

Alamo Colleges District
Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
Common Entry Requirements

Updated 05-12-2021: v.7

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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.**

Table 1: TSI Exemptions			
Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)			
1. Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
ACT <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	(A050) = 23+ Composite	(A010) = 19+ English	(A020) = 19+ Math
SAT <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
SAT <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
Exit Level TAKS <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	NA	(TKEE) = 2200+ English/Language Arts (TKEW) = 3+ Writing Essay	(TKEM) = 2200+ Math
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) <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)
General Educational Development (GED) <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
High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) <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

Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules

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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. 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 developmental coursework and/or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption, 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)*

English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) (Reading/Writing)	ENGA 0351 with a “B” or better, ENGA 0353 with a “B” or better, ENGA 0361, ENGA 0363, READ 0303, INRW 0420, ENGL 0301, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, HIST 1301, HIST 1302, PSYC 2301
Mathematics	MATH 0303, 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

Table 3: TSIA 2.0 Minimum Standards for College Readiness <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 AND Essay ≥ 5 Or < 945 AND Diagnostic Level ≥ 5 AND Essay ≥ 5
Math TSI Scores (TS2M) Math Diagnostic (T2DM)	≥ 950 ; Or < 950 AND Diagnostic Level = 6

Table 3: TSIA Minimum Standards for College Readiness <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+ AND Essay of 4+] OR [<340 AND ABE of at least 4 AND 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/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. Individual colleges math placement are listed: See Individual college placement for math.

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)
INRW 0420	910-929	AND	Diagnostic Level 1-3		N/A	10
Corequisites						
ENGL 1301 + 0201 (1301++)	930-990	AND	Diagnostic Level 3		N/A	20
	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 4-6	AND	Essay 1-2	
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	AND	Essay 1-2	
ENGL 1301 + 0100 (1301+)	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 4	AND	Essay 3-8	30
	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 5 & 6	AND	Essay 3-4	
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	AND	Essay 3-4	
College Ready						
ENGL 1301	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 5-6	AND	Essay 5-8	40
	945-990	AND *Note: ELAR score range 945-990 Diagnostic Test is not given			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

Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules

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Questions? English Department Chairs:

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

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

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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)
MATH 1314; 1414; 1332; 1342; 1324	950-990 OR 910-949 AND Diagnostic Level 6	350-390	Refreshers only applicable for placement in corequisite courses	N/A	N/A	19-25	530-580
MATH 1316, 2412	N/A	N/A		>=85	263-275	26-27	581-639
MATH 2413	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

SEE INDIVIDUAL MATH COLLEGE CHARTS BELOW—FOR FALL 2021

Questions? Math Department Chairs:

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Table 5: Math Course Placement- St. Philip's College (SPC) Effective FALL 2021	Scores effective 1-11-2021 Math TSIA2 (TS2M) Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)	Prior to 1-11-2021 Math TSIA Scores (TSIM) Math ABE (TABM)	MATH Refresher Exit Exam (MATH)
*Adult Education Literacy (AEL) or I-BEST Program Referral Options		310-335 w/ABE 1-2	10
Math 0410 + 0105	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 1-3	310-335 w/ABE 3-4	20
Co-Requisites			
1314 + 0214 College Algebra	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4- 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
1414 + 0314 (STEM) College Algebra Effective Fall 2021	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
1332 + 0132 Liberal Arts Math	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
1342 + 0142 Statistics	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40
1324 + 0224 Business Math	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349	30 or 40

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

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)
MATH 1314; 1414; 1332; 1342; 1324	950-990 OR 910-949 AND Diagnostic Level 6	350-390	Refreshers only applicable for placement in corequisite courses	N/A	N/A	19-25	530-580
MATH 1316, 2412	N/A	N/A		>=85	263-275	26-27	581-639
MATH 2413	N/A	N/A		>=103 AND with Department permission	>=276	28+	640+

High School Programs Students Only:

Table 6: High School Programs Exam Eligibility			
TSI Exemptions and Minimum Standards Apply: See Table 1: TSI Exemptions and Table 3: TSIA Minimum Standards for College Readiness			
Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) alternate option <i>(Regular STAAR EOC for ISD)</i> <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(STDW) English II = 4000+	(STDW) Algebra I = 4000 + and a passing grade in the Algebra II course (Grade: DCMG)
PSAT – Dual Credit & ECHS Students Only New PSAT/NMSQT (On or after October 15, 2015) <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(PSRW) EBRW = 460	(PSMA) Math = 510
*Note: 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			
PSAT – Dual Credit & ECHS Students Only 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>	(PSTL) CR + Math = 107+ (Former=PTOT)	(PS01) Critical Reading = 50+ (Former=P01)	(PS02) Math = 50+ (Former=P02)
PLAN – Dual Credit & ECHS Students Only PLAN Scores eligible only if taken prior to Spring 2014 <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>	(PLCO) Composite = 23+	(PLEN) English = 19+	(PLMT) Math = 19+
ACT – Aspire <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(ASPE) English = 435+	(ASPM) Math = 431+