

Alamo Colleges District
Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
Common Entry Requirements
Updated 04-10-2026

Information Areas:

- [What is the Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\)](#)
- [Students requiring developmental coursework](#)
- [For High School Program Students Only](#)

What is the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)?

The Texas Success Initiative is a state mandate, effective August 26, 2013, designed to help students achieve college readiness in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics (Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subchapter C). The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is the mandated instrument used to determine college readiness of the students. The TSIA has a version 2.0 effective January, 11, 2021 (TSIA2). Alamo Colleges District implements TSI requirements by offering various types of courses or interventions to prepare students for college level course work.

Students not meeting the exemptions defined below (Tables 1 and 2) will be placed in appropriate courses utilizing alternate methods of demonstrating college readiness such as multiple measures (Table 4) or may include taking a corequisite course that includes support combined with the credit course. Performing your best on the test will affect the amount of time and tuition cost you will have to spend on preparing for many of Alamo Colleges’ programs and courses. Students may retest on TSI Assessment at any time.

If you need to take the TSIA, several options are available for you to review and prepare for the test. Spending a short time reviewing information about the test and the type of questions you can expect may assist you in maximizing your performance on the exam. Please request information about these options.

You will be advised based on TSI exemptions and college readiness as well as your program area of interest.

You will not be denied admission to the Alamo Colleges based on your TSI Assessment scores.

Table 1: TSI Exemptions			
Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)			
1. Exam	Combination Score	English/Reading	Math
ACT <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: ACT taken ON or AFTER February 15, 2023</i>	N/A	(A010 + A03=A0RW) = 40+ English and Reading (E+R)	(A020) = 22+ Math
ACT <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: ACT taken PRIOR to February 15, 2023</i>	(A050) = 23+ Composite	(A010) = 19+ Reading/Writing	(A020) = 19+ Math
<i>ACT Note: The use of scores from both the ACT administered prior to February 15, 2023, and the ACT administered on or after February 15, 2023, is allowable. Must meet new benchmarks (E/R:40+ MATH:22+)</i>			
SAT <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: SAT taken ON or AFTER March 5, 2016</i>	NA	(S11) = 480 Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	(S12) = 530 Math
STAAR end-of-course (EOC) <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>		(STRW) = 4000+ English III (Level 2 or Meets Standard)	(STRM) = 4000+ Algebra II (Level 2 or Meets Standard)
General Educational Development (GED) <i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i> <i>Note: GED taken ON or AFTER January 1, 2014</i>		(GDRL) = 165 + Reasoning Through Language Arts	(GDMA) = 165 + Mathematical Reasoning
Other Exemptions or Exceptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)			
2. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.			

3. A student who has earned the Texas First Diploma, effective September 1, 2023.															
4. 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 (see Table 2).															
5. A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.															
6. 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. <i>[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]</i>															
7. A student who holds current certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and is employed by a political subdivision for more than 20 hours per week.															
8. A student who is employed as firefighter protection personnel for more than 20 hours per week shall be granted an exemption.															
9. A student who is elected, appointed, or employed to serve as a peace officer for more than 20 hours per week.															
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. <i>[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]</i>															
<p>11. A student who earns a grade of 75 or above for English Language Arts Reading [ELAR] (Reading & Writing) or Mathematics (Math) College Preparatory Course under Texas Education Code §28.014 is exempt for a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of high school graduation and must register in respective course content area within one (1) year of enrollment date. This exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district (MOU) in which the student is enrolled. Texas College Bridge Certificates are equivalent to College Prep for TSI purposes as Alamo Colleges District has a statewide MOU in place to accept Texas College Bridge ELAR and Math as College Prep using the same PEIMS Codes. Evidence for completion of CP course may include PEIMS Code on High School Transcripts AND/OR any other Local Design Evidence:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">CP110100 College Preparatory Course English Language Arts (ELAR)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Test Code</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Description</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">CP111200 College Preparatory Course Mathematics</td> <td>CPCE</td> <td>College Prep Crs ENGL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CPCM</td> <td>College Prep Crs MATH</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CPTC</td> <td>College Prep TCB ELAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CPTM</td> <td>College Prep TCB MATH</td> </tr> </table>	CP110100 College Preparatory Course English Language Arts (ELAR)	Test Code	Description	CP111200 College Preparatory Course Mathematics	CPCE	College Prep Crs ENGL		CPCM	College Prep Crs MATH		CPTC	College Prep TCB ELAR		CPTM	College Prep TCB MATH
CP110100 College Preparatory Course English Language Arts (ELAR)	Test Code	Description													
CP111200 College Preparatory Course Mathematics	CPCE	College Prep Crs ENGL													
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Certificate Seekers

12. A student who is seeking a certificate program of one year or less (Level-1 certificates: 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) will not be required to take the TSIA. If a student changes program area of study or certificate level, TSI requirements will apply. The TSIA may be taken for diagnostic purposes only.

