

Developmental Education & TSI FAQ's

Q. What is the Texas Success Initiative?

A. The Texas Success Initiative, or TSI, was established in 2003 by the Texas State Legislature to insure that students are prepared to be successful in their college level coursework. Each post-secondary institution must assess all students entering their institution to determine college readiness. All students must be assessed in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

Q. How does SRSU determine college readiness?

A. Determination of a student's TSI status is dependent upon whether a student is a first-time student (a freshman) or a transfer student. Assessments for first time students are done in one of two ways. If a first-time student's SAT, ACT, or TAKS scores are above the standard set by the state, then the student is exempt from further assessment (is TSI clear), and may enroll in advisor-approved coursework. If the student is not TSI exempt, then the student must take the state approved assessment examination, the TSIA.

Transfer students should present evidence of success in college-level work for each of the three areas: reading, writing and mathematics. If a student has earned college-level credit (with a minimum grade of "C") in designated courses that relate to one of these areas, then no further assessment is required and the student is TSI clear. Otherwise, each transfer student must take the TSIA.

Q. What is the approved assessment examination?

A. As of August 27, 2013, the new TSI Assessment (TSIA) went into effect. The TSIA is designed to determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

Q. What are minimum passing scores on the TSIA?

A. The chart below shows the scores needed in each discipline area in order to clear TSI.

Assessment	Mathematics	Reading	Writing: Essay	Writing: Objective
TSIA	350	351	5	
			4	363

Q. I've got my assessment scores, now what?

A. Based on your scores, your Lobo Den advisor will enroll you in either college-level courses (if you are TSI clear) or Developmental Education courses (if you are not TSI clear); or perhaps a combination of these if appropriate.

Q. Do I have to take a Developmental Education course every semester I am enrolled?

A. As long as you have a developmental education requirement, you must be enrolled in a developmental education course each semester. The exemption to this rule is during the mid-winter session when developmental education courses are not offered. Also, while developmental education courses are offered during the summer, they do not always have enough students enrolled to justify keeping the course open. In that specific case (and with the permission of a TSI advisor), the student does not have to register for a summer developmental education course.

Q. Can failing a development education course affect my eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities at SRSU?

A. Yes, students who do not make a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "PR" in any developmental education course (ED 0200, ENG 0200, MATH 0200, ED 0300, ENG 0300, ENG 0310, MATH 0300, and/or MATH 0301) are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities until they have passed that course with a passing grade or until they have passed that portion of the TSIA.

Q. What information must appear on my TSIA Score Report?

A. The institution at which you TSIA test must include on your TSIA Score Report your three-digit TSI score, any one-digit ABE scores, any one-digit essay score, and any diagnostic scores (for developmental education or for ABE).

If your TSIA Score Report does not have all of these scores (as appropriate), then SRSU will require you either to contact your testing institution and request a complete TSIA Score Report or to retake the TSIA at SRSU.

Q. What happens if receive an ABE score of “1” or “2” on the reading, writing, AND math portions of the TSIA?

Texas state law does not allow public institutions of higher education to serve students who receive an ABE score of “1” or “2” on the reading, writing, AND math portions of the TSIA. If a student receives an ABE score of “1” or “2” in only one or two portions of the TSIA, then the student can enroll at SRSU.

Q. What if I have more questions about the Texas Success Initiative?

A. You may visit with a TSI advisor in Lobo Den, Lawrence Hall 102, or call 432-837-8982.

You may also call the Director of ACE, Kathy Stein, at 432-837-8408.