

**Alamo Colleges District**  
**Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**  
**Common Entry Requirements**

**Updated 3-8-2023**

**Information Areas:**

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**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.**

| <b>Table 1: TSI Exemptions</b>  |                           |   |  |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Academic Exemptions (not required to take TSI Assessment)</b>  |                           |   |  |
| <b>1. Exam</b>  | <b>Combination Score</b>  | <b>English/Reading</b>  | <b>Math</b>  |
| <b>ACT</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i><br><i>Note: ACT taken ON or AFTER February 15, 2023</i>   | N/A                       | (A010 + A03=A0RW) = 40+<br>English and Reading (E+R)  | (A020) = 22+<br>Math                                     |
| <b>ACT</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i><br><i>Note: ACT taken PRIOR to February 15, 2023</i>  | (A050) = 23+<br>Composite | (A010) = 19+<br>Reading/Writing   | (A020) = 19+<br>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> |                           |   |  |
| <b>SAT</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i><br><i>Note: SAT taken ON or AFTER March 5, 2016</i>   | NA                        | (S11) = 480<br>Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing  | (S12) = 530<br>Math                                      |
| <b>STAAR end-of-course (EOC)</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>   |                           | (STRW) = 4000+<br>English III (Level 2 or Meets Standard)                                   | (STRM) = 4000+<br>Algebra II (Level 2 or Meets Standard) |
| <b>General Educational Development (GED)</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i><br><i>Note: GED taken ON or AFTER January 1, 2014</i>   |                           | (GDRL) = 165 +<br>Reasoning Through Language Arts   | (GDMA) = 165 +<br>Mathematical Reasoning                 |
| <b>High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)</b><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i><br><i>Note: HiSET taken ON or PRIOR to August 31, 2021</i>   |                           | (HSTR) = 15 + Reading <u>and</u><br>(HSTW) = 15 + Writing <u>and</u><br>(HSTWE) = 4 + Essay | (HSTM) = 15 + Math                                       |

### 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 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).
4. A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.
5. 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. *[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]*
6. 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. *[Students who meet this exemption are encouraged to take the TSI Assessment for diagnostic purposes to aid in program and course selection during advising.]*
7. 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:

- CP110100** College Preparatory Course English  
Language Arts (ELAR)
- CP111200** College Preparatory Course Mathematics

| Test Code | Description           |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| CPCE      | College Prep Crs ENGL |
| CPCM      | College Prep Crs MATH |
| CPTC      | College Prep TCB ELAR |
| CPTM      | College Prep TCB MATH |

### Certificate Seekers

8. 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](#)

| <b>Table 2: TSI – Courses Satisfying Compliance with College Readiness</b><br>Grade of “C” or Better (unless otherwise noted) |   |
|---|---|
| <b>English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) (Reading/Writing)</b>   | ENGA 0351 with a “B” or better, ENGA 0353 with a “B” or better, ENGA 0361, ENGA 0363, INRW 0420, ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, HIST 1301, HIST 1302, HIST 2321, PSYC 2301 |
| <b>Mathematics</b>  | MATH 0320, 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          |

*Note: Subject to change based on THECB rules*

03-02-2023

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

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

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

\*\*\* MATH 1414 - College Algebra (Pre-Cal Track) MUST be determined by the college Math Department Chair.