For archived common entry requirements – see Alamo Share Site, District Support Office, Academic Success, College Readiness <https://share.alamo.edu/as/college-readiness/SitePages/Home2019.aspx>

For Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waiver Rules Applying to All Public Institutions of Higher Education in Texas Regarding Texas Success Initiative see [Texas Administrative Code for Texas Success Initiative](#)

Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness Grade of "C" or Better (unless otherwise noted)	
English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) (Reading/Writing)	ENGA 0351 and ENGA 0353, INRW 0420, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, HIST 1301, HIST 1302, HIST 2321, PSYC 2301
Mathematics	MATH 0320 (NVC), MATH 1314, MATH 1316, MATH 1324, MATH 1325, MATH 1332, MATH 1333, MATH 1350, MATH 1351, MATH 1414, MATH 1342, MATH 1442, MATH 2412, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 2415

Table 3: TSIA 2.0 Minimum Standards for College Readiness (Effective 1-11-2021 scores valid for 5 years)	
TSI Assessment	Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework
English Language Arts & Reading [ELAR] (TS2E) Essay (TS2S) ELAR Diagnostic (T2DE)	≥ 945 AND Essay ≥ 5 Or < 945 AND Diagnostic Level ≥ 5 AND Essay ≥ 5
Math TSI Scores (TS2M) Math Diagnostic (T2DM)	≥ 950; Or < 950 AND Diagnostic Level = 6

Table 3: TSIA Minimum Standards for College Readiness (Prior to 1-11-2021 scores valid for 5 years)	
TSI Assessment	Minimum Passing Scores for College-Level Coursework
Writing TSI Scores (TSIW) Essay (TSIS)	[340+ AND Essay of 4+] OR [<340 AND ABE of at least 4 AND Essay of 5
Reading TSI Scores (TSIR)	351-390
Math TSI Scores (TSIM)	350-390

Table 4: Multiple Measures Assessment Course Placement (High School Complete Students Only)	
College Ready Reading (MUMR) and Writing (MUMW)	
ENGL 1301	TSIA scores required (does NOT meet benchmarks) AND Cumulative GPA 80 or higher (2.7) AND 4 Years of English in High School
College Ready Math (MUMM)	
MATH 1314 MATH 1332 MATH 1342 MATH 1324	TSIA scores required (does NOT meet benchmarks) AND Cumulative GPA 80 or higher (2.7) AND 4 Years of Math in High School

*** MATH 1414 - Students are not eligible for placement in College Algebra (Pre-Cal Track) by Multiple Measures.

Students requiring Corequisites/Developmental Education (DE) coursework:

You may be required to enroll in a corequisite/developmental education, based on your TSIA scores, if you do not meet the following: a TSI exemption (Table 1); the TSIA Minimum Standards (Table 3); or High school grade point average and course history

for multiple measures placement (Table 4). The basic skills requirements for courses are included with the course description in the eCatalog. Tables 5 and 6 provide course placement information.

Table 5: English Course Placement Effective 1-11-2021					TSIA 2.0	
	English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) (TS2E)		Diagnostic Level (T2DE)		Essay (TS2S)	REFRESHER Exit Score (INRW)
INRW 0420	910-929 +	AND	Diagnostic Level 1-2		N/A	10
Corequisites						
ENGL 1301 + 0201 (1301++)	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 3-6	AND	Essay 0-2	20
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	AND	Essay 0--2	
ENGL 1301 + 0100 (1301+)	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 3-4	AND	Essay 3-8	30
	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 5 & 6	AND	Essay 3-4	
	945-990		No Diagnostic Test given: See note below*	AND	Essay 3-4	
College Ready						
ENGL 1301	910-944	AND	Diagnostic Level 5-6	AND	Essay 5-8	40
	945-990	AND *Note: ELAR score range 945-990 Diagnostic Test is not given			Essay 5-8	

**TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact Economic Workforce Development Department for more information
Possible Options: Ability to Benefit, I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) and/or AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

Questions? English Department Chairs:

NLC	Jason Malcolm	jmalcolm@alamo.edu	486-5234
NVC	Sabrina Carey	scarey5@alamo.edu	486-4322
PAC	Caroline Mains	cmains@alamo.edu	486-3244
SAC	Erik Hillskemper	ehillskemper@alamo.edu	486-0680
SPC	Jamie Miranda	Jmiranda58@alamo.edu	486-2722

Table 5: English Course Placement Prior to 1-11-2021					
	Writing/English TSI Score (TSIW/TABW/TSIS)		Reading TSI Score (TSIR/TABR)	REFRESHER Exit Score (INRW)	
*ABE Referral Options (I-Best or Region 20 AEL)	310-335 w/ABE 1-2	Or	310-335 w/ABE 1-2	5	
INRW 0420	310-339 w/ABE 3-4	And	310-350 w/ABE 3-4	10	
*TSIA Levels for	ENGL 1301+0201 (1301++)	310-349 w/Essay 3 or below	And	351-390	20
		351-390 w/Essay 4 or below	And	343-350	
		340-390 w/Essay 4 or higher	And	310-329	
		310-390 w/Essay 5+	And	310-329	
ENGL 1301+0100 (1301+) Ready, Set, Go (RSG)		310-390 w/Essay 5+	And	330-350	30
		350-390 w/Essay 3 or below	And	351-390	
		340-390 w/Essay 4 or 5	And	330-350	
		310-339 w/Essay 4	And	351-390	
ENGL 1301		340-390 w/ Essay of 4	And	351-390	40
		310-339 w/Essay Score of 5+ <u>AND</u> ABE 4, 5, or 6	And	351-390	

