

Tarleton State University
TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) PLAN

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0. Effective Date

This plan and the policies herein will apply to students entering or continuing enrollment in Summer 2005 and thereafter.

1. Purpose and Authority

Under Chapter 4, Subchapter C (Texas Success Initiative, "TSI") of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules, Tarleton State University intends to use the flexibility and responsibility granted therein to improve individualized programs to ensure the success of students in higher education.

2. Definitions

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- A. Assessment – the use of a Board-approved instrument to determine the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student.
- B. Board – the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- C. Developmental Coursework – non-degree credit coursework designed to address a student's deficiencies. Tarleton offers developmental coursework in Reading (RDG 100 - Basic Reading), Writing (ENGL 100 -Basic Writing), and Mathematics (MATH 100 - Basic Mathematics and MATH 101 - Fundamentals of College Algebra).
- D. Developmental Education – developmental courses and/or tutorials that are included in a Plan for Academic Success.
- E. Exemptions - Students who are exempt from the Texas Success Initiative are not subject to the requirements in this plan. However, they are subject to university policies (as stated in the University Catalog, particularly those related to placement, enrollment, prerequisites and advisement) which apply to all TSU students.
- F. Minimum Passing Standards – Students scoring below these minimum scores will be advised, provided with a Plan for Academic Success, and subject to compliance requirements as stated in this plan.
- G. Non-Degree Credit Course – A course which may not be counted toward a degree or certificate.

3. Exemptions/Exceptions

The following students shall be either fully exempt, partially exempt, or temporarily exempt/waived from the requirements of the TSI:

- A. Full Exemption. The following students are exempt from the requirements of the TSI:
- i. 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 on a single administration of the test:
 - a. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and Mathematics tests.
 - b. Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT): a combined Verbal and Mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and the mathematics tests.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Eleventh grade exit-level TAKS with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section and a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English/Language Arts (ELA) section with a writing subsection score of at least 3.
 - iv. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from a Texas public institution of higher education.
 - v. A student who transfers to Tarleton from a private, independent, or out-of-state accredited institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework in (a) mathematics, (b) writing, and (c) reading as indicated in Section 8.
 - vi. A student who has previously attended any Texas public institution of higher education and met TSI readiness standards by that institution in (a) mathematics, (b) writing, and (c) reading.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. A student who, prior to January 1, 2004, had satisfied (as indicated by the Tarleton Developmental Education Plan and/or the Board's TASP policy manual) all TASP obligations.
- B. Partial Exemption. The following students are exempt from one or more of the requirement of the TSI:
- i. Exempt from the mathematics requirements of the TSI:

- a. Beginning with tests in April 2004, 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 on a single administration of the test:
 1. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on Mathematics test.
 2. Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT): a combined Verbal and Mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the mathematics test.
 - b. For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Eleventh grade exit-level TAKS with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section.
 - c. A student who transfers to Tarleton from a private, independent, or out-of-state accredited institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework in mathematics, as indicated in Section 8.
 - d. A student who has previously attended any Texas public institution of higher education and met TSI readiness standards by that institution in mathematics.
- ii. Exempt from the writing requirements of the TSI:
- a. Beginning with tests in April 2004, 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 on a single administration of the test:
 1. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on English test.
 2. Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT): a combined Verbal and Mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the verbal test.
 - b. For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Eleventh grade exit-level TAKS with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English/Language Arts (ELA) section with a writing subsection score of at least 3.
 - c. A student who transfers to Tarleton from a private, independent, or out-of-state accredited institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework in writing, as indicated in Section 8.
 - d. A student who has previously attended any Texas public institution of higher education and met TSI readiness standards by that institution in writing.
- iii. Exempt from the reading requirements of the TSI:
- a. Beginning with tests in April 2004, 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 on a single administration of the test:
 1. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on the English test;
 2. Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT): a combined Verbal and Mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the verbal test.
 - b. For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Eleventh grade exit-level TAKS with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English/Language Arts (ELA) section with a writing subsection score of at least 3.
 - c. A student who transfers to Tarleton from a private, independent, or out-of-state accredited institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework in reading, as indicated in Section 8.
 - d. A student who has previously attended any Texas public institution of higher

education and met TSI readiness standards by that institution in reading.

