

**FAQs –TSI Implementation  
LSCS – November 2013**



1. This question is concerning the requirement for the Associate Degree Nursing Program. The prospective nursing student is required to have successfully completed MATH 0310 or via coursework or approved placement score during admission period. Now if the student placed at Math 1314 with the THEA (and has not taken any coursework), will they have to take the new TSI assessment? – **Yes. If the student was not enrolled into any classes prior to Fall 2013, they will have to retest on TSIA.**
2. If there is a Level 1 program specific application process that requires students meet Math, English, and reading readiness, do students take the TSI Assessment? – **No, all Level 1 certificate are exempt from the TSI. The pre-requisites should be waived until the student applies for a higher certificate or a degree program.**
3. When will the iStar system start reading TSI Assessment and TAKS math scores? – **It is already reading all test scores.**
4. If the student completed Engl 0304, 0306, and Math 0306 more than 5 years ago with passing grades, is he required to retest? If he must retest, do we place them in classes by his new test scores or do we acknowledge and accept his old classes and have them continue