

Texas A&M International University

Pre-Assessment Activity



Prepared by Texas A&M International
University

After completing the Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) you will:

1. Know the importance of assessment in your academic career.
2. Understand the assessment process and components.
3. Know your options for remediation.
4. Be provided a list of institutional and/or community student resources for support.

You may be exempt if you meet the following criteria...

ACT Scores (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)

Composite = 23 with 19 on math and/or English

SAT Scores (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)

Total = 1070 with 500 on critical reading and/or math

STAAR (End of Course Exam) (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)

Algebra II = 2 English III = 2

11th grade TAKS Scores (for a period of 5 years from the date of testing)

2200 math and/or ELA with a 3 on writing

TAAS Scores (for a period of 3 years from the date of testing)

1170 on writing; 86 on math and 89 on reading

You may be exempt if you meet the following criteria...

Have an associate's or bachelor's degree

Completed qualifying college level coursework from a private or accredited institution of higher education

Have met TSI standards at another institution

Enrolled in a one-year certificate program

Been on active duty as a member of the US armed forces, Texas National Guard, or reserves and have been serving for at least 3 years prior to enrollment

Have been honorably discharged or retired as of August 1, 1990 from the US armed forces, Texas National Guard, or reserves

Importance of Assessment

What is an assessment test?

An assessment test is a series of questions that help predict what classes are best suited for your needs.

The purpose of this testing is to determine the level of courses you need to successfully complete your college degree program.

What does an assessment test measure?

The assessment test will measure your knowledge in:

- Math
- Reading
- Writing

Based on test results, you will be placed into courses best suited to help you succeed in college.

Why are assessment results important?

Your success in college is important!

Academic advisors and counselors will use test results to place you in a class that is a good fit for you.

Matching your skill level and interests with suitable courses will help you reach your educational goals more quickly.

Why should I prepare?

If you do not prepare for your assessment or take it lightly, you may end up with a lower score than necessary.

A low score could result in your placement into one or more courses to improve your skills. These courses are called “developmental courses” and they provide no credit towards a degree.

NOTE: This can sometimes add an entire semester or more to your timeline for completion and also add costs.

Comparison Chart Example

Your score says you are college-ready in Math, Reading and Writing.

You need 0 additional courses. You can begin taking courses for credit towards a degree program NOW!

No added cost

No added time

Your score says you are not college-ready in Math and Writing.

You need 3 additional courses. Take 2 developmental courses to improve your skills in math and 1 developmental course in writing.

Added cost for each additional developmental course

Added time to degree completion

Assessment Process

What is the test like?

The test is made up of multiple-choice questions with a written essay assessment taken on a computer.

Your response to each question will determine the level of difficulty for the following question.

How long is the test?

The time a student takes on a test can range from 1 to 5 hours, depending on whether they take one or all three sections of the test: math/reading/writing.

The tests are not timed. You are encouraged to give each question as much thought as you wish before selecting your final answer.

It is important to take enough time to carefully complete the test since test results are a key factor in determining the courses in which you can enroll

How much does it cost to test?

- The cost is \$10 per section or \$29 for full test (3 sections).

NOTE!! Fees are **non-refundable** so be sure that you are registering for the ones you need.

How do I prepare?

A variety of options are available before testing to help you do your best and ensure you have the best possible score.

What preparation tools and resources are available?

1. Visit the University Learning Center: www.tamiau.edu/uc/ulc in Cowart Hall room 205 for help with math and reading.
2. Visit the Writing Center: www.tamiau.edu/uc/writingcenter in Cowart Hall 203.
3. Purchase the web app for the TSI Assessment:
<http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer>
4. TAMIU Bookstore: tamiau.bncollege.com
5. www.accuplacer.org

Do you have any tips for success?

There are a few basics things you can do to prepare for the assessment.

We have quoted research to support these practices.

Get enough sleep the night before

Your memory recall will be much better if you've had enough rest. In a scientific study, people who got enough sleep before taking a math test did better than those who stayed up all night studying.

http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/testing_tips.html

Eat properly before testing

According to the American Dietetic Association, eating breakfast on the day of a test improves concentration and is associated with higher academic achievement. The American School Counselor Association, ASCA, reports that foods such as eggs, cereal and whole-wheat toast can energize your brain to help you think more clearly and focus for longer periods. Whole grains have fiber to help you stay full, and adding protein will boost energy.

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/289290-the-best-food-to-eat-before-taking-a-test/>

Wear comfortable attire

Recent studies have shown the effect of clothing comfort on cognitive performance. The more uncomfortable students were, the lower their exam score. This study provides further evidence of a relationship between perceived clothing comfort and cognitive performance.

Recommendation: wear comfortable clothes when testing

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1177/1077727X04274115/abstract>

Relax

The study on relaxation concludes that test-anxious students score 12 percentile points below their low anxiety peers, or half a grade below, and that test-anxiety reduction improves test scores.

Ray Hembree (1988). Correlates, Causes, Effects and Treatment of Test Anxiety. Review of Educational Research, 58 1, 44-77.

Why should I prepare and practice?

Practicing test questions before you test will serve to refresh your skills that may have simply grown rusty.