- C. Temporary Exemption/Waiver. The following students may request a temporary exempt from the requirements of the TSI:
- i. On an annual basis, a student who is serving on active duty as a member of
 - a. the armed forces of the United States
 - b. the Texas National Guard
 - ii. On an annual basis, a student who is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States (excludes reserves of Texas National Guard) and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.
 - iii. Each semester, a student who has been admitted as a non-degree seeking student.
 - iv. Under exceptional circumstances, the Director of the Division of General Studies may permit a student to enroll in lower-level academic coursework without assessment but must require that the student be assessed not later than the end of the first semester of enrollment in freshman- level academic coursework and may require concurrent, appropriate developmental education.
- D. Some of the TSI exemptions for enrollment in Tarleton State University are not accepted by the Teacher Education Council for admission to the Teacher Education Program. Please contact the Certification Office at (254) 968-9815 for more information.

4. Assessment

- A. Unless exempt (see section 3 for exemptions), each undergraduate student must submit his or her official assessment results to the Office of the Registrar from an instrument approved in Section 5 in the areas of (a) mathematics, (b) writing, and (c) reading prior to enrollment.
- B. Students enrolling at Tarleton-Central Texas, or enrolling in courses delivered by Tarleton in a distance learning system must be assessed as indicated in Section 4A. A student who is neither TSI exempt (see section 3) nor TSI complete (see section 8) in all three areas may not enroll at Tarleton Central Texas until TSI completion is achieved.

5. Assessment Instruments

The following assessment instruments will be utilized:

- A. ASSET offered by ACT;
- B. COMPASS offered by ACT;
- C. ACCUPLACER offered by the College Board;
- D. Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA), formerly TASP Test, offered by National Evaluation Systems, Inc.

6. Minimum Passing Standards

A student who is not exempt from the TSI (see Section 3) and fails to satisfy a standard in at least one of the three skill areas (reading, writing, and mathematics) is subject to the requirements of this plan.

A. **Reading** (one of the following standards must be satisfied)

- 41 or higher on ASSET Reading Skills
- 81 or higher on COMPASS Reading Skills
- 78 or higher on ACCUPLACER Reading Comprehension
- 230 or higher on THEA Reading

B. **Mathematics** (one of the following standards must be satisfied)

- 45 or higher on ASSET Elementary Algebra
- 60 or higher on COMPASS Algebra
- 85 or higher on ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra
- 270 or higher on THEA Mathematics

C. **Writing** (one of the following standards must be satisfied)

- 6 or higher on the ASSET Written Essay (or a 5 Written Essay score *and* a 40 or higher on the ASSET Writing Skills).
- 6 or higher on the COMPASS Written Essay (or a 5 Written Essay Score *and* a 59 or higher on the COMPASS Writing Skills).
- 6 or higher on the ACCUPLACER Written Essay (or a 5 Written Essay Score *and* an 80 or higher on the ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills).
- 220 or higher on the THEA Writing.

7. Advisement and Plan for Academic Success

A. A student who fails to meet the minimum standards in any of the three areas described in Section 6 must be jointly advised by the Division of General Studies and the student's major department. Each semester, a TSI-advising hold will be placed on each student subject to these policies. The Division of General Studies will have sole authorization to remove the hold. At the time of initial advisement, the Division of General Studies will provide, in writing, a Plan for Academic Success which should include the following:

- i. if a student fails to meet the standard for reading (see Section 6), and has not achieved college-level Reading readiness (see Section 8), then the student should enroll in RDG 100. If RDG 100 is not available, the student should participate in non-course-based reading remediation offered through the Teaching and Learning Center. The student may enroll in ENGL 210, 220, 240, 250, HIST 101, 102, 201, 202, POLS 201, or 202 only if the student has completed (or is concurrently participating in) non-course based reading remediation offered through the Teaching and Learning Center or RDG 100
- ii. if a student fails to meet the standard for writing (see Section 6) and has not achieved college-level writing readiness (see Section 8), and did not pass the Composition Placement Test, then the student **must** enroll in ENGL 100. If ENGL 100 is not available, the student **must** enroll in ENGL 100 during the next semester the course is offered. All students passing the Composition Placement Test **must** enroll in ENGL 111. If ENGL 111 is not available, the student **must** enroll in ENGL 111 during the next semester the course is offered.

