

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
Texas Success Initiative Program
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) program at the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) integrates student services and academic components designed to expedite the student's transition from developmental education to college-level courses.

UTPA has designated the following to meet TEC Section 51.3062 requirements:

- ◆ The application process: taking required assessment tests and submitting scores;
- ◆ Advisement: attending mandatory advisement sessions;
- ◆ Course-Based Developmental Education (CBDE) and Non-Course Based Developmental Education (NCBDE);
- ◆ Continuous enrollment in developmental education for students who have not met TSI requirements;
- ◆ A sixty-hour (60) policy requiring that students complete the TSI program for Writing, Math and Reading before enrolling in upper level-college courses; and
- ◆ Completion of developmental education upon fulfillment of criteria established by the Math Department, English Department, and Learning Assistance Center.

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

To meet the requirements of TEC 51.3062, UTPA has in place Course-Based Developmental Education (CBDE) and Non-Course-Based Developmental Education (NCBDE). The two paths ensure that students remain TSI compliant and that they receive effective advisement and academic instruction designed to facilitate their preparation for college readiness.

Exemptions/Exceptions:

The following students shall be exempt from TSI developmental education requirements at UTPA:

- (1) Students who enroll within five (5) years from the date of testing with:
 - (A) An ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and the mathematics tests; or
 - (B) A Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) combined verbal and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and the mathematics tests.
- (2) Students who enroll within three (3) years from the date of testing and achieve the following minimum scores on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS): Writing scale score 1770, Texas Learning Index (TLI) of 86 on the mathematics test, and reading test score of 89.
- (3) A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.

(4) A student who transfers to UTPA 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 UTPA.

(5) A student who has previously attended any accredited 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.

(7) 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.

(8) A student who is regularly enrolled at a private or out-of-state institution of higher education and who will attend UTPA temporarily will be exempt.

Students who do not meet the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) criteria for TSI exemption must take a THECB-approved assessment instrument before their semester enrollment. Students who do not take the assessment before the first semester of enrollment will be allowed to enroll only in Course-Based Developmental Education until scores are submitted to the Office of Admissions.

The following assessment instruments, as approved by THECB, will be used by UTPA:

- (1) ASSET and COMPASS offered by ACT;
- (2) ACCUPLACER offered by The College Board; and
- (3) Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) offered by National Evaluation Systems, Inc.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring to UTPA from Texas public institutions, private, or out-of-state institutions must comply with TSI requirements prior to enrolling in any college-level coursework. Students may use transferred courses that correspond to UTPA-approved courses to satisfy TSI “college readiness” requirements.

Developmental course credit will be accepted if the Office of Admissions determines transferred courses are equivalent to UTPA developmental courses (unofficial evaluation at orientation) OR the official transcript indicates the student has satisfied TSI “college readiness” requirements as required by THECB. In the absence of prior coursework that satisfies TSI policy, testing in appropriate areas will be required to determine the need for developmental education.

TRANSIENT STUDENTS

Students who are regularly enrolled at private or out-of-state institutions of higher education are designated as transient students and are exempted from TSI regulations. Evidence, such as a transcript or grade report, of such enrollment must be from the immediately preceding regular semester. This exemption will not continue for out-of-state or private school students who remain at UTPA for more than one consecutive semester.

MINIMUM PASSING STANDARDS

The following minimum passing standards will be used to determine successful completion of TSI requirements and a student’s readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework:

- (1) ASSET: Reading Skills 41; Elementary Algebra 38; Writing Skills (objective) 40; and Written Essay 6.
- (2) COMPASS: Reading Skills 81; Algebra 39; Writing Skills (objective) 59; and Written Essay 6.
- (3) ACCUPLACER: Reading Comprehension 78; Elementary Algebra 63; Sentence Skills 80; and Written Essay 6.
- (4) THEA: Reading 230; Mathematics 230; Writing 220.

A score of 6 or higher on the essay portion of all tests will be considered passing on the Writing portion of TSI. An essay score of 5, combined with an objective score that meets the THECB minimum for a respective test, will also be considered passing. The English and Math departments require higher passing scores as prerequisites to English 1301 and Math 1340 respectively.

