



PAA & TSI

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Definitions

- PAA – Pre-Assessment Activity
- TSI – Texas State Initiative (placement test)

“Old tests & rules”

- Thea
- Quick Thea
- Accuplacer
- Compass
- Asset
- Each college or university chose what test it would offer & the college or university set the cut scores

“New test and rules”

- TSI is the new state placement exam. Effective 1st day of classes fall 2013
- One test statewide with the same cut-scores that cannot be raised or lowered by colleges or universities
- Includes a pre-assessment activity that students must complete prior to testing

TSI Assessment

- Includes built-in diagnostics to help with placement
- Students can retest at anytime
- Holistic Assessment & Placement using multiple factors



TSI will help determine:

- College Readiness
- Development Education (within 2 years of college readiness)
- Adult Basic Education (below high school level)

4.55 Pre-Assessment Activity

- Every college must design a Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA)
- All students must complete the PAA before taking the TSI Assessment
- Test should not be taken “cold turkey”
- PAA could be in any format chosen by college or university
- Each college or university required to track students who completed PAA

PAA

- Importance of assessment in students' academic career
- Include practice questions with feedback in all areas
- Remediation options
- Institutional and/or community resources e.g. tutoring, transportation, childcare, financial aid, etc

MCC's PAA

- Students must have MCC ID number – receive this number after they apply for admissions
- Online video <http://www.mclennan.edu/testing-center/tsi-prep>
- Short quiz that follows video. The quiz is the way we track the students who have completed the PAA

The Test

- Computer Adaptive
- 20-25 questions on placement test
- 4 diagnostic strands per content area (MC)
- 10-12 questions per diagnostic strand
- Computer administered and matched essay

The Test

- Tests are untimed
- If students do not meet cut score they will take a diagnostics test for that section before moving on to next section
- Depending on placement score, students may be routed to either a diagnostic or ABE section

The Test

- Reading, Math, & Writing multiple choice section
- Computerized essay- depending on student's score on Writing MC section
- Students choose the order of test

Scores

- ABE – College Ready 310-390
- College Ready scores will be phased in over the next 6 years

Developmental Education Scores

- Math 336
- Reading 342
- Writing 350

Phase 1 – Freshman Fall 2013 (CR scores)

- Math 350
- Reading 351
- Writing – essay of 5 or essay of 4 with a 363 or higher on MC section

Phase 2 – Freshman Fall 2017 (CR scores)

- Math 356
- Reading 355
- Writing – essay of 5 or essay of 4 with a 363 or higher on MC section

Phase 3 – Freshman Fall 2019 (CR scores)

- Math 369
- Reading 359
- Writing – essay of 5 or essay of 4 with a 363 or higher on MC section

Resources for Students

- <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-sample-questions.pdf>
- <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-student-brochure.pdf>
- <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-interpreting-score.pdf>
- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/accuplacer-writeplacer-sample-essays.pdf?CSRF=FU7Z-UNPB-FXUU-EFK7-JF44-EE7K-9CGQ-I0N0&CSRF=K55Y-LQPC-UK93-YDCA-VYS6-ZEYV-0393-4JAV>

Resources for Students

- <http://www.mclennan.edu/testing-center/tsi-prep> under the PAA quiz are the study videos that were created by Nick Webb & Teri Barnes
- Study App – created by collegeboard (\$1.99)

Questions

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