

# BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

Based on Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessments

## Texas Administrative Code

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Title 19</b>          | Education                                      |
| <b>Part 7</b>            | State Board for Educator Certification         |
| <b>Chapter 227</b>       | Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates |
| <b>Subchapter A</b>      | Admissions to Educator Preparation Programs    |
| <b>Rule 227.10(a)(5)</b> | Admissions Criteria                            |

“An Applicant must demonstrate basic skills in reading, written communication, and mathematics by meeting the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative under the rules established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Texas Success Initiative), including one of the requirements established by Rule 4.54 of this title (relating to Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers).”

“Beginning with the institutions’ first class day of Academic Year (fall) 2013, an institution of higher education shall use the TSI Assessment offered by the College Board as the only Board-approved assessment instrument under this title. Any previously-employed assessments (ACCUPLACER, Compass, THEA, Asset, Compass ESL, ACCUPLACER ESL) can no longer be used under this title for entering students who initially enroll in any course on or after the institutions’ first class day in Fall 2013 or for any students retesting for TSI purposes. Institutions administering the TSI Assessment must follow the requirements and processes for test administration as set forth by the THECB and the test vendor.”

All students seeking admission to a teacher preparation program at a college or university in Texas must have met Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) ...

|  | <b>Math Score</b> | <b>Reading Score</b> | <b>Writing Score</b> | <b>Essay Score</b> |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TSI – Phase I</b><br>(entering Fall 2013 or after)  | Minimum<br>350    | Minimum<br>350       | Minimum<br>350       | Minimum<br>5       |
| <b>TSI – Phase II</b><br>(entering Fall 2017 or after) | Minimum<br>350    | Minimum<br>351       | Minimum<br>340       | Minimum<br>4       |

**OR** one of the following exemptions (ACT, SAT, TAKS, TOEFL, or GRE) standards.

|   | <b>Composite</b>  | <b>Math</b>    | <b>English/Reading</b>  | <b>Writing</b> | <b>Expiration Date</b>          |
|---|---|----------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACT</b>  | Minimum<br>23   | Minimum<br>19  | Minimum<br>19<br>exempt for<br>reading &<br>writing sections  | N/A            | 5 years from date<br>of testing |
| <b>SAT</b><br>(administered<br>prior to Mar.<br>2016) | 1070<br>Critical Reading<br>(formerly<br>Verbal) & Math | Minimum<br>500 | Minimum<br>500<br>exempt for<br>reading &<br>writing sections | N/A            | 5 years from date<br>of testing |

|  | <b>Composite</b>                       | <b>Math</b>  | <b>English/Reading</b>                                       |                 | <b>Writing</b>                  |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>SAT *</b><br>(administered<br>March 2016 or<br>later)   | No<br>Combined<br>Score                | Minimum<br>530                                       | Minimum<br>480<br>exempt for reading & writing<br>sections   |                 | 5 years from date<br>of testing |
| <b>TAAS &amp; TLI</b>                                      |  | Minimum<br>86  | Minimum<br>89  | Minimum<br>1770 | 3 years from date<br>of testing |
| <b>TAKS</b><br>(11 <sup>th</sup> grade Exit)               |  | Minimum<br>2200                                      | Minimum<br>2200  | Minimum<br>3    | 5 years from date<br>of testing |
| <b>STAAR</b><br><b>End-of-Course</b>                       |  | Minimum<br>Level 2<br>score of 4000<br>on Algebra II | Minimum<br>Level 2<br>score of 4000<br>on English III        |                 | 5 years from date<br>of testing |
| <b>GRE</b><br><i>Effective</i><br><i>December 27, 2016</i> | <b>Verbal:</b><br>Minimum<br>143 - 157 | <b>Quantitative:</b><br>Minimum<br>140 - 155         | <b>Analytical</b><br><b>Writing:</b><br>Minimum<br>3.0 – 4.5 |                 | 5 years from date<br>of testing |

*\*Mixing or combining scores from the SAT administered prior to March 5, 2016 and the SAT administered on or after March 5, 2016 is not allowable.*

**Rule 230.11(b)** – any applicant for a Texas educator certificate must be able to communicate listen, read, write and comprehend the English Language sufficiently to use it easily and readily in daily communication and teaching.

|  |                                   |                                    |                                  |                                  |                                 |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>TOEFL</b><br><i>Effective</i><br><i>May 2006</i>                              | <b>Speaking:</b><br>Minimum<br>26 |                                    |                                  |                                  | 2 years from<br>date of testing |
| <b>TOEFL</b><br><i>Effective</i><br><i>October 22, 2017</i><br><i>19 TAC 230</i> | <b>Speaking:</b><br>Minimum<br>24 | <b>Listening:</b><br>Minimum<br>22 | <b>Reading:</b><br>Minimum<br>22 | <b>Writing:</b><br>Minimum<br>21 | 2 years from<br>date of testing |

If you do not have the above scores to meet this requirement, please contact the Certification Officer to discuss other exemptions, exceptions, or waivers.

### **Other Exemptions, Exceptions, & Waivers:**

- 1) A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.
- 2) 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.
- 3) A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution. For students meeting non-Algebra intensive readiness standards in mathematics as defined in 19 TAC 4.59(d)(1)(B) relating to Determination of Readiness to Perform Entry-Level Freshman Coursework), institutions may choose to require additional preparatory coursework/interventions for Algebra intensive courses, including MATH 1314/1324/1414 (or their local equivalent). It is the institutions' responsibility to ensure that students are clearly informed of the

consequences of successful completion of a mathematics pathways model which results in meeting the mathematics college readiness standard only for specific courses.

- 4) 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 7) A student who successfully completes a 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 with respect to the content area of the course. The student must enroll in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education. The exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course. Additionally, an institution of higher education may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a partnering institution of higher education to accept the exemptions for the college preparatory course.
- 8) An institution may exempt a Non-Degree Seeking or Non-Certificate Seeking Students.
- 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. The waiver must be removed after the student attempts 15 credit hours of developmental ESOL Coursework or prior to enrolling in entry-level freshman coursework, whichever comes first, at which time the student would be administered the TSI Assessment. Funding limits as defined in Texas Education Code 51.3062(1)(1) and (2) for developmental education still apply.
- 10) Any student who has been determined to be exempt in mathematics, reading, and/or writing under subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall not be required to enroll in developmental coursework and/or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption.

***TEA - Amended to be effective ~~May 11, 2017~~ February 28, 2018.***