

What Is the TSI Assessment?

The TSI Assessment (TSIA) is part of the Texas Success Initiative program designed to help your college or university determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. If you are an incoming college student in Texas, you are required to take the TSI Assessment to determine your readiness for college-level work. Based on how you perform, you may either be enrolled in a college-level course, developmental coursework, or provided resources for intervention to improve your skills.

Link to schedule the TSIA can be found here - <http://www.alvincollege.edu/admissions/testing.html>

Helpful tips when preparing for the TSI Assessment:

The TSIA has no time limit, so you can take as long as you need to complete each section, as well as start and stop as necessary. Additionally, there is a calculator built into the math test and there are accessibility features that offer enlarged font and background color change for visual assistance (the Accessibility Icon can be found in the upper right).

The TSIA is 2 separate tests: (1) Reading and Writing Assessment and (2) Math Assessment

Each assessment (read/write & math) can include 2 parts (a raw score – college readiness) and diagnostic test, so be prepared the test can take from 20 minutes to 2 or more hours:

- The first part (raw score) is about 20 questions (determines initial college readiness)
 - with qualifying score read/write assessment triggers tester with essay prompt
 - with qualifying score math assessment stops
- Non-qualifying raw score prompts diagnostic test, about 40 more questions
 - **You can still qualify for college level through the diagnostic assessment**
 - with qualifying diagnostic score read/write assessment triggers tester with essay prompt

*******REMEMBER TO TAKE BREAKS AS NEEDED THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT*******

Reading Assessment – reading comprehension is a practiced skill, the most helpful tip is to say the test is not timed, so take your time – read the questions, read the passage, read and answer the questions.

Writing Assessment – editing text (testing grammar, word agreement, sentence and paragraph structure, punctuation, and so on) and writing an essay. In crafting an essay remember the **Rule of 5** - standard **5 paragraph essay** – (para **1**) introduction of topic, (para **2-4**) main points (main point 1, main point 2, main point 3), and (para **5**) conclusion. Say what you are going to say (intro), say it (main pts), say what you said (concl) – **4-5 sentences per paragraph**, you can make up information for your main points - ex. *John Smith's research indicates that this main point is important because...*

Math – algebra-based assessment, brush up order of operations, factoring (x and y equations), solving equations with variables, determining area (triangle, rectangle, etc.), graphing and so on.

TSIA Study or preparation resources:

TSI student portal - <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/practice>

ACT/SAT test prep guide or Algebra for Dummies book – found in many local libraries.

Purplemath.com or IXL.com