Students who are not exempt and do not achieve the minimum passing standards will be required to enroll in developmental education based on the following criteria:

- ◆ Students who have not yet attempted TSI and whose ACT scores do not meet criteria for enrollment in college-level courses set by the Mathematics and English Departments must enroll in appropriate CBDE or NCBDE.
- ◆ Students who have failed one or more areas of TSI or who do not meet English and Math Departmental prerequisites for enrollment in college-level courses are placed in CBDE or NCBDE.

- ◆ Students may retake an assessment instrument at any time, subject to testing company policies and availability, to determine readiness to perform freshman-level academic coursework.

Students are placed in **CBDE** as explained in Table 1 on page 5.



TABLE 1: Course Based Developmental Education Placement and Exit Criteria

TSI Area	CBDE	Enrollment criteria	Exit Criteria
Math	Math 1300 Elementary Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose Math ACT score is below 17 and who have not yet attempted the TSI Math exam; or ▪ for students whose Math ACT score is below 17 and whose THEA Math score is below 230. 	Grade of C or better
Math	Math 1334 Intermediate Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose Math ACT score is from 17-19 and who have not yet attempted the TSI Math exam; or ▪ for students whose Math ACT score is below 20 and whose THEA Math score is 230-259*;or ▪ for students who have passed Math 1300 with a “C” or better and whose THEA Math score is below 260.* 	Grade of C or better
Writing	English 1320 Basic Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose English ACT score is below 24 and who have not yet attempted the TSI Writing exam; or ▪ for students whose THEA Writing score is below 240.* 	Grade of P (Pass) Or Score of 240 on the THEA Writing exam during the semester student is enrolled in English 1320
Reading	English 1310 Reading and Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose combined English and Reading ACT scores total less than 34 and who have not yet attempted the TSI Reading exam; or ▪ for students whose THEA Reading score is below 230. 	Grade of P (Pass) Or Score of 230 on the THEA Reading exam during the semester student is enrolled in English 1310

***Passing THEA score (or equivalent score on other TSI-approved test) is based on departmental standards: Writing 240 and Math 260.**

Students are placed in **NCBDE** as shown in Table 2 on page 6.

TABLE 2: Non-Course Based Developmental Education Placement and Exit Criteria

TSI Area and NCBDE	Enrollment criteria	Exit Criteria
MATH		
Math Laboratory 1: Computer-Assisted Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students who have never enrolled in Math CBDE whose THEA Math score is less than 200*; or ▪ for students with no Math TSI score and whose Math ACT is below 17; or ▪ for students who are unable to enroll in other NCBDE. 	Satisfactory completion of CAI curriculum and lab attendance requirements
Math Laboratory 2: Intermediate Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students who have failed Math 1300; ▪ for students whose THEA Math score is 200-229* and Math ACT is below 17 ; or ▪ for students who completed the CAI curriculum but have not yet passed the TSI Math exam. 	Satisfactory completion of lab curriculum and lab attendance requirements
Math Laboratory 2: College Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students who passed Math 1300 and/or failed Math 1334; or ▪ for students whose THEA Math score is 200-229*; or ▪ for students whose Math ACT score is 17-19. 	Satisfactory completion of lab curriculum and lab attendance requirements
WRITING		
Writing Laboratory 1: Computer-Assisted Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students who should be in CBDE (THEA Writing score below 200*) but are unable to enroll in English 1320 or other NCBDE. 	Satisfactory completion of CAI curriculum and lab attendance requirements
Writing Laboratory 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose THEA Writing TSI score is 200-219* and have not passed English 1320; or ▪ for students who completed the CAI curriculum. 	Satisfactory completion of lab curriculum and lab attendance requirements
READING		
Reading Laboratory 1: Computer-Assisted Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students who should be in CBDE (THEA Reading score below 200*) but are unable to enroll in English 1310 or other NCBDE. 	Satisfactory completion of CAI curriculum and lab attendance requirements
Reading Laboratory 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for students whose THEA Reading Score is 200-229* and have not passed English 1310; or ▪ for students who completed the CAI curriculum. 	Satisfactory completion of lab curriculum and lab attendance requirements

- **Or equivalent score on other TSI-approved test**

PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING PARTICIPATION IN CBDE OR NCBDE

TSI-affected students must enroll and participate in continuous developmental education until they fulfill both state and institutional TSI requirements. Students who do not attend CBDE and NCBDE as scheduled and are dropped by their instructor or lab supervisor will be subject to the following consequences. The consequences are two-tiered.

