



## **Marine Creek Collegiate High School**

### **Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) Dates**

#### **August – May**

- ❖ TSI – College Prep Course for reading/writing and math available for current students TSI liable in one or more area (Edgenuity, Khan, Texas College Bridge, Princeton Review)
- ❖ Students scheduled to complete test prep during advisory twice a week
- ❖ Testing on TCC campus, MCCHS campus, or EXAMITY online.

#### **September - October**

- ❖ Emphasis on testing students prior to spring dual credit scheduling
- ❖ TSI Tutorial Sessions for current students TSI liable in one or more area
- ❖ Tuesday and Thursday homeroom testing by subject. Small groups
- ❖ Individual on-demand appointments available at anytime upon request

#### **October - November**

- ❖ TSI Tutorial Sessions for current students TSI liable in one or more area
- ❖ Tuesday and Thursday small group testing by Advisory and Study Skills teacher and liable subject
- ❖ Individual on-demand appointments available at anytime upon request

#### **January - February**

- ❖ Emphasis on testing student prior to fall scheduling
- ❖ TSI Tutorial Sessions for current students TSI liable in one or more area
- ❖ Tuesday and Thursday small group testing by Advisory and Study Skills teacher and liable subject
- ❖ Individual on-demand appointments available at anytime upon request

#### **March - April**

- ❖ TSI testing for students TSI liable in one or more area scheduled through high school class (math, English, reading, AVID)
- ❖ TSI Tutorial Sessions for current students TSI liable in one or more area
- ❖ Tuesday and Thursday small group testing by Advisory and Study Skills teacher and liable subject
- ❖ Individual on-demand appointments available at anytime upon request

#### **June**

## **Marine Creek Collegiate High School at Tarrant County College NW Campus**

### **Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) FAQs**

- ❖ **Shark Camp:** TSI test preparation, practice and baseline testing for incoming students
- ❖ TSI testing for students TSI liable in one or more area

TSI is not a pass-fail assessment. It measures your strengths and weaknesses in math, reading, and writing. It is an indicator of how ready you are to be successful in college-level courses and is required for all students who are planning to attend Marine Creek Collegiate High School (MCCHS) and are Associate degree seeking through Tarrant County College (TCC) and/or planning to attend a college/university in the state of Texas after high school graduation.

MCCHS Counselors use your TSI test results, along with your academic background, goals and interests, and high school graduation requirements, to schedule you in the appropriate courses that will give you the best chances for success and develop your high school progression plan. At MCCHS/TCC, most college courses for which you will want to register will require specific scores in math, reading, and writing.

#### **Do I have to take the TSI?**

Yes. MCCHS students who are seeking to earn their high school diploma and plan to earn their Associate degree while at MCCHS must take the TSI Assessment. Students can be exempt as outlined in Texas Administrative Code (§4.54). You may also be exempt based on specific SAT and ACT scores. See the College and Career Readiness Coordinator for more information on SAT and ACT score exemptions.

#### **When do I take the TSI Assessments?**

Students accepted into MCCHS are required to attend a summer bridge program called Shark Camp. During Shark Camp, you receive intensive instruction in math, reading, and writing along with college life exploration. At the end of Shark Camp, you will be scheduled for testing. Incoming students are not required to be college-level ready as demonstrated on their assessments but are required to test to be accepted into TCC through their MCCHS enrollment.

Due to COVID-19, students were not able to take the TSI during our virtual Shark Camp. TCC has authorized our incoming 9th and 10th grade students to enroll in non-TSI required courses, such as KINE, SPCH, and DRMA, with the expectation that they take the TSI in the fall to get scores on file for a baseline.

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**How much does the test cost?**

There is no charge for MCCHS students if testing on campus. TCC will pay for the first 3 testing attempts online. After the third attempt, the cost to test through Examity will be \$29.

**Is the TSI a paper test or is it on-line?**

The TSI is an on-line test that currently can be taken on the TCC campus or at home, virtually.

**How long does it take to complete the TSI?**

The average time to complete all three subject areas is 3-5 hours. Some students will complete the tests in a shorter period. Some students will require more time.

**What do I need to test?**

You must have a TCC ID number and a government issued picture ID (high school ID, middle school ID, passport, government issued ID card) to be admitted into the test. You do not have to have a college-level course(s) schedule yet. All other supplies including calculator are provided through the on-line test.

**How do I get a copy of my TSI test scores?**

You are given a copy of your test results after you have completed your testing and you will provide those to the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to be recorded for your future scheduling needs. You may also access this information at anytime through your WebAdvisor student account option for Official Test Score Report. It is also available when you run a degree audit through WebAdvisor. The test results are printed at the top. Your scores are also printed at the top of your TCC college transcript.

**What if I don't finish my TSI Assessment during my scheduled appointment?**

Reading and math can be stopped and started again at another time so you can go to a class, eat lunch, or take a break. If you stop the exam so you can complete it later it must be completed within 14 days. If you do not return to complete the test within 14 days then you will have to start the assessment from the beginning. Be sure to see the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to schedule your completion appointment.

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The writing portion of the TSI cannot be stopped and then started at another time. Once the essay is started it must be completed to be scored. If you must stop the essay portion, see the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to reschedule. The Testing Center will provide you with a new prompt when you return.

