Assessment Exam before enrolling in any college-level credit coursework.

## Who Does Not Have to Take the TSI Assessment Exam?

- A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.
- Students who have achieved a sufficiently high score on ACT, SAT, TAAS/TAKS, STAAR End of Course Exams (EOC), or approved College Preparatory Courses in Mathematics and ELA. ACT, SAT, TAAS/TAKS, and STARR EOC scores may be no more than five (5) years from the date of testing, completion of STC approved College

Preparatory courses must be within two (2) year of high school graduation. See Placement Scale (p. 4).

- Students who are enrolled in a certificate program of one-year or less (42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) unless required for a prerequisite.
- Students who have graduated with an associate's or baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
- Transfer students from an accredited institution of higher education who have earned a "C" or better in a corresponding course (See Developmental Education Plan Procedures Guide).
- 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.

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.

A student who successfully completes a 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 with respect to the content area of the course. The student must enroll in the student's first college level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education. This exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course. Additionally, an institution of higher education may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a partnering institution of higher education to accept the exemption for the college preparatory course.

## When Must a Student Take the TSI Assessment Exam?

All students enrolling in credit programs at STC for the first time in the Fall 2013 and thereafter, must have scores from the New TSI Assessment instrument approved by the Texas Higher Education College Board by the First Class Day.

## TSI Pre-Assessment Activity Requirement

THECB Rule 4.55 Assessment and Placement, section (B), requires all institutions offering the TSI assessment to provide students a pre-assessment activity(ies). South Texas College offers an online pre-assessment module that is available for students at [www.onlineorientation.net/stc-pa](http://www.onlineorientation.net/stc-pa) (<http://www.onlineorientation.net/stc-pa>). After completing the online module, students can print their Pre-Assessment completion page to show proof of completing their Pre-Assessment Activity.

The Pre-Assessment Activity is required for all students testing for the very first time. Students who have previously tested for TSI are not required to redo the Pre-Assessment Activity, but are highly encouraged to do so. Students who are testing for the very first time are required to submit proof of completion. Failure to do so may require the student to not be admitted or to reschedule until proof of completion.

## Registration for the TSI Assessment Exam

To register for the TSI Assessment Exam, a student must fill out an STC Admissions form prior to the test administration. Once an Admissions form has been processed, the student may reserve a test date online through Marketplace at [https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193\\_ustores/web/](https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193_ustores/web/) and choose to test for TSI Assessment Exam. The TSI Assessment Exam is offered by appointment only via Market Place.

Please contact the Student Assessment Centers (Pecan: 956-872-3484, Mid-Valley: 956-447-6602, Starr: 956-488-6976) for more information.

## Texas Success Initiative Test Content

### TSI Mathematics and Statistics Test

The TSI Mathematics Test is a multiple-choice assessment with four basic content areas, or "strands". Scores range from 310 to 390. Shown below are brief descriptions of each of the four strands.

#### Elementary Algebra and Functions

(6 items on the Placement Test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- Linear equations, inequalities, and systems
- Algebraic expressions and equations (other than linear)
- Word problems and applications

#### Intermediate Algebra and Functions

(9 items on the placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- Quadratic and other polynomial expressions, equations, and functions
- Expressions, equations, and functions involving powers, roots, and radicals
- Rational and exponential expressions, equations, and functions

#### Geometry and Measurement

(2 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- Plane geometry
- Transformations and symmetry
- Measurement (linear, area, three-dimensional)
- Modeling and applications

#### Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

(3 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- Interpreting categorical and quantitative data
- Statistical measures
- Probabilistic reasoning

### TSI Writing Test

The TSI Writing Test is an assessment that contains a multiple-choice section and an essay section. The multiple-choice section has four strands. Score range from 310 to 390. Shown below are brief descriptions of each of the four strands.

#### Essay Revision

(8 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be passage-based items.
- Passages are drafts of essays in need of revision and will be approximately 250 words. Items will ask students to revise parts of the essay to improve coherence, organization, word choice, rhetorical effectiveness, and use of evidence.

#### Agreement

(3 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items

- Items will cover topics such as subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, and verb tense.

### Sentence Structure

(5 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items
- Items will cover topics such as fragments, subordination and coordination, and parallelism
- Items will also cover topics such as comma splices and run-on sentences, as well as improper punctuation.

### Sentence Logic

(4 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items.
- Items will test the student's ability to arrange the parts of sentences in the most logical way, including the use of logical transitions and the correct placement of modifying phrases.

### TSI Reading Test

The TSI Reading Test is a multiple-choice assessment with four basic strands. Scores range from 310 to 390. Shown below are brief descriptions of each of the four strands.

#### Literary Analysis

(4 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be passage-based items.
- Passages are fiction or literary nonfiction and will be approximately 400 words in length.
- Items will ask students to identify and analyze ideas in and elements of literary texts.

#### Main Idea and Supporting Details

(5 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with single informational/expository passages of 75-125 words.
- Items will ask students to identify the main idea of a passage or comprehend explicit textual information in the passage.

