

**Alamo Colleges District**  
**Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**  
**Common Entry Requirements**  
*Updated 02/04/2020*

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

The Texas Success Initiative is a state mandated program, effective August 26, 2013, designed to help determine college readiness in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics (Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subchapter C). The program assists students in identifying type of courses or interventions 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 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.***

Table 1: TSI Exemptions			
Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)			
1. Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
<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> <b>Note: SAT taken on or AFTER March 5, 2016</b>	NA	(S11) = 480 Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	(S12) = 530 Math
<b>SAT</b> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <b>Note: SAT taken prior to March 5, 2016</b>	(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>		(STRR) and (STRW) = 4000+combined English III = minimum score of Level II	(STRM) = 4000+ Algebra II minimum score of Level II
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.			

### Other Exemptions or Exceptions (not required to take 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. A student who earns a grade of 75 or above for ELAR and/or Mathematics 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 of 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. 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 / **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 formal developmental courses however, may be administered the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes only.

**Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness**  
 Grade of “C” or Better *(unless otherwise noted)*

<b>Writing/English</b>	ENGA 0351 with a B or better, ENGA 0361, INRW 0420, ENGL 0301, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302
<b>Reading</b>	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
<b>Mathematics</b>	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: TSI Minimum Standards for College Readiness**  
*(scores valid for 5 years)*

<b>TSI Assessment</b>	<b>Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework</b>
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 Developmental Education (DE) coursework:**[Top](#)

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.

<b>Table 4: English Course Placement</b>				
	<b>Writing/English TSI Score</b> (TSIW/TABW/TSIS)		<b>Reading TSI Score</b> (TSIR/TABR)	<b>REFRESHER Exit Score</b> (INRW)
<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</b> (1301++)	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</b> (1301+)  Ready, Set, Go (RSG)	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	

\*TSI ABE Levels 1-2 Referral Options: Contact DE Chairs and/or Advising Directors for more Information  
I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) / AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

<b>Questions? English Department Chairs:</b>
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Jason Malcolm (NLC)	<a href="mailto:jmalcolm@alamo.edu">jmalcolm@alamo.edu</a>	486-5234
Julie Moore-Felux (NVC)	<a href="mailto:jmoore-felux@alamo.edu">jmoore-felux@alamo.edu</a>	486-4224
Jennifer Scheidt (PAC)	<a href="mailto:jscheidt@alamo.edu">jscheidt@alamo.edu</a>	486-3250
Mike Burton (SAC)	<a href="mailto:gburton@alamo.edu">gburton@alamo.edu</a>	486-0660
Diana Gavin (SPC)	<a href="mailto:dgavin7@alamo.edu">dgavin7@alamo.edu</a>	486-2431

<b>Table 5: Math Course Placement</b>	<b>Math TSI Score (TSIM/TABM)</b>	<b>ALEKS Scores</b>		<b>MATH Refresher Exit Exam (MATH)</b>	
<b>*ABE Referral Options (I-Best or Region 20 AEL)</b>	310-335 w/ABE 1 – 2	0-9		10	
<b>Math 0410 + 0105</b>	310 – 335 w/ABE 3-4	10-29		20	
<b>Math 0410</b>	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-342	30-59		30	
<b>MATH 0320 (STEM)</b>	343-349	60-79		40	
<b>Co-Requisites</b>					
<b>1314 + 0114</b> College Algebra	343-349	60-79		40	
<b>1314 + 0214</b> College Algebra	310-335 w ABE 5&6 Or 336-349	30-79		30	
<b>1332 + 0132</b> Liberal Arts Math	310-335 w ABE 5&6 Or 336-349	30-79		30	
<b>1442 + 0142</b> Statistics	310-335 w ABE 5&6 Or 336-349	30-79		30	
<b>1324 + 0124</b> Business Math	343-349	60-79		40	
<b>1324 + 0224</b> Business Math	310-335 w ABE 5&6 Or 336-349	30-79		30	
<b>College Ready</b>		<b>ALEKS Scores</b>	<b>MATH Refresher Exit Exam (MATH)</b>	<b>ACT (A020)</b>	<b>SAT (S12)</b>
<b>MATH 1314 or 1414 or 1332 or 1442 or 1324</b>	350-390	80-100	50	19-25	530-580
<b>MATH 1316, 2412</b>	N/A	N/A		26-27	581-639
<b>MATH 2413 or higher</b>	N/A	N/A		28+	640+

**IMPORTANT: Please check MATH class schedule at your College as they may vary across the Alamo Colleges**

\*TSI Levels 1-2 Referral Options: Contact DE Chairs and/or Advising Directors for more information  
Possible Options: I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) and/or AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

\*\*See Transfer Advising Guides (TAGs)

*Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules*

02-04-2020

Questions? Math Department Chairs:		
Allen Miller (NLC)	<a href="mailto:amiller142@alamo.edu">amiller142@alamo.edu</a>	486-5214
Qiaoying [Joy] Zhou (NVC)	<a href="mailto:qzhou2@alamo.edu">qzhou2@alamo.edu</a>	486-4383
Brian Hons (PAC)	<a href="mailto:bhons@alamo.edu">bhons@alamo.edu</a>	486-3285
Said Fariabi (SAC)	<a href="mailto:sfariabi@alamo.edu">sfariabi@alamo.edu</a>	486-0289
Renita D Mitchell (SPC)	<a href="mailto:rmitchell@alamo.edu">rmitchell@alamo.edu</a>	486-2607

### For High School Programs Students Only:

Table 6: High School Programs Exam Eligibility			
<b>TSI Exemptions and Minimum Standards Apply:</b>			
See Table 1: TSI Exemptions and Table 3: TSI Minimum Standards for College Readiness			
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>		English II = Level II final recommended score of 4000 (STDW)	Algebra I = Level II final recommended score of 4000 and a passing grade in the Algebra II course (STDM) (Grade: DCMG)
<b>PSAT – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b>  New PSAT/NMSQT (on or after October 15, 2015) <b>Scores eligible effective May 29, 2018*</b>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		EBRW = 460 (PSRW)	Math = 510 PSMA
<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>			
<b>PSAT – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b>  PSAT/NMSQT (Prior to October 15, 2015) Scores eligible only if taken on PSAT/NMSQT version prior to 10-15-2015  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	CR + Math = 107+ (PSTL) (Former=PTOT)	Critical Reading = 50+ (PS01) (Former=P01)	Math = 50+ (PS02) (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>	Composite = 23+ (PLCO)	English = 19+ (PLEN)	Math = 19+ (PLMT)
<b>ACT – Aspire</b>  <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		English = 435+	Math = 431+