Cisco College
TSI Test
Pre-Assessment Activity
What is the TSI Assessment?

• The TSI Assessment is a two part program of testing and advisement.
• The testing part is designed to help Cisco College determine if a student is ready for college-level coursework in the areas of math, reading, and writing.
• The advisement part involves using the TSI Assessment scores in advising a student as to what courses they are prepared for.
• Students that are not college ready in any or all three areas will be advised into developmental courses designed to prepare the student for college-level coursework.
• Students who are not college ready in all three areas will also be advised as to what college-level courses they are not yet prepared to take until they are college ready in all three areas.
How does the TSI Assessment work?

- The TSI Assessment is a proctored test taken on a computer on campus and is an untimed test.
- It consists of multiple choice questions in math, reading, and writing, and it is also likely that the student will be asked to type an essay.
- Each section consists of a placement test and, if necessary, a student will also take a diagnostic test in one or more sections.
- When a student completes the test they will receive their scores and should visit with a counselor or advisor for an explanation of their scores.
Exemptions from TSI Test

• Students may be exempt from one, two, or three sections of the TSI Assessment

• Exemptions can be:
  – Qualifying test scores on the ACT, SAT, TAKS, or STAARS
  – Military Service
  – Previous college coursework
  – Enrolling in a Level I certificate

• See a counselor if you think you are exempt from the TSI Assessment
The TSI Mathematics Section

• The TSI Mathematics section consists of 20-25 multiple choice questions on the placement test and about 40 additional questions if a student needs to take the diagnostic section.

• The test covers four broad areas:
  – Elementary Algebra and Functions
  – Intermediate Algebra and Functions
  – Geometry and Measurement
  – Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

• Additional information on these areas is available in the links to study materials located at the end of this slide show.

• You will not be allowed to use outside calculators on the test.
What does each Math area cover?

- **Elementary Algebra and Functions**: measures your knowledge of linear equations, inequalities, and systems; algebraic expressions and equations; and word problems and applications.

- **Intermediate Algebra and Functions**: measures your knowledge of quadratic and other polynomial expressions, equations, and functions; expressions, equations, and function involving powers, roots, and radicals; and rational and exponential expressions, equations and functions.

- **Geometry and Measurement**: measures your knowledge of plane geometry; transformations and symmetry; and linear, area, and three-dimensional measurements.

- **Data analysis, statistics, and probability**: measures your knowledge of interpreting categorical and quantitative data, statistical measures and probabilistic reasoning.
The TSI Reading Section

• The TSI Reading Section consists of 20-25 multiple choice questions on the placement test and about 40-48 additional questions if a student needs to take the diagnostic section
• The Reading Section covers four broad areas:
  – Literary Analysis
  – Main Idea and Supporting Details
  – Inferences in a Text or Texts
  – Author’s Use of Language
• Additional information on these areas is available in the links to study materials located at the end of this slide show
What does each Reading area cover?

• **Literary Analysis**: measures your skill in identifying and analyzing ideas in and elements of literary texts.

• **Main Idea and Supporting Details**: measures your skill in identifying the main idea of a passage and in comprehending explicit textual information in a passage.

• **Inferences in a Text or Texts**: measures your skill in synthesizing ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages and in making appropriate inference about single passages.

• **Author’s Use of Language**: measures your skill in identifying an author’s purpose, tone, organization, or rhetorical strategies and use of evidence and in determining the meaning of words in context.
The TSI Writing Section consists of 20-25 multiple choice questions on the placement test and about 40-48 additional questions if a student needs to take the diagnostic section.

The Writing placement test covers four broad areas:

- Essay Revision
- Agreement
- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Logic

Additional information on these areas is available in the links to study materials located at the end of this slide show.
What does each Writing area cover?

• **Essay Revision**: measures your ability to provide coherence, organization, and good word choice and your ability to achieve rhetorical effectiveness and use evidence.

• **Agreement**: measures your ability to perform subject-verb agreement and pronoun agreement as well as your ability to determine verb tenses.

• **Sentence structure**: measures your knowledge of topics like comma splices and run-on sentences; improper punctuation; fragments and parallelism; and subordination and coordination.

• **Sentence logic**: measures your ability to correctly place modifying phrases and clauses and your ability to use logical transitions.
The Essay Section

• You may be asked to type a five-paragraph persuasive essay (approximately 350-500 words) on a controversial issue or one of current interest.
• You will be expected to clearly state a main idea and provide specific examples and details to back up your main idea.
• You will be expected to follow conventions of standard English.
• You will not be allowed to use a dictionary or other outside resources.
• You will be allowed to use plain scratch paper, which will be provided at the testing center, to plan your essay and write your rough drafts.
Remember!