#### Inferences in a Text or Texts

(8 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with one or, in some cases, two informational/expository passages of 100-150 words.
- Most items will ask students to make an appropriate inference about a single passage.
- Some items will require students to synthesize ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages.

### Author's Use of Language

(7 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with single informational/expository passages of 75-125 words.
- Some items will ask students to identify an author's purpose, tone, organization, or rhetorical strategies and use of evidence.
- Some items will ask students to determine the meaning of words in context.

### WritePlacer

Students who score a 350 or higher on the TSI Writing multiple-choice test or who score a Level 4 on the ABE Writing multiple choice test will be asked to write a persuasive essay (approximately 300-500 words) that "demonstrates clear focus, the logical development of ideas in well-organized paragraphs, and the use of appropriate language that advances the authors purpose." They will be expected to clearly state a main idea and provide specific examples and details to back up the main Idea, as well as follow conventions of Standard English. The essay is also untimed, per THECB decision.

#### *Feedback is provided on the following six dimensions*

- Purpose and Focus  
The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- Organization and Structure  
The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas.
- Development and Support  
The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas.
- Sentence Variety and Style  
The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.
- Mechanical Conventions

The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using standard English.

- **Critical Thinking**  
The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas.

## Payment for the TSI Assessment Exam

The TSI ASSESSMENT Exam fee is \$29 for all three sections; or \$10 for one section or \$20 for two sections plus a \$25 Reservation Fee. Registration for this exam is now done on-line through Student Marketplace [https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193\\_ustores/web/](https://secure.touchnet.com/C20193_ustores/web/)

Please contact the Student Assessment Center (Pecan: 956-872-3484, Mid-Valley: 956-447-6602, Starr: 956-488-6976) for more information.

## Mandatory Participation

Students required to take Developmental courses including College Success must attend scheduled classes.

If they drop or are dropped for non-attendance by their instructors, they are identified by the office of Admissions as non-compliant. The Testing Technician sends these students letters informing them of their non-compliant status. These students must make arrangements with the Student Assessment Center. Students who fail to comply with any of the following policies and procedures may be withdraw from all of their classes and will not earn any college credit hours for the semester.

## Dropping or Withdrawing from Developmental Course Work

Students under TSI requirements who have been assigned developmental courses due to Initial placement Exam may not drop these courses.

Withdrawal from a developmental course must be associated only with withdrawal from the institution.

## Placement Scale Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Exemption Scores

TAAS	TAKS	STAAR ACT EOC	SAT - Admini- BEFOR	SAT - Administered OR MARCH 5, 2016	SAT - Administered AFTER MARCH 5, 2016
Reading - 89	Reading - 2200 & 3	English Level II - 4000	English - 19	Verbal - 500	EBRW - 480
Writing - 1770	Writing Math & 3	Math II, Level II) - 4000	Math - 19	Math - 500	Math - 530
Math - 86	Math - 2200	Composite - 23	Composite - 1070		

Exemption is valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of testing.

Mixing or combining scores from the SAT administered prior to March 2016 and the SAT administered on or after March 5, 2016 is not allowable.

### College Preparatory Courses in Math and ELA

English Language Arts (CP110100)	Pass course and end-of-course assessment with a Grade of "C" or Higher.
Mathematics (CP111200)	Pass course and end-of-course assessment with a Grade of "C" or Higher.

College Preparatory Course Exemptions are valid for one (1) year from the date of High School graduation.

Exemptions are also granted to students who have graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree or students and students who transfer to STC from a private or independent college or an accredited out of state college and have satisfactorily completed college-level coursework as determined by STC.

# Academic and Developmental Placement Scores

## Reading

TSI	THEA	ACCUP	ASSET	COMP	Course Placement
351+ or 349-350 <sup>1</sup> with <b>Holistic Placement Option</b>	230+	78+	41+	81+	<b>College Reading Standard</b> GOVT 2305 GOVT 2306 ARTS 1303/ ARTS 1304 MUSI 1307/ MUSI 1310 HIST 1301/ HIST 1302 +Writing Complete HIST 2327/ HIST 2328 +Writing Complete NCBR 0300 (Non Course-Based/ Semester Length)
349-351	227-221	76-77	N/A	N/A	NCBR 0300 (Non Course-Based/ Semester Length)
Writing: E4/MC 180-219 and Reading: 90-229 or Completion of ENGL 0100 and READ 0100 with a grade of "C" or better.	Writing: E6-8/0-55 and Reading: E4/66+	Writing: E5/33-354 and Reading: 95/36-395	Writing: E4/48-52 and Reading: 68-80	Writing: INRW 0304 and Reading: 68-80	INRW 0304
346-34	227-221	76-77	38-40	78-80	NCBR 0200 and Co-enroll in INRW 0 (must meet writing requirement for INRW 0

