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 section 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 section 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 can or cannot 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
- For more information about exemptions, you may check the Cisco College website; under Admissions, go to Testing and click on the Texas Success Initiative and scroll down to the section entitled "How Do I Know If I'm Exempt." You may also contact the Admissions Office.

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 words problems and applications
- Intermediate Algebra and Functions: measures your knowledge of quadratic and other polynomial expressions, equations, and functions; expressions, equations, and functions 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 an 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

- 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, and students usually are required to write a 300-600 word essay
- 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 300-600 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
- Know your social security number since it will be used as your student ID in the test
- The TSI Test is untimed and can take up to 1-2 hours a section. Please take this into account when planning your test day!
- You will not be allowed to open other tabs, windows or applications during your test session.

A Few More Important Things to Know:

- No food, beverages or tobacco products are allowed in the Testing Center.
- Personal items, including all electronic devices such as watches and cell phones, are not allowed when taking the TSI. Lockers are provided for small personal items.
- Outside calculators (unless for a prescribed accommodation) are prohibited when taking the TSI.
- Testers are not permitted to bring their own writing instruments into the testing room.

Placement Options for Developmental Courses

Co-requisite Math Courses

- Paired co-requisite math courses are designed to provide support for success without delaying enrollment in college-level math courses
- Examples of paired co-requisite math courses include DMAT 0314 and MATH 1314, DMAT 0332 and MATH 1332, or DMAT 0342 and MATH 1342

Placement Options for Developmental Courses

Co-requisite Reading/Writing courses

- Paired Co-requisite reading/writing courses are designed to provide support for success without delaying enrollment in college-level courses
- Examples of paired co-requisite reading/writing courses include DERW 0303 and ENGL 1301 or DERW 0302 and DERW 0303 completed in one long semester

Placement Options for Developmental Courses

- Students placed as non-college ready in one or more areas will be required to enroll in developmental coursework the first semester they attend
- Students are required to continue taking developmental coursework each long semester until they are college-ready
- Developmental students are restricted from enrolling into certain college-level courses until they are deemed college-ready

Resources at Cisco College

Academic Counselors can:

- Assist students in transitioning to college
- Advise students on courses to take
- Help students struggling in college

Accommodations:

- Testers seeking special accommodations for the TSI must contact the Disability Services Coordinator with their documentation prior to scheduling for the TSI

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 can:

- 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

- accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice - This site has questions and test information. If you scroll down, there will be links for Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Sample Questions and a WritePlacer Guide with Sample Essays.
- https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/ This is a study app that contains practice tests for the TSI
- mometrix.com/academy/tsi-test/ - Includes TSI practice tests and instruction videos
- testprepreview.com/accuplacer_practice.htm - This site has Accuplacer Next Generation review materials that can help with the TSI
- thea.nesinc.com/ - This site is for the THEA test, but it can be used to study for the TSI test as well. Click on "Try a free sample online practice test!"

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 - Math

For quick access to these sites, go back to the "Counseling and Testing" page on the Cisco website and click the "TSI Study Materials" icon

- Khanacademy.com - This site has videos to help with algebra, developmental math, pre-algebra, and arithmetic
- Purplemath.com - This site can help with math and algebra
- Sosmath.com - This site can help with math and algebra
- Math.com – This site can help with math and algebra
- Algebrahelp.com – 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

- Englishforeveryone.org – this site can help with reading and writing
- http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/ – 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, electronically sign the TSI Test Pre-Assessment Activity Form. **The link is on the next slide**. Email this form to testing@cisco.edu.
- Call the Business Office to pay for the test section(s).
- Schedule your test with Examity (examity.com) and pay the proctoring fee of $20.

- To Electronically Sign: **Download and save the form to your computer, then open using Adobe Reader**. Click here to download Adobe Reader for free.
- Click here to electronically sign the Pre-Assessment Activity Verification Form.
- After signing, please email a copy of the form to testing@cisco.edu. A copy of this form must be received by the Testing Center before a voucher can be created.
- If you cannot electronically sign the Pre-Assessment Form, you may print and sign it, then scan and email it back to us.