

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Texas Success Initiative plan was approved by the 78th Texas Legislature in June 2003 to be effective with the beginning date of September 1, 2003. Under the TSI, an institution shall assess the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student prior to the enrollment of the student. Board approved assessment instruments are ACCUPLACER, ASSET, COMPASS and THEA. The University of Texas of the Permian has chosen to use the THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment) [formerly TASP] as its approved instrument. The THEA is offered during the regularly scheduled testing plan or is available as a quick version from the PASS Office. Please call (432) 552-2630 for testing information.

Minimum Passing Standards

- A. The following minimum passing standards shall be used by an institution to determine a student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework:
 - (1) ACCUPLACER: Reading Comprehension – 78; Elementary Algebra – 63; Sentence Structure – 80; and Written Essay – 6.
 - (2) ASSET: Reading Skills – 41; Elementary Algebra – 38; Writing Skills (objective) – 40; and Written Essay – 6.
 - (3) COMPASS: Reading Skills – 81; Algebra – 39; Writing Skills (objective) – 59; and Written Essay – 6.
 - (4) THEA: Reading – 230; Mathematics – 230; Writing – 220.

- B. The minimum passing standard for the written essay portion of all tests 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.

- C. An institution may require higher passing standards.

Exemptions/Exceptions

The following students shall be exempt from the requirements of this title:

- (1) For a period of five (5) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs at or above the following standards:
 - (a) ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and the mathematics tests;
 - (b) SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test): a combined verbal and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and the mathematics tests; or
- (2) For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) with a minimum scale score of 1770 on the writing test, a Texas Learning Index (TLI) of 86 on the mathematics test and 89 on the reading test.
- (3) For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested on the Eleventh grade exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section and /or a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English Language Arts section with a writing subsection score of at least 3, shall be exempt from the assessment required under this title for those corresponding sections. A + sign next to the score of the section will indicate that the score will exempt the student from TSI requirement for that section, example (Math 2235+) will exempt the student from the Math TSI requirement.
- (4) A student may be partially exempt or exempt due to a combination of ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores if they meet the following criteria: A SAT composite score of 1070 with at least 500 on the Verbal (Critical Reading) and Math sections. An ACT composite score of 23 with at least a 19 on the Math and English sections. Students with an exit -level TAKS score of 2200 on the Math section, 2200 on the English Language Arts (ELA) , and a 2 on the writing subscore, would be exempt from TSI testing in Math. In order for a student to be exempt from TSI testing in Reading and Writing with TAKS scores, the student must have both a 2200 on the ELA and a 3 on the writing subscore.
- (5) A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.
- (6) 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.
- (7) A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.
- (8) A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) An institution may exempt a non-degree-seeking or non-certificate-seeking student.

Unless exempt, a student who fails an approved TSI exam must register for the appropriate developmental course.

It is the student's responsibility to provide official scores to the Office of Admissions in order to qualify for an exemption prior to enrollment or expiration of those scores. Additional information concerning the Texas Success Initiative test, or a list of further exemptions, may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Registrar. Students who have taken the THEA test but not yet passed all three sections by the beginning of any semester must enroll in developmental classes every semester until they retake and pass any failed section. A student may not "enroll in any upper division course the completion of which would give the student 60 or more semester credit hours, or the equivalent, until the student's THEA's test results meet or exceed the minimum standard in each skill area for which developmental education was required or the student has earned a grade of 'B' or better in a Board-approved freshman-level course in the subject matter of the assessed deficit."

No student may withdraw from a developmental course unless the student is withdrawing from the University. Students will be permitted to withdraw from these courses only if they retake and pass the appropriate THEA section during the semester. Students who fail any portion of the THEA on the second attempt may be permitted to enroll in a course approved by the Coordinating Board in an attempt to earn a grade of "B" or better. Students who earn a "B" or higher in appropriate course will be considered to have satisfied the THEA requirement.

The following are approved courses which are used for meeting THEA requirements (Identified by Common Course Numbers):

Writing

ENGL 1301 (Composition I); or
ENGL 1302 (Composition II)

Reading

HIST 1301, 1302 (U.S. History)
ENGL 2321, 2322, 2323 (British Literature)
ENGL 2331, 2332, 2333 (World Literature)
ENGL 2326, 2327, 2328 (American Literature)
PSYC 2301 (General Psychology); or
GOVT 2301, 2302, 2305, 2306 (American Government)

Mathematics

MATH 1332 (College Mathematics)
MATH 1333 (College Mathematics)
MATH 1314 (College Algebra)
MATH 1316 (Plane Trigonometry) or
A MORE ADVANCED MATHEMATICS COURSE FOR WHICH
ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE PREREQUISITES

Courses numbered 0398, 0399 are developmental in content. These courses may be required of students who do not pass all portions of the THEA exam or whose institutional placement test scores indicate a need for developmental preparation. Developmental courses do appear on the student's transcript but do not provide credit toward a degree. Students receiving financial aid should consult the Office of Student Financial Aid concerning the effect of developmental coursework on academic progress.

The THEA rules and regulations shown in this catalog are those in effect when this catalog went to print. THEA rules and regulations are subject to change due to action by the Texas Legislature.

Placement Testing

1. Math placement testing is required for all students needing a math course (approximately 45 minutes to complete). Students majoring in COMPUTER SCIENCE, MATH, or SCIENCE, must take the Calculus Test. All other majors must take the Algebra Test. Students without a major must take the Algebra Test.

Scoring The Placement Test

0-6 pts. = MATH 0398
7-16 pts. = MATH 0399
17 & up = MATH 1332 or MATH 1324

For additional information contact the Math & Science Center at (432) 552-3350 or MB 4180A.

2. Writing placement testing is required for all students needing ENGLISH 1301 (approximately 1½ hours to complete). Students who fail their test are placed in ENGLISH 0399 (remedial course). For additional information contact the Writing Center at (432) 552-2302 or MB 2100.
3. Freshman are required to take the TASP THEA test before they may register. Students who pass the TASP are exempt from the Reading Placement test. Students who fail the reading portion of the TASP test must register for Reading 0399 (remedial course). For additional information contact the PASS Office at (432) 552-2630 or MB 1160.