Lamar University’s
Texas Success Initiative
College Readiness Plan

The intention of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) rules is to ensure that institutions of higher education (IHE) use flexibility and responsibility in creating individualized programs for their student learners. Accordingly, Lamar University (LU) has implemented the following College Readiness Plan:

**Mission/Purpose:** Lamar University’s mission for College Readiness is to ensure that all students entering LU comply with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s rules regarding the state law known as the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). All students entering LU must be tested for college-readiness in reading, mathematics, and writing (unless otherwise exempt) using an assessment instrument approved by the THECB. After testing, students entering LU are placed into appropriate levels of college-readiness and/or collegiate-level coursework. The Undergraduate Advising Center, along with Center for College Readiness, provides assessment, advising, registration, and appropriate instruction in reading and mathematics developmental coursework to facilitate college-readiness for LU’s TSI students. The Department of English and Modern Languages provides instruction to facilitate college-readiness in writing.

**Initial Assessment:** Texas Success Initiative ~ Texas Education Code Sec. 51.3062

Texas Success Initiative requires all incoming students enrolling at Texas public institutions of higher education (IHE) to be assessed academically to determine their level of college-readiness.

**Exemptions/Exceptions:** Texas Administrative Code Title 19/Part I/Chapter 4/Subchapter C/Rule §4.54

The following students shall be exempt from TSI requirements:

1. 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:
   a. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on the English test and/or the mathematics test shall be exempt for those corresponding sections; or
   b. Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT): a combined verbal and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the verbal test and/or the mathematics test shall be exempt for those corresponding sections; or
   c. Eleventh grade exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS): with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section and/or a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English Language Arts section with a writing subsection score of at least 3; or
   d. STAAR End-of-Course (EOC): A minimum score of 2000 on the English III reading and/or writing test (reading and writing were administered as separate tests through Spring 2013) and/or a minimum score of 4000 on the Algebra II EOC test shall exempt a student from the corresponding section(s).

2. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.

3. 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 (six credit hours of college-level reading, writing intensive coursework and three credit hours of college-level mathematics at the level of college algebra or above).
(4) A student who has previously attended a Texas public institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.

(5) A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college.

(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) An institution may waive a non-degree-seeking or non-certificate-seeking student.

(9) ESOL Waiver—An institution may grant a temporary waiver from the assessment required under this title for students with demonstrated limited English proficiency in order to provide appropriate ESOL/ESL coursework and interventions.

(10) Any student who has been determined to be exempt in mathematics, reading, and/or writing shall not be required to enroll in developmental coursework and/or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption.

**Dual Credit:** The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board defines dual credit as a process by which a high school junior or senior enrolls in a college course and receives simultaneous academic credit for the course from both the college and the high school.

*A high school student is eligible to enroll in dual credit courses if:*

- The student is in the eleventh or twelfth grade and demonstrates college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards under the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative, or
- The student is an eleventh grade student who achieves a score of 2200 on mathematics and/or a score of 2200 on English/Language Arts with a writing subsection score of at least 3 on the tenth grade TAKS relevant to the courses to be attempted, or
- The student achieves a combined score of 107 on the PSAT/NMSQT with a minimum of 50 on the critical reading and/or mathematics test relevant to the courses to be attempted, or
- The student achieves a composite score of 23 on the PLAN with a 19 or higher in mathematics and English. An eligible high school student who has enrolled in dual credit under this provision must demonstrate eligibility to enroll in dual credit courses in twelfth grade, and
- The student meets all of the college's regular prerequisite requirements designated for that course (e.g., minimum score on a specified placement test, minimum grade in a specified previous course, etc.), and
- The student has at least junior year high school standing, with exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade-point average and PSAT/NMSQT scores).

**ESOL:** An institution may grant a temporary waiver from the assessment required under this title for students with demonstrated limited English proficiency in order to provide appropriate ESOL/ESL coursework and interventions. The waiver must be removed prior to the student attempting 15 credit...
hours of developmental ESOL coursework or attempting entry-level freshman coursework, whichever comes first, at which time the student would be administered the TSI Assessment.

**TIEP:** TSI students who successfully complete TIEP Bridge education in which they are initially placed will be deemed TSI complete in the skill areas of reading and writing. Students will be advised to enter college-level coursework for that specific area. Students who do not meet an exemption for mathematics will be required to take the TSI Assessment. Placement into mathematics will depend upon the student’s TSIA score. Students will continue to be advised in LU’s Undergraduate Advising Center until one of these conditions is met for all skill areas. College readiness will be indicated on the student’s transcript as soon as practicable and feasible.

**Placement:**

**Pre-Assessment Activity:**

LU will accept the State approved TSI assessment instrument (TSIA) to determine the academic skill levels of each entering undergraduate student and the student’s readiness to enroll in college-level coursework.