### 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   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 1-2                      |            | N/A                   | 10                          |
| <b>Corequisites</b>                                   |   |   |   |            |                       |                             |
| ENGL 1301 + 0201 (1301++)                             | 910-944   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 3-6                      | <b>AND</b> | Essay 1-2             | 20                          |
|   | 910-944   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 3<br>NVC ONLY            | <b>AND</b> | Essay 3-8<br>NVC ONLY |                             |
|   | 945-990   |   | No Diagnostic Test given: See note below* | <b>AND</b> | Essay 1-2             |                             |
| ENGL 1301 + 0100 (1301+)                              | 910-944   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 3-4                      | <b>AND</b> | Essay 3-8             | 30                          |
|   | 910-944   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 5 & 6                    | <b>AND</b> | Essay 3-4             |                             |
|   | 945-990   |   | No Diagnostic Test given: See note below* | <b>AND</b> | Essay 3-4             |                             |
| <b>College Ready</b>                                  |   |   |   |            |                       |                             |
| ENGL 1301   | 910-944   | <b>AND</b>  | Diagnostic Level 5-6                      | <b>AND</b> | Essay 5-8             | 40                          |
|   | 945-990   | <b>AND</b><br><b>*Note: ELAR score range 945-990 Diagnostic Test is not given</b> |   |            | Essay 5-8             |                             |

\*\*TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact 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: Subject to change based on THECB rules

03-02-2023

**Note:** Refreshers recommended for students placing in INRW Diagnostic Levels 1-2 Only

**Questions? English Department Chairs:**

|            |                  |                        |          |
|------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|
| <b>NLC</b> | Jason Malcolm    | jmalcolm@alamo.edu     | 486-5234 |
| <b>NVC</b> | Sabrina Carey    | scarey5@alamo.edu      | 486-4322 |
| <b>PAC</b> | Lisa Coronado    | Lcoronado41@alamo.edu  | 486-3230 |
| <b>SAC</b> | Erik Hillskemper | ehillskemper@alamo.edu | 486-0680 |
| <b>SPC</b> | Meagan Sovine    | msovine@alamo.edu      | 486-2092 |

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

\*TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact 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 placing in INRW Diagnostic Levels 1-2 Only

| <b>Table 6: Math Course Placement</b>                                       | <b>Scores effective 1-11-2021</b><br><b>Math TSIA2 (TS2M)</b><br><b>Math Diagnostic Level (T2DM)</b> | <b>Prior to 1-11-2021</b><br><b>Math TSIA Scores (TSIM)</b><br><b>Math ABE (TABM)</b> | <b>MATH Refresher Exit Exam</b><br><b>(MATH)</b> |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>*Adult Education Literacy (AEL) or I-BEST Program Referral Options</b>   |  | 310-335 w/ABE 1-2   | 10   |
| <b>Math 0410 + 0105</b>   | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 1-3  | 310-335 w/ABE 3-4   | 20   |
| <b>Math 0320 (STEM)</b><br><b>(NVC Only)</b>                                | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4-5  | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>Co-Requisites</b>  |  |   |  |
| <b>1314 + 0114</b><br>College Algebra<br><b>(NVC, PAC, SAC)</b>             | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 5  | 343-349   | 40   |
| <b>1314 + 0214</b><br>College Algebra<br><b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b>   | 910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5   | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1414 + 0114 (STEM)</b><br>College Algebra<br><b>(PAC Only)</b>           | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 5  | 343-349   | 40   |
| <b>1414 + 0214 (STEM)</b><br>College Algebra<br><b>(NLC, PAC, SAC)</b>      | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5  | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1414 + 0314 (STEM)</b><br>College Algebra<br><b>(SPC Only)</b>           | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4-5  | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1332 + 0132</b><br>Liberal Arts Math<br><b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b> | 910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5   | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1342 + 0142</b><br>Statistics<br><b>(NLC, NVC, PAC, SPC, SAC)</b>        | 910-949 w/Diagnostic Level 4 - 5   | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1324 + 0124</b><br>Business Math<br><b>(PAC, SAC)</b>                    | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5  | 343-349   | 30 or 40   |
| <b>1324 + 0224</b><br>Business Math<br><b>(NLC, NVC, SPC)</b>               | 910-949 w/ Diagnostic Level 4 - 5  | 310-335 w/ABE 5-6<br>OR<br>336-349  | 30 or 40   |