Before you test:

<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-student-brochure.pdf?CSRF=RN6P-WFBF-JDZX-RUEH-W1IP-XX1L-XFQI-ID3L>

Often times, students haven't studied these subjects since elementary or middle school. For some adults, many years may have lapsed between high school and college. The following link will provide you with practice questions.

TSI Practice:

<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-sample-questions.pdf?CSRF=YOF0-XW7K-1SKT-7LGP-GXR2-P30J-LY6M-UY62>

What do I do when I am ready to take the test?

To pay fees:

- Go to TAMIU's Testing Center located in the Dr. Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center (ZSC) room 201 to set up appointment and fill out the required paperwork
- Pay fees at the TAMIU Bursar's Office, ZSC 157
- Return to the Testing Center on appointed date to test.

The [TSI testing schedule](#) can be found at:

www.tamtu.edu/uc/testing_center

What happens when I'm finished with the test?

When you are finished with your test, a testing center representative will give you a document that contains your scores and you will be referred to the advising center. An adviser will help you determine the classes you need based on your skills and your educational goals.

Can I take the test again and try to get a higher score?

There are times when external factors such as stress may affect your performance on the assessment test or when you simply did not take the time to prepare.

If you feel that your score does not represent your true knowledge and skills, you have the option to test again.

Before you choose this option, be aware that:
You will need to pay for the test again. The questions will not be the same though the test will cover the same topics.

How can I improve my score?

If you want to improve your scores and plan to retest, we strongly recommend additional preparation.

Students have a number of options to prepare including workshops, short courses, and even online practice.

Options for Remediation

What does my TSI score mean?

An interpretation of your scores can be found at the following link:

[TSI Interpreting Your Scores](http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-interpreting-score.pdf?CSRF=HOG2-3BHG-E4W8-RMTG-OBWF-ZN1U-GAQC-X5AM)

<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-interpreting-score.pdf?CSRF=HOG2-3BHG-E4W8-RMTG-OBWF-ZN1U-GAQC-X5AM>

What does it mean at TAMIU?

Depending on your score, you may be required to take a developmental class.

For a better understanding of what scores are required, the placement guidelines have been made available to you.

<http://www.tamiu.edu/uc/developmental.shtml>

Institutional and Community Resources

What kind of resources are available?

Information about:

University Learning Center: www.tamtu.edu/uc/ulc

The University Learning Center (ULC), located in Billy Cowart Hall room 205, provides all TAMTU students with academic support in an environment specifically designed to enhance learning. The staff at the ULC is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students individuals, carefully selected and trained to assist students with their academic needs in order to reinforce the classroom experience. The ULC provides one-on-one tutoring, group tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, review sessions, workshops and other academic services as needed or requested. For additional information, visit the ULC or call (956) 326-2132.

Writing Center: <http://www.tamtu.edu/uc/writingcenter>

The TAMTU Writing Center's main goal is to develop more confident and independent writers. To accomplish this goal, the Writing Center offers free individual and small-group tutoring sessions for currently enrolled TAMTU students. Additionally, the Writing Center regularly hosts and conducts workshops and presentations that cover a wide range of topics: essay development, documentation, sentence variety, and grammar/punctuation. We also provide supplemental instruction, a free academic assistance program that helps students incorporate "how to learn" with "what to learn" by placing writing consultants inside the classroom. Current courses assisted with supplemental instruction include sections of both American and British literature, as well as technical writing.

What kind of resources are available?

Information about:

Advising and Mentoring Center: www.tamtu.edu/amc

The Advising and Mentoring Center provides academic advising to all freshman and sophomore students, as well as individual support to all incoming freshmen. Visit the AMC in the Zaffirini Student Success Center room 2204 or call 956-326-2886

Recruitment and School Relations: www.tamtu.edu/enroll

Located on the first floor in room 126, the Office of Recruitment & School Relations is at the forefront of the recruiting efforts of Texas A&M International University. This office provides prospective students with information on admissions, enrollment, degrees, programs, financial aid, housing, student life, and campus tours.

Financial Aid: www.tamtu.edu/affairs/financial

Located on the second floor in room 214, assists students with applying for financial aid to meet the cost of attending the University.

What kind of resources are available?

Information about:

Admissions: <http://www.tamtu.edu/admissions>

Located on the first floor in room 129, the Admissions Office receives and processes applicant information for undergraduate, graduate and international students.

Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement

<http://www.tamtu.edu/studentaffairs/orientation.shtml>

All new students entering TAMTU are required to attend new student orientation and should sign up as soon as possible to lock in their preferred date. Additionally, students looking for ways to get involved, build their leadership skills, or trying to start a new organization should visit the Office of Student Affairs in Student Center Suite 226 or call 956.326.2280

Student Conduct and Community Engagement

<http://www.tamtu.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct.shtml>

Information regarding the student handbook, student code of conduct, or those students looking for more information on volunteering should visit the Office of Student Affairs in Student Center Suite 226 or call 956.326.2280.

What kind of resources are available?

Community Information about:

Laredo Public Library: www.laredolibrary.org

Public Transportation: www.elmetrotransit.com

City of Laredo Health Department: www.ci.laredo.tx.us/health/healthindex.htm

Certificate for Assessment

This certifies that you have completed the pre-assessment activity at Texas A&M International University. You are now ready to take the TSI Assessment.

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Please printout this last page and bring to the Testing Center located in the Dr. Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center room 201 in order to register for the TSI examination