Before a student is eligible to take the TSIA, they are required to complete an institutional Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA). The activity will address the following topics:

- Importance of assessment
- Testing process and sample questions with feedback
- Remediation options
- Institutional resources

**TSIA Assessment:** Prior to enrollment at LU, each entering undergraduate student is will be assessed for college-readiness using scores from the State approved TSI assessment. State minimum passing scores as determined by the State of Texas are as follows:

**TSIA Phase 1: Fall 2013 (First Class Day)**

- Reading – passing is 351
- Mathematics – passing is 350
- Writing Placement (objective) – passing is 363 if WritePlacer score is 4
- WritePlacer – passing is 5

*For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.*

**TSIA Phase 2: Fall 2017 (First Class Day)**

- Reading – passing is 355
- Mathematics – passing is 356
- Writing Placement (objective) – passing is 363 if WritePlacer score is 4
- WritePlacer – passing is 5

*For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.*

**TSIA Phase 3: Fall 2019 (First Class Day)**

- Reading – passing is 359
- Mathematics – passing is 369
Writing Placement (objective) – passing is 363 if WritePlacer score is 4
WritePlacer – passing is 5

For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.

Prior to August 26, 2013: For students who have enrolled at a Texas IHE, the following TSI approved assessment scores apply:

THEA  
Reading – passing is 230
Written Essay – passing is 6
Writing Skills (objective) – passing is 220 if written essay is 5
Mathematics – passing is 230

For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.

ASSET  
Reading – passing is 41
Written Essay – passing is 6
Writing Skills (objective) – passing is 40 if written essay is 5
Elementary Algebra (level 2) – passing is 38

For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.

COMPASS  
Reading Skills – passing is 81
Written Essay – passing is 6
Writing Skills (objective) – passing is 59 if written essay is 5
Elementary Algebra – passing is 39

For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.

ACCUPLACER  
Reading Comprehension – passing is 78
Written Essay – passing is 6
Sentence Skills – passing is 80 if written essay is 5
Elementary Algebra – passing is 63

For college-level English courses, students must have passed reading and writing.

Advisement: After assessing a student’s college-readiness, an academic advisor in the Undergraduate Advising Center, working with the student, will determine a TSI Success Plan (TSIP), which may include non-degree-credit (College Readiness) coursework, laboratories, and/or appropriate college-level coursework. Other means of assistance such as tutorials and supplemental instruction may be included in the TSIP to provide the best opportunity for each individual student to succeed in performing college-level academic coursework.

Differentiated Placement
LU’s TSI mission includes delivering a more holistic approach to advising incorporating differentiated placement. While the state sets the college-level approved scores, students who are very near the college-ready skill level may be offered advanced placement options that would promote speedier advancement toward their academic goals. The dynamics that influence differentiated placement include:

- TSI Assessment
- Diagnostic Profile (see description below)
- High School GPA and/or Class Ranking
- Prior coursework
- Workplace experience
- Non-cognitive factors (motivation, self-efficacy, etc.)
- Family-Life issues that impact persistence and success (work, transportation, finances, child care, etc.)

**Diagnostic Profile**

The Diagnostic Profile is a measurement included within the TSIA score report. A graph report explains the student’s strengths and weaknesses on a 15 point scale (1-5 red, 6-10 yellow, and 11-15 green). The information provided aids students and instructors in providing appropriate emphasis to their college-readiness. The following is an explanation of the gauged skill areas:

**Diagnostic Profile - Math**
- Elementary Algebra and Functions
- Intermediate Algebra and Functions
- Measurement and Geometry
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

**Diagnostic Profile - Reading**
- Main Idea and Supporting Details
- Author’s Use of Language
- Inferences in a Text or Texts
- Literary Analysis

**Diagnostic Profile - Writing (objective)**
- Sentence Structure
- Agreement
- Sentence Logic
- Essay Revision

**Diagnostic Profile - Writing (essay)**
- Purpose and Focus
- Organization and Structure
- Development and Support
- Sentence Variety and Style
- Mechanical Conventions
- Critical Thinking

**College Readiness Completion:** TSI students who successfully complete any area of College Readiness education in which they are initially placed will be advised into subsequent higher levels of College Readiness courses until they have successfully completed the highest level or have passed an approved assessment instrument for all skill areas. Once students successfully complete the highest level of College Readiness education for any skill area in which they are TSI Incomplete, they will be
advised to enter college-level coursework for that specific area. TSI Incomplete students will be considered college-ready in a specific skill area after earning a grade of ‘C’ or higher in the highest level College Readiness course(s) for that specific area or by passing an approved assessment instrument for that particular section. Students will continue to be advised in LU's Undergraduate Advising Center until one of these conditions is met for all skill areas. College readiness will be indicated on the student’s transcript as soon as practicable and feasible.

Approved Courses:
Courses listed below are specifically designated by skill areas (reading, writing, and mathematics) and can be used to determine college-readiness for the corresponding areas. Students under-prepared in more than one skill area must meet TSI requirements for each area. Successfully completing one of the approved courses listed below satisfies TSI college-readiness standards for the corresponding area:

**Writing:**
1. ENGL 1301
2. ENGL 1302

**Reading:**
1. HIST 1301 or higher
2. ENGL 1301 or higher
3. POLS 2302 or higher
4. PSYC 2301 or higher
5. PHIL 1370 or higher

**Mathematics:**
1. MATH 1314 or higher

**Evaluating and Reporting:** At the end of each semester, LU shall report to the THECB the following information for undergraduate students: Social Security Number (SSN), completed semester credit hours (SCH), quality points earned and GPA, ethnicity, gender, date of birth, TSI status, initial assessment instrument, score on initial assessment, type of developmental education received for each area (reading, writing, mathematics), grade in first related non-development course, and the results of any subsequent assessment.
Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Placement

### TSI PASSING SCORES

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