Step 1:

The first time a student drops or is dropped from CBDE or NCBDE, he/she will complete the following:

Meet with an academic advisor to clarify his/her understanding of TSI policy and continuous enrollment policies and sign a contract with a non-appeal clause inserted should the student drop again. The contract will clearly describe the penalties for dropping or being dropped from developmental courses or labs. The student's signature will indicate that he/she understands Step 2 penalties for any and all future drops and that he/she understands there is no appeals process for future drops.

Step 2:

The second time a student drops or is dropped from CBDE or NCBDE, he/she will be limited to six (6) hours in the following regular semester or three (3) hours each summer session if the following process is completed:

- Meet with an academic advisor to clarify his/her understanding of TSI policy and continuous enrollment policies;
- Sign a contract indicating that he/she will be allowed to enroll only in six hours, which are designated as the following:
 - a. A student TSI-affected in only one area will register for the appropriate developmental class and one other course
 - b. A student TSI-affected in more than one area will register for two developmental courses; if courses are unavailable, the student may register in one developmental course and one regular course.
- The contract will also indicate that a student dropping a developmental course or lab at any time during the semester will be withdrawn from all courses immediately without appeal. This provision will remain in place until the student passes all sections of TSI. Step-two students refusing these conditions will be suspended for one regular semester following the dropped course or lab.

DETERMINATION OF READINESS TO PERFORM FRESHMAN-LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

- A. A student is ready to perform freshman-level academic coursework when the following criteria are met:
- (1) Math: A grade of “C” or better in Math 1334,
Writing: A grade of “P” in English 1320,
Reading: A grade of “P” in English 1310; or
 - (2) Score at or above the institutional minimal score on a state-approved assessment instrument, and if applicable
- B. In accordance with THECB guidelines, any student who did not initially perform at or above the following scores shall retake any or all three (3) parts of an official assessment. The retest may be taken before, during, or after the student enrolls in the corresponding CBDE course. A passing score on the exam retake is not required to clear TSI requirements.
- (1.) ASSET: Reading Skills 35; Elementary Algebra 30; and Writing Skills (objective) 35.
 - (2.) COMPASS: Reading Skills 64; Algebra 23; Writing Skills (objective) 44.
 - (3.) ACCUPLACER: Reading Comprehension 61; Elementary Algebra 42; Sentence Skills 62.
 - (4.) THEA: Reading 201; Mathematics 206; Writing 205.
 - (5.) An essay with a score of 5 will meet passing criteria if the student meets the objective writing test standard.
- C. UTPA shall, as soon as practicable and feasible, indicate a student’s readiness in reading, mathematics, and writing on the student’s transcript.
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ADVISING PROGRAMS

UTPA Advisement Center's comprehensive advisement program provides academic support for TSI students at the undergraduate level. Advisors will develop an individual TSI plan and maintain documentation on each academic advisement session to monitor TSI progress for each student.

A student who is TSI incomplete is required to meet with an advisor from the Academic Advisement Center every semester to:

- Evaluate documentation for TSI compliance and placement;
- Assess personal and academic needs;
- Monitor academic/career goals; and
- Review academic status, core requirements, rules and regulations.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have a learning disability or any other disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and are seeking a modification or exemption from TSI regulations or require special testing accommodations will be referred to the Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities on campus.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The University of Texas-Pan American, through the Office of Admissions and Records, will report Texas Success Initiative program success information, as indicated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Approved: December 15, 2003
