CollegeBoard

Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0

STUDENT INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE



What's the Texas Success Initiative?

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is the statute that requires all Texas public institutions of higher education to determine the readiness of all non-exempt, entering undergraduate students to enroll in freshman-level academic courses (see TEC, 51.336). Students are able to qualify for exemption by subject area in a number of ways, including meeting college readiness benchmarks on the SAT® or ACT®, or successfully completing a high school College Preparatory Course. (For a complete list of exemptions, see below under "TSIA2 Exemptions"). Undergraduate students who enter without an exemption are required to take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2).

What's the Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0?

The Texas Assessment Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) is the assessment instrument used to determine college readiness for non-exempt students, as required by the Texas Success Initiative. TSIA2 helps determine whether you're ready for college-level coursework in English language arts and reading (ELAR) and mathematics. These are foundational subjects for your other college coursework. The results of TSIA2, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisers and counselors to place you in the appropriate courses that match your achievement level.

How Does TSIA2 Work?

The tests in TSIA2 either certify you as "college ready" (or TSI-met/complete) in a subject area or provide a diagnostic profile regarding your academic strengths and weaknesses so that targeted instruction may be provided to help you succeed in college-level courses.

TSIA2 contains multiple-choice questions aligned to Texas College and Career Readiness Standards, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, Adult Education and Literacy Content Standards 2.0, and National Reporting System Educational Functioning Levels. The ELAR Test also contains an essay component you must complete to be considered college ready in ELAR. Here are more details about TSIA2:

- Multiple-choice tests in TSIA2 are **computer adaptive**, which means that questions increase or decrease in difficulty depending on how you respond.
- The assessments are **untimed**, which means there's no time limit on how long you can take to complete testing. Remember to allow yourself enough time to consider your answer to each question—your test results will be used by advisers in determining the course or courses in which you can enroll.
- In most cases, TSIA2 provides **results upon completion**. When you complete the assessment, you immediately receive a score report.
- The **"save and finish later" option** lets you stop at certain times during your test session if you're tired or need a break. If you select this option, you must return and complete the remaining assessment within 14 calendar days. *Note:* This option isn't available for the TSIA2 Essay Test, which must be started and completed in the same session.

Registration and Mandatory Pre-Assessment Activity

Each Texas public institution of higher education and many public-school districts/public charters administer TSIA2. Contact the testing center or your counselor to determine testing availability, registration, and cost (if applicable).

Before you can register to take TSIA2, you must participate in a mandatory Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA). The institution or school district where you take your test is required to provide the PAA, as well as to document your participation. These topics are covered in the PAA:

- Importance of TSIA2 in your academic career and why doing well matters
- Content of TSIA2, including sample test questions, key test preparation tools, and tips to get you ready for test day
- Information about college readiness, developmental education courses, and corequisite options
- Information about available campus and community resources, such as online tools and free workshops, that will help you prepare for TSIA2 and succeed as a college student

Contact the college, university, or school district/charter where you plan to take TSIA2 for details on completing the mandatory PAA.

TSIA2 Learning Resources

TSIA2 Learning Resources is an online library that provides access to practice and instructional materials that specifically address the content areas of TSIA2. Materials include printable or interactive worksheets and tutorials and instructional videos. Prior to testing, you can access the

full library of materials at **tsia2.pearsonperspective.com** and select resources to address skill gaps you may have. After completing a Diagnostic Test, you'll receive a Learning Locator Code (LLC). Use your LLC for immediate access to a custom set of materials in the library specific to your performance in each content area. Use these resources with the goal of improving your overall performance.

How to Prepare

Take advantage of free resources available to improve areas where your academic performance is not the strongest. Access free sample questions similar to those you'll see on the actual test. Use the TSIA2 Student Portal to access sample questions and tutorials on tools available to your during the tests.

TSIA2 Student Portal

The TSIA2 Student Portal at **studentportal.accuplacer.org**. gives you access to the following:

- TSIA2 Study App and printable sample questions
- Tutorials showing you how to use the calculator and highlighter tools
- Your test results and how to send test results to Texas public institutions of higher education

TSIA2 Exemptions

Having an exemption means that you can enroll in any freshman-level college course in a specific area without having to take TSIA2 or complete a prerequisite. Not all entering students need to take TSIA2. You may be exempt if you:

- have met the minimum college readiness standard on the SAT®, ACT®, or the English III/Algebra II STAAR End-of-Course high school tests;
- have successfully completed a high school College Preparatory Course*;
- have successfully completed college-level course(s);
- have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours);
- aren't seeking a degree; or
- have been, or currently are, in the military.

If you think you may be exempt, contact an adviser or counselor at your institution or high school.