342-347	189	0-49	0-33	0-67	READ 0100 or ABE Level 5 or 6
341 and below	0-189	0-49	0-33	0-67	READ 0100 or ESOL 0052 or ESOL 0051

## Writing

TSI	THEA	ACCUP	ASSET	COMP	Course Placement
E5+ or E4/MC 363 or E4/MC 361-362 <sup>2</sup> with <b>Holistic Placement Option</b>	220+	E8/60+ E7/60+ E6/60+ E5/80+	E6/40+ E6/59+	E6/59+ N/A	<b>College Writing Standard</b> ENGL 1301 + Reading Complete NCBW 0300 (Non Course-Based/ Semester Length) INRW 0304 and Reading: 90-229 and Reading: 348-350 or Completion of ENGL 0100 and READ 0100 with a grade of "C" or better. ENGL 0100 and ENGL 0100 and below or ABE Level 1-4
E4/MC 361-362	200-211	E6/58-7 E5/78-7	E6/58-7 E5/78-7	N/A	NCBW 0300 (Non Course-Based/ Semester Length)
Writing: E4/MC 180-219 and Reading: 90-229 or Completion of ENGL 0100 and READ 0100 with a grade of "C" or better.	Writing: E6-8/0-55 and Reading: E4/66+	Writing: E5/33-354 and Reading: 95/36-395	Writing: E4/48-52 and Reading: 68-80	Writing: INRW 0304 and Reading: 68-80	INRW 0304
MC 350-35 or ABE Level 5 or 6	100-179	E3-5/0-65	E3/0-35	E3/0-47	ENGL 0100
MC 349 and below or ABE Level 1-4	100-179	E3-5/0-65	E3/0-35	E3/0-47	ENGL 0100 or ESOL 0052 or ESOL 0051

**Both Essay and Sentence Skills are required for placement (E=Essay) (MC=Multiple Choice)**

**Math**

TSI	THEA	ACCUPASSET	COMP	Course Placement	
350+	230+	EA 41+ or CLM 63+	42+	<b>College Math Standard</b> MATH 1414 <sup>1</sup> MATH 1442 MATH 1332 MATH 1324	
342-344 <sup>a</sup> with <b>Holistic Placement Option</b> <sup>c</sup>				<b>College Math Standard</b> MATH 1414 MATH 1442 <sup>2</sup> MATH 1332 MATH 1324	
N/A	N/A	100+	Students who score 100+ on the CLM ACCUPLACER may be eligible for MATH 2413; however, chair approval is required.	Students who score 100+ on the CLM ACCUPLACER may be eligible for MATH 2413; however, chair approval is required.	
347-349 <sup>a</sup>	220	60	39	40	NCBM 0001 (Non-Course-Based/Semester Length)
342-349 <sup>a</sup> or ABE Level 6	200-229 <sup>a</sup>	EA 45-62 and AR 65+	N/A	N/A	MATH 0200
341 and Below or ABE Level 1-5	<200	EA <45 or AR <65	N/A	N/A	MATH 0100

349 and Below or ABE Level 1-6    190-209<sup>a</sup>EA 18-49 and AR 65+    35-37 36-38    MATH 0442<sup>4</sup> Co-Requisite: EDUC 1300 Frameworks for Mathematical and Collegiate Learning

<sup>1</sup> Students qualify under the **Holistic Placement Option** if they meet one of the following **and co-enroll in NCBR 0300 Non Course Based Developmental Reading III:**

1. Graduated from high school with a GPA of 3.0 - 4.0 or
2. Graduated in the top 10% of high school graduating class.

<sup>2</sup> Students qualify under the **Holistic Placement Option** if they meet one of the following **and co-enroll in NCBW 0300 Non Course Based Developmental Writing III:**

1. Graduated from high school with a GPA of 3.0 - 4.0 or
2. Graduated in the top 10% of high school graduating class
3. ENGL 0100 Developmental English I Instructor recommendation for Holistic Placement in ENGL 1301 Composition I.

<sup>3</sup> Students qualify under the **Holistic Placement Option** if they meet two of the following criteria **and co-enroll in MATL 0020 Math Supplementary Lab:**

1. Returning STC students or transfer students, GPA of 2.5 or higher with a minimum of 9 credit hours.
2. Continuing students, completion of MATH 0100 Developmental Mathematics I with a grade of "C" or better.
3. First time in College without transfer credits, a grade of "B" or higher in Algebra II from High school transcript.
4. A recommendation from a current or previous instructor.
5. Have a declared major.

<sup>4</sup> **This course is designed for students who will take a College-Level Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning Course (non-STEM majors). Students choosing this option are only eligible to take MATH 1442 Elementary Statistical Methods as a College-Level Mathematics option.**

AR = Arithmetic, EA = Elementary Algebra, and CLM = College-Level Math

## Other Testing Services

South Texas College also offers a wide variety of testing services such as ACT, GED and Pearson Vue Exams. For a

complete list of testing services or for more information, please visit the Student Assessment Center website at <https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/testing/index.html>, or by phone at (956) 872-3484.