| College Ready<br>Test Scores valid<br>for 5 years          | College Ready<br>Effective 1-11-2021<br>Math TSIA2 (TS2M)<br>Math Diagnostic Level<br>(T2DM) | College Ready<br>Prior to 1-11-<br>2021<br>Math TSIA Scores<br>(TSIM) | MATH<br>Refresher<br>Exit Exam<br>(MATH)                                    | Accuplacer<br>CLM<br>Prior to 1-11-<br>2021<br>(ACCL) | Accuplacer<br>Next Gen<br>Effective 1-11-<br>2021<br>(AAF) | ACT<br>(A020) | SAT<br>(S12) |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---------------|--------------|
| <b>MATH 1314;<br/>1414; 1332;<br/>1342; 1324;<br/>1316</b> | 950-990 <b>OR</b><br>910-949 <b>AND</b> Diagnostic<br>Level 6                                | 350-390   | Refreshers only<br>applicable for<br>placement in<br>corequisite<br>courses | N/A   | N/A  | 22-23         | 530-580      |
| <b>MATH 2412</b>   | N/A  | N/A   |   | >=85  | 263-275  | 24-25         | 581-639      |
| <b>MATH 2413</b>   | N/A  | N/A   |   | >=103 AND with<br>Department<br>permission            | >=276  | 26+           | 640+         |

**\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT--- Recommendation: Before enrolling in a Math corequisite course, consult with your academic advisor**

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

\*TSIA Lower Levels Options for Referral: Contact 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 placing in Math Diagnostic Levels 1-3 Only**

**Questions? Math Department Chairs:**

|            |                     |                      |          |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <b>NLC</b> | Allen Miller        | amiller142@alamo.edu | 486-5214 |
| <b>NVC</b> | Qiaoying [Joy] Zhou | qzhou2@alamo.edu     | 486-4383 |
| <b>PAC</b> | Amanda Salinas      | asalinas2@alamo.edu  | 486-3084 |
| <b>SAC</b> | Henry Griffith      | hgriffith5@alamo.edu | 486-1305 |
| <b>SPC</b> | Renita D Mitchell   | rmitchell@alamo.edu  | 486-2607 |

## High School Programs (Dual Credit, ECHS, P-TECH, T-STEM) Only:

| Table 7: High School Programs Eligibility  |                   |                           |   |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <p><b>TSI Exemptions and Minimum Standards Apply:</b><br/> <b>See Table 1: TSI Exemptions and Table 3: TSIA Minimum Standards for College Readiness</b><br/> <b>Texas Administrative Code Dual Credit Requirements:</b><br/> <a href="https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=1&amp;ch=4&amp;rl=85">https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&amp;app=9&amp;p_dir=&amp;p_rloc=&amp;p_tloc=&amp;p_ploc=&amp;pg=1&amp;p_tac=&amp;ti=19&amp;pt=1&amp;ch=4&amp;rl=85</a></p> |                   |                           |   |
| Exam   | Combination Score | English/Reading           | Math  |
| <b>STAAR end-of-course (EOC) alternate option</b><br><i>(Regular STAAR EOC for ISD)</i><br><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>   |                   | (STDW) English II = 4000+ | (STDM) Algebra I = 4000 + <b>and a</b> passing grade in the Algebra II course (Grade: DCMG) |
| <b>PSAT – Dual Credit &amp; ECHS Students Only</b><br><br>PSAT/NMSQT<br><b>(On or After October 15, 2015)</b><br><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>   |                   | (PSRW) EBRW = 460         | (PSMA) Math = 510   |
| <p><b>*Note:</b> <u>Mixing or combining scores from the PSAT/NMSQT administered prior to October 15, 2015 and the PSAT/NMSQT administered on or after October 15, 2015 is not allowable. Also note that dual credit eligibility scores on the PSAT/NMSQT do not determine a student’s college readiness under Texas Success Initiative (TSI) statute or rules</u></p>  |                   |                           |   |
| <b>ACT – Aspire</b><br><br><i>(scores valid for 5 years)</i>   |                   | (ASPE) English = 435+     | (ASPM) Math = 431+  |

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>