

Sul Ross State University • Academic Center for Excellence
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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 mathematics and English Language Arts (reading and writing).

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 STAAR End-of-Course Exams' 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 TSIA2.

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 TSIA2.

Q. What is the approved assessment examination?

A. On January 11, 2021, the new TSI Assessment 2 (TSIA2) went into effect. The TSIA2 is designed to determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the areas of English Language Arts (reading and writing) and Mathematics.

Q. What are minimum passing scores on the TSIA?

A. TSIA2 ELAR College Ready Scores:

CRC 945-990 and Essay 5-8 **OR**
CRC 910-944, Diagnostic Level 5-6 and Essay 5-8

TSIA2 Mathematics College Ready Scores:

CRC 950-990 **OR**
CRC 910-949 and Diagnostic Level 6

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 only exemption to this rule is when

developmental education courses are not offered as, at times, classes are cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.

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,” or “C” in any developmental education course (ENG 0309, ENG 0310, MATH 0314, MATH 0332, and/or MATH 0342) are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities until they have passed that course with a passing grade (or the college-level co-req course when applicable) or until they have passed that portion of the TSIA2. Athletics and Rodeo count as extracurricular activities.

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 essay score, and any diagnostic scores. If your TSIA2 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 TSIA2 Score Report or to retake the TSIA2 at SRSU. The score report must also include your name and student ID number.

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

A. You may visit with a TSI advisor in Lobo Den, Library first floor, or call 432-837-8982. You may also call the Director of ACE, Kathy Stein, at 432-837-8770.