- The TSI Test is a very important step in your educational future, so take the time to make sure you are properly prepared!
- You must register in advance for a scheduled TSI Assessment test date
- Make sure to bring picture ID and payment for the test ($12 for one section, $24 for two sections, and $36 for three sections)
- Know your social security number since it will be used as your student ID in the test
- The TSI Test can take up to 1-2 hours a section. Please take this into account when planning your test day!
Placement Options for Developmental Courses

Developmental Math Courses

- There are three levels of developmental math
- A student’s math TSI scores will determine which level of the developmental math course they start with
- Developmental math courses require a lecture and a lab and will typically run a full semester
Placement Options for Developmental Courses

Integrated Reading/Writing Courses

• These courses integrate developmental reading and writing into a single, combined course
• A student’s reading and writing TSI scores will determine which level of the integrated course they start with
• Integrated courses require a lecture and a lab and will typically run a full semester
Placement Options for Developmental Courses

Non-Course Based Options (NCBOs)

• NCBOs are individually designed developmental courses that can allow students to enroll in college-level courses concurrently
• For example: a student who qualifies for a reading NCBO could also enroll in a History course that same semester
• Students must have qualifying TSI scores to be placed into a NCBO
Academic Counselors can:

• Assist students in transitioning to college
• Advise students on courses to take
• Help students struggling in college
Resources at Cisco College

Student Success Office can:

• Assist with study skills and time management
• Coordinate tutoring services
• Contact students whose professors become concerned if they miss class or fall behind
• Assist students who are finishing at Cisco College and wish to transfer
Financial Resources To Help You With College

Financial Aid Office

- Cisco College’s Financial Aid Office may be able to help students pay for college
- In order to receive financial aid, students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Financial Aid can also help students apply for institutional scholarships that may be available
Financial Resources to Help You With College

Outside Resources Available to Students

• Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
• Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
• Free scholarship search engines can help students find community, state, and national scholarships*

*You will NEVER have to pay for applying for a scholarship or grant. If a scholarship or scholarship search service asks you to pay a fee, avoid it.
Practice Materials for the TSI

Please note that the ACCUPLACER and THEA tests are very similar to the TSI, and their study material can be used to prepare for the TSI test.

Click the site descriptions below to access the practice links:

- **This site has questions and test information. If you scroll down, on the right side of the page there will be links for Sample Questions and Sample Essay topics.**
- **This site has Accuplacer (TSI) Self-Assessment modules and review materials**
- **This site is for the THEA test, but it can be used to study for the TSI test as well**
- **Includes instruction videos and other materials to study**
TSI Practice Materials - Math

- Khan Academy - This site has videos to help with algebra, developmental math, pre-algebra, and arithmetic
- Purple Math - This site can help with math and algebra
- SOS Math - This site can help with math and algebra
- Math.com – This site can help with math and algebra
- Algebra Help – this site can help with math and algebra. It also has an online calculator that will show you how to solve equations.

These websites are free and most of their material is free (be aware one or two sites may have offers of additional materials for purchase)

This is not an exhaustive list. Search for other free TSI practice tests and review materials online.
TSI Practice Materials – Reading and Writing

• English for Everyone – this site can help with reading and writing
• Guide to Grammar and Writing – this site can help with reading and writing

These websites are free and most of their material is free (be aware one or two sites may have offers of additional material for purchase)

This is not an exhaustive list. Search for other free TSI practice tests and review materials online
What’s next?

- Now that you have finished the pre-assessment slideshow, print out the TSI Test Pre-Assessment Activity Form. The form is on the next slide, so make sure to only print “Slide 25”
- Remember, you MUST register in advance for a scheduled TSI Assessment test date
- Make sure to sign and date your Pre-Assessment Activity Form and you must bring it with you to the TSI test. You also need photo ID and payment
TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE
Pre-Assessment Activity Verification

This form must be signed and turned in prior to being allowed to take the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) placement assessment. Failure to turn in this signed form will prevent you from testing on the TSI. You must verify by your signature below that you have engaged in a pre-assessment activity for the TSI.

I, ____________________________________________ (Print Name) ____________________________ (Social Security #)

Have engaged in a pre-assessment activity for the TSI Test and had the opportunity to
• learn more about the importance of placement testing and its affect on my academic career
• access practice material to prepare for the TSI
• learn about the developmental course options at Cisco College
• learn about resources available to me for college.

My signature below attests that I have engaged in a pre-assessment activity prior to taking the TSI.

__________________________ ____________________________
Signature Date