



# OVERVIEW

## Texas Success Initiative

Students attending Texas public institutions of higher education must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), as of fall 2003 (Texas Education Code §51.3062) in order to enroll in public institutions of higher education. The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in reading, mathematics and writing unless the student qualifies for an exemption. Each student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard of the exam offered by the institution must be placed in a developmental education program designed to help the student achieve college readiness.

### Which students must take a TSI exam?

Unless exempt, students who are entering a Texas college or university must take a TSI exam and receive a passing score in order to enroll in credit bearing courses. Students may be exempt from taking a TSI exam by achieving any of the requirements included on the right.

### When do students take a TSI exam?

Students must take a TSI exam and have scores on file before they can enroll in college-level classes. Each college and university offers a different exam. A student must take the exam required by the college or university he/she will be attending. Students are notified of their scores and eligibility to enroll in credit bearing courses immediately upon completing an exam.

### What TSI exams are available to students?

The exams currently authorized to satisfy TSI are:

- ASSET
- COMPASS
- THEA
- ACCUPLACER

## Texas Success Initiative Exemptions

A student may be exempt from meeting Texas Success Initiative standards by meeting one of the following standards.

### ACT

Composite score of **23** or higher with at least a **19** on both English and math sections

### SAT

Combined **verbal** and **math** score of **1070** with a minimum of **500** on both the verbal test and math test

### TAKS

Minimum score of **2200** on both the English and/or math sections with at least a **3** on the writing component of the **11<sup>th</sup>** grade TAKS (for a period of **3** years from the date of testing)

### Military

Veterans and active duty personnel serving for at least **3** years preceding enrollment.

### Transfer

Transfer from a private or independent institution or an accredited out-of-state institution and has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework as determined by the receiving institution.

### Certificate

Enroll in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) at a public community college, a public technical institute, or a public state college.

For a complete list of TSI exemptions, see Texas Education Code, [§51.3062\(r\)](#) and Coordinating Board rules, [§4.54](#).

## What happens if a student does not pass all parts of a TSI exam?

Students who do not pass one or all parts (English, mathematics, and writing) of a TSI exam must enroll in an appropriate developmental education course before the student may enroll in a credit bearing course for the subject in which he/she did not meet state standards. A student may retake an exam instrument at any time, subject to availability, to determine the student's readiness to perform freshman-level academic coursework.

## What are the minimum passing scores for each exam?

The minimum passing standards for each TSI approved exam is listed below. However, it is critical to note that each college or university may require higher standards.

### Minimum Passing Standards

ASSET	COMPASS	ACCUPLACER	THEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading - 41</li><li>• Algebra - 38</li><li>• Writing (objective) - 40</li><li>• Written Essay - 6</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading - 81</li><li>• Algebra - 39</li><li>• Writing (objective) - 59</li><li>• Written Essay - 6</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading - 78</li><li>• Algebra - 63</li><li>• Sentence Skills - 80</li><li>• Written Essay - 6</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading - 230</li><li>• Math - 230</li><li>• Writing - 220</li></ul>

The minimum passing standard for the written essay portion of the ASSET, COMPASS, and ACCUPLACER is a score of 6. However, an essay with a score of 5 will meet this standard if the student meets the objective writing test standard of these tests.

### For more information:

Office of External Relations  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
[er@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:er@thecb.state.tx.us)  
512/427-6111