**other restrictions apply*

Can I Retake a TSIA2 Test?

If you're not satisfied with your scores, you may retake a TSIA2 test at any time. However, before you attempt to retest, we strongly encourage you to set aside time for additional study—your scores are unlikely to substantially improve otherwise. You can obtain information about retesting from the testing center at your college or university.

Students with Disabilities

If you'd like to request accommodations for testing, contact the Disability Support Services Office (DSSO, or similar office) at your college or university and provide the necessary documentation. DSSO staff will review documentation to determine the appropriate accommodation(s), according to institutional policies and federal and state laws. Typical accommodations such as extended test time, test breaks, and calculators (as applicable) are already built-in test options for any student to use and don't require verification or documentation.

If you're a high school student taking TSIA2, be sure to contact your counselor to help you request the appropriate accommodation(s). For students who need accommodated test forms, TSIA2 tests are available in regular-or large-print paper-and-pencil formats, braille, and audio formats.

What's on the Tests?

TSIA2 ELAR

Unless you're exempt, you'll first be administered the multiple-choice College Readiness Classification (CRC) Test. This CRC Test, made up of 30 questions, covers 4 sub categories, and addresses these 2 content categories:

- **Reading-focused** questions measure your skills in comprehension and analysis of literary texts, as well as informational and argumentative texts, including paired passages.
- **Writing-focused** questions measure your skills in revision and editing of sentences, paragraphs, and early drafts of essays.

If you don't meet the college readiness benchmark on the CRC you'll then take the multiple-choice ELAR Diagnostic Test. Take your time and answer each question to the best of your ability. This test provides you with a second opportunity to demonstrate your readiness in ELAR. The results of this

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test will provide information on your strengths and weaknesses in the areas of reading and writing. Your advisor or counselor will use this information to make the best recommendations for courses or interventions you need to prepare for success in college-level courses. The ELAR Diagnostic Test contains 48 multiple-choice questions, of which 24 are reading-focused and 24 are writing-focused.

TSIA2 ESSAY

The TSIA2 Essay Test is used along with the multiple-choice ELAR component to see if you're college ready with respect to reading and writing. The Essay Test requires you to provide a 300- to 600-word essay in response to one randomly selected prompt.

Your essay is scored based on six qualities that are highly valued in college-level courses:

- **Purpose and Focus:** The extent to which you present information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue
- **Organization and Structure:** The extent to which you order and connect ideas
- **Development and Support:** The extent to which you develop and support ideas
- **Sentence Variety and Style:** The extent to which you craft sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure
- **Mechanical Conventions:** The extent to which you express ideas using Standard English conventions
- **Critical Thinking:** The extent to which you communicate a point of view and demonstrate reasoned relationships among ideas

You're not allowed to use a dictionary or other outside resources. To help you plan your essay and write rough drafts, you may ask the proctor for plain scratch paper, which will be collected at the end of your test session.

TSIA2 MATHEMATICS

Unless you're exempt, you'll be administered the multiple-choice Mathematics College Readiness Classification (CRC) Test first. It's made up of 20 questions and covers 4 content categories:

- **Quantitative Reasoning:** Calculating ratios, proportions, and percentages, as well as identifying, manipulating, and interpreting linear equations and expressions
- **Algebraic Reasoning:** Solving equations (linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, rational, and radical), evaluating functions, and solving algebraic problems in context
- **Geometric and Spatial Reasoning:** Converting units within measurement systems, solving geometric problems (perimeter, area, surface area, and volume), performing transformations, and applying right triangle trigonometry
- **Probabilistic and Statistical Reasoning:** Classifying data, constructing appropriate representations of data, computing, and interpreting probability, and describing measures of center and spread of data

If you don't meet the college readiness benchmark, you'll be routed to the multiple-choice Mathematics Diagnostic Test. Take your time and answer each question to the best of your ability. This test provides you with a second opportunity to demonstrate your readiness in mathematics. The results of this test will provide information on your strengths and weaknesses in each content area. Your adviser **or** counselor will use this information to make the best recommendations for courses or interventions you need to prepare for success in college-level mathematics courses. The Mathematics Diagnostic Test is made up of 48 questions. There are 12 questions from each of the content categories listed above.

Note: Handheld calculators of any type are not permitted for use with the online TSIA2 Mathematics Test. Some, but not all, of the math questions contain one or more pop-up calculators for use in solving problems asked. If applicable, you will have access to the following types of pop-up calculators: basic (four-function), square root (four-function with square root button), and/or graphing (TI-84). If you are taking an accommodated test (e.g., paper-and-pencil, braille, or audio), you will be allowed to use a square root calculator.

For more about TSIA2, contact an adviser at your college or university, or your high school counselor.

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