Lower
Options

Referral: Contact Economic Workforce Development Department for more information

Possible Options: Ability to Benefit, I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) and/or AEL (Adult Education Literacy)

Table 6: Math Course Placement	Scores effective 1-11-2021 Math TSIA2 (TS2M) Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)	Prior to 1-11-2021 Math TSIA Scores (TSIM) Math ABE (TABM)
*Adult Education Literacy (AEL) or I-BEST Program Referral Options		310-335 w/ABE 1-2
Math 0410	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 1-3	310-335 w/ABE 3-4
Math 0320 (STEM) (NVC Only – used for Math 1414 at NVC!)	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4-5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349

Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules

Co-Requisites		
1314 + 0214 College Algebra	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349
1414 + 0214 (STEM) College Algebra (NLC, PAC, SAC, & SPC)	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349
1332 + 0132 Liberal Arts Math (NLC, NVC, SPC, SAC)	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349
1342 + 0142 Statistics (NLC, NVC SPC, SAC)	910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349
1324 + 0124 Business Math (PAC, SAC)	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	343-349
1324 + 0224 Business Math (NLC, NVC, SPC)	910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5	310-335 w/ABE 5-6 OR 336-349

College Ready Test Scores valid for 5 years	College Ready Effective 1-11-2021 Math TSIA2 (TS2M) Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)	College Ready Prior to 1-11- 2021 Math TSIA Scores (TSIM)	ACT (A020)	SAT (S12)
MATH 1314; 1414; 1332; 1342; 1324; 1316	950-990 OR 910-949 AND Diagnostic Level 6	350-390	22-23	530-580
MATH 2412	N/A	N/A	24-25	581-639

MATH 2413	N/A	N/A	26+	640+
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*****IMPORTANT---** Recommendation: Before enrolling in a Math corequisite course, consult with your academic advisor

**See Transfer Advising Guides (TAGs) for the appropriate Math course

*TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact the Economic Workforce Development Department for more information
Possible Options: I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) and/or AEL (Adult Education Literacy through ACD Partnerships)

Note: Refreshers recommended for students placed in Math Diagnostic Levels 1-3 only for the appropriate college

Questions? Math Department Chairs:

NLC	Allen Miller	amiller142@alamo.edu	486-5214
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SPC	Renita D Mitchell Chair in Training: Jessica Lopez	rmitchell@alamo.edu jlopez@alamo.edu	486-2607

TSI Exemptions for EMS, Fire Protection, and Peace Officers

Beginning **Fall 2025**, Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exemptions are available to certain Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) personnel, fire protection personnel, and peace officers. Eligible students must submit an official (on letterhead with signature) employment verification letter to determine qualification. Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.

Eligibility criteria are outlined below.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

EMT TSI exemptions apply to students who are employed as Emergency Medical Technician personnel by a **political subdivision of the State of Texas**. Eligible positions include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency Care Attendants
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs)
- Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedics
- Licensed Paramedics

A *political subdivision of Texas* includes county governments and other units of local government that provide basic public services, such as education, public safety, ambulance services, water and electric utilities, and public transportation.

Note: Employees of private companies are not eligible for this exemption.

Reference: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex.local.gov%27t_code_section_172.003

Fire Protection

Fire protection TSI exemptions apply to students who are **permanent, full-time employees of local government** and are designated as one or more of the following:

- Fire and arson investigators
- Aircraft rescue and fire protection personnel
- Full-time fire department employees engaged in fire suppression, inspection, investigation, marine firefighting, or aircraft rescue and firefighting
- Personnel involved in fire training, education, administration, or other duties directly related to fire prevention and suppression

Note: Employees in administrative or clerical support roles, part-time positions, or volunteer positions are not eligible for this exemption.

Resource: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_419.021

Peace Officer

Peace officer TSI exemptions apply to students who are **elected, appointed, or employed to serve as peace officers**, including:

- Sheriffs
- Deputy sheriffs
- Constables
- Municipal police officers

Note: Peace officers must hold a **permanent peace officer license**. Private investigators and private security officers are not eligible for this exemption.

Resource: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._code_of_crim._proc._article_2a.001

Texas First Diploma

TSI exemptions apply to students who have earned the **Texas First Diploma**, effective **September 1, 2023**.

Students will be required to submit official documentation (i.e. transcript) verifying completion of the Texas First Diploma as part of the exemption review process.

Documentation to be accepted:

TSI Exemptions for EMT, Fire Protection, and Peace Officers

Eligible students must submit an official (on letterhead with signature) employment verification letter to determine qualification.

Texas First Diploma

Students will be required to submit official documentation (i.e. transcript) verifying completion of the Texas First Diploma as part of the exemption review process.