**What are college-level TSI ready scores?**

Students scoring at or above the cut scores are considered “college ready” and eligible to enroll in any entry college-level course (for example, English composition, U.S. history, government, or college algebra) once the course falls in the student’s course trajectory/progression plan. Some college-level courses require passing scores in more than one area. Below are the passing cut scores for TSI as set by the state:

**[\\*Mathematics](#)**

Placement score of at least 950

**or**

Placement score of 910–949 **and** a diagnostic level of 6

**[\\*Integrated Reading/Writing](#)**

Placement score of at least 945 **and** an essay score of 5–8

**or**

Placement score of at least 910 **and** a diagnostic level of 5–6 **and** an essay score of 5–8

**Once I am TSI ready can I take any college class I want?**

No. College-level courses for credit are approved by the Fort Worth ISD Advanced, Accelerated and Innovative Learning (AAIL) Department. Students wishing to take a course that is not on the list must have approval by AAIL and the Principal or his/her designee. Students must also complete high school and college-level pre-requisite courses for some courses. Your College and Career Readiness Coordinator or Counselor can review your options with you after you have established TSI ready in one or more areas.

**What happens if I score below college-level ready standards?**

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If your TSI math, reading, or writing test score is lower than the college readiness cut-score, you may be scheduled in either a developmental course or an intervention, like SCUBA, to improve your skills and to prepare you for success in college-level courses.

**How will I know what I should study for to prepare?**

The students are provided a test summary once the exam(s) is completed. The summary will identify weaknesses. This information is also available through WebAdvisor in the “Prepare to Register Section” choice “Test Summary.” Students can make an appointment to go over their test summary and have a study plan developed.

**What are the Developmental Education (DE) Diagnostic tests?**

If your score on the TSI Assessment is lower than the college-level readiness, additional test questions are given that provide information on your strengths and weaknesses across four domains in each of the sections. The DE Diagnostic Test report describes your strengths and weaknesses in each of these domains and can help the high school Counselors place you in the appropriate course(s), recommend course options and update your progression plan. This is valuable information for you to target your TSI practice efforts.

**What are the ABE Diagnostic Tests?**

In addition to setting standards for college-level ready, the State also set standards for adult basic education (ABE) levels. These scores indicate below the ninth-grade level in reading, writing, and/or math. Students who score in this area may need additional instruction and/or tutoring before they take developmental education courses.

**Can I retake the TSI?**

Yes. You may retake the TSI Assessment. However, before retesting, it is strongly recommended that you complete additional study or attend tutoring. You must wait 2 weeks to retest to allow for additional individual study and/or tutoring. It is very unlikely that your score will improve greatly without additional review and practice. At MCCHS, you can see the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to schedule your re-takes.

Testing in the TCC Test Center is scheduled by appointment through the College and Career Readiness Coordinator. You may see the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to schedule

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yourself. You may also use the *Remind app* to text a request. The College and Career Readiness Coordinator will text you back with appointment day/time and when to pick up the testing pass. MCCHS students will request their TSI referral through the PostSecondary Success Specialist on campus.

You should plan to request testing during your Friday study hall, during an Office Aid, or “off” period no later than Wednesday of the week in which you plan to test.

**How often should I take the tests?**

You should take the assessments you have not passed no less than once a year until the college-level readiness score has been achieved.

It is recommended that you test once a semester if you are actively preparing for the assessments. You should expect an upward movement in the scores when you are receiving instruction, practicing, and/or attending tutoring. The assessment results provide key information for you to target your practice.

**Can my teacher schedule my test for me?**

Individual students schedule their tests when they feel ready; however, teachers may also request group testing during their class period. Class testing will be set based on class day/times and Testing Center availability.

**Will I be marked absent if I go to testing?**

Students that are in testing and not in class should be marked absent. After the time-stamped score sheets have been received by the College and Career Readiness Coordinator, the student’s attendance will be submitted to the Data Clerk and adjusted to reflect the time they were in testing and coordinating.

**What is SCUBA?**

SCUBA is Shark Camp Upper Bridge Academy. The SCUBA mornings focus on SAT and PSAT preparation and the afternoon is designated for those who are not “college ready” in one or more of the three areas (math, reading, writing). SCUBA TSI is a non-credit bridge course. It is a short, intense instructional camp designed to prepare you for TSI success. Typically, SCUBA-TSI is offered for two weeks in June of the college summer semester. If successful upon

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re-assessment, you qualify to have your schedule reviewed by a high school Counselor for new placements during the following fall.

**Can I still earn an Associate of Arts degree TCC with the Non-Algebra Pathway?**

Yes. With the Non-Algebra Pathway, you are eligible to take MATH-1342, which meets the TCC core requirements for an AA. We recommend achieving a 350 Algebra Pathway score to maximize your options and opportunities. Additionally, you should research what will be required by the college/university you plan to attend after you graduate from MCCHS. Yes, all colleges/universities accept the Non-Algebra Pathway to meet their requirements. You may have to earn a math score of 350 and take college-level algebra to complete their program.

**What colleges and universities accept the Algebra Pathway or Non-Algebra Pathway after I graduate from MCCHS?**

To determine which school requires a 350 on math TSI or a 340 it is recommended that you contact the college/university you are planning to attend for their requirements. Our high school Counselors can also help you with this. Here is a link to the *Texas Transfer Inventory*:  
[https://dcmathpathways.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-11/Texas%20Transfer%20Inventory\\_AY16-17.pdf](https://dcmathpathways.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-11/Texas%20Transfer%20Inventory_AY16-17.pdf)

**Do my TSI scores transfer to another college or university after I leave MCCHS?**

Yes. Starting with the spring 2014 semester, all state colleges and universities use the TSI scores for those students needing assessment to start college.

**How long are my TSI scores good?**

TSI scores are good for 5 years from the day the assessment was completed.