- iii. if a student fails to meet the standard for mathematics (see Section 6) and has not achieved college-level mathematics readiness (see Section 8), then the student **must**, in compliance with the mathematics placement policy, enroll in MATH 100 or MATH 101. If a student is unable to enroll in the appropriate developmental mathematics course during the semester, the student **must** participate in non-course-based mathematics remediation offered through the Teaching and Learning Center.
- B. A student who has not achieved TSI completion (see section 8) in all three areas may not enroll in upper-level coursework until TSI completion is achieved.
- C. TSI Plan Violations and TSI Suspension
- i. TSI Plan Violation for Failure to Enroll
 - a. A student who is TSI-liable in the area of writing **must** enroll in the coursework outlined in Section 7Aii during his/her first semester and continue enrollment in this coursework until the student achieves a grade of “C” or better. Failure to enroll in the specified coursework without advanced approval of the Director of the Division of General studies is a violation of the TSI Plan.
 - b. A student who is TSI-liable in the area of mathematics **must** enroll in the coursework outlined in Section 7Aiii during his/her first semester and continue enrollment in this coursework until the student achieves a grade of “C” or better. Failure to enroll in the specified coursework without advanced approval of the Director of the Division of General studies is a violation of the TSI Plan.
 - ii. TSI Plan Violation for Failure to Demonstrate College Readiness
 - a. A student who receives a grade of “D”, “F”, “W”, or “WF” in a developmental course specified in Section 7A is in violation of the TSI Plan.
 - b. A student who receives a grade of “D”, “F”, “W”, or “WF” in a developmental course specified Section in 7A **must** repeat the course the next semester. Failure to repeat the specified coursework without advanced approval of the Director of the Division of General studies is a violation of the TSI Plan.
 - iii. TSI Plan Sanctions
 - a. A student who violates any provision of the TSI Plan will be issued a **written notice** by the Director of the Division of General Studies that s/he is in violation of the TSI Plan. Issuance of written notice limits the student to 13 semester credit hours for the next semester and informs the students that further violations of the TSI Plan will lead to additional sanctions.
 - b. After being issued a written notice for a TSI Plan violation, a student who violates any provision of the TSI Plan will be issued a **written reprimand** from the Director of the Division of General Studies that s/he is in violation of the TSI Plan. Issuance of written reprimand limits the student to 13 semester credit hours for the next semester and informs the students that further violations of the TSI Plan will lead to suspension
 - c. After being issued a written reprimand for a TSI Plan violation, a student who violates any provision of the TSI Plan will be placed on “TSI Suspension” by the Director of the Division of General Studies. TSI Suspension is a one-year suspension from the university. A student may appeal the suspension to the Director of the Division of General Studies.
 - iv. TSI Suspensions and Academic Suspensions
 - Academic suspension is based on low GPA on courses enrolled in at Tarleton while TSI suspension is based on violations of the TSI Plan. The two may be related but the

systems operate independently so a student may be on suspension under either or both systems. A student who is suspended simultaneously under both systems will serve the longer of the two suspensions.

8. Determination of Readiness to Perform Freshman-level Academic Coursework

A student subject to the TSI achieves completion when, for each area of deficiency (writing, reading, and/or mathematics), the student is determined by TSU to be “college ready”, and the student completes mandatory retesting as required by the state’s TSI policy.

- A. A student must retake a Board-approved assessment instrument, as listed in Section 5, if the student did not initially perform at or above the following scores:
- i. ASSET: Reading Skills – 35; Elementary Algebra – 30; and Writing Skills (objective) – 35.
 - ii. COMPASS: Reading Skills – 64; Algebra – 23; Writing Skills (objective) – 44.
 - iii. ACCUPLACER: Reading Comprehension – 61; Elementary Algebra – 42; Sentence Skills – 62.
 - iv. THEA: Reading – 201; Mathematics – 206; Writing – 205.
 - v. An essay with a score of 5 will meet these criteria if the student meets the objective writing test standard.

A student should retake the assessment when readiness is achieved in all areas. However, a student may retake an assessment instrument at any time, subject to availability, to determine the student’s readiness to perform freshman-level academic coursework. A student who, because of a “no attempt”, receives a score of 0 on an assessment portion must still retake that portion to satisfy this requirement.

- B. College readiness for each of the three skills areas is achieved at Tarleton when any of the associated criteria are satisfied:
- i. WRITING
 - Completion of ENGL 100 with a “C” or better.
 - Completion of ENGL 111 or ENGL 112 with a “C” or better.
 - ii. MATHEMATICS
 - Completion of MATH 101 with a “C” or better; or
 - Completion of MATH 107, 108, 109, 111, 116, 120 or 131 with a “C” or better.
 - iii. READING
 - Completion of RDG 100 with a “C” or better;
 - Completion of ENGL 210, 220, 240, 250, HIST 101, 102, 201, 202, POLS 201, or 202 with a “C” or better

and
successful completion of non-course based reading remediation offered through the Teaching and Learning Center.
- C. College-level courses for which satisfactory completion (defined here as achievement of a “C” or better grade in the course) represents satisfaction of the college readiness standards in that skill area are listed below by Texas Common Course Numbers. Satisfactory completion of equivalent coursework from out-of-state, private, and independent institutions of higher

education would also serve to satisfy this requirement.

i. MATHEMATICS

- MATH 1314/1414 – College Algebra
- MATH 1316 – Plane Trigonometry
- MATH 1324 – Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences I
- MATH 1332 – Contemporary Mathematic I
- MATH 1333 – Contemporary Mathematic II
- MATH 1348 – Analytical Geometry
- MATH 2312/2412 – Precalculus Math
- MATH 2313/2413/2513 – Calculus I

ii. WRITING

- ENGL 1301 – Composition I
- ENGL 1302 – Composition II

iii. READING

- ENGL 2321 – British Literature
- ENGL 2322 – British Literature I ENGL 2326 – American Literature
- ENGL 2331 – World Literature
- ENGL 2341 – Forms of Literature
- GOVT 2301 – American Government I (Federal & Texas constitutions)
- GOVT 2302 – American Government II (Federal & Texas topics)
- GOVT 2305 – Federal Government (Federal constitution & topics)
- GOVT 2306 – Texas Government (Texas constitution & topics)
- HIST 2301 – Texas History
- HIST 2323 – Eastern Civilizations
- HIST 2380 – Mexican-American History
- HIST 2381 – African American History
- ENGL 2323 – British Literature II
- ENGL 2327 – American Literature I
- ENGL 2328 – American Literature II
- ENGL 2332 – World Literature I
- ENGL 2333 – World Literature II
- ENGL 2342 – Forms of Literature I
- ENGL 2343 – Forms of Literature II
- HIST 1301 – United States History I
- HIST 1302 – United States History II
- HIST 2311 – Western Civilization I
- HIST 2312 – Western Civilization II
- HIST 2313 – History of England I
- HIST 2314 – History of England II
- HIST 2321 – World Civilizations I
- HIST 2322 – World Civilizations II

D. Tarleton will, as soon as practicable and feasible, indicate a student's readiness in reading, mathematics, and writing on the transcript of each student.

9. Evaluation and Reporting

At the end of each semester, Tarleton will report to the Board the following information for undergraduate students: Social Security Number (SSN), semester credit hours (SCH), grade points earned, ethnicity, gender, date of birth, Texas Success Initiative Status, initial assessment instrument, score on initial Assessment, type of developmental education received for each area (reading, mathematics, writing), grade in first related non-developmental course, and the results of any subsequent assessment. The office of General Studies and University Testing is responsible for follow-up reports to the Provost and Academic Council each academic year.

Approved by the Academic Council on Tuesday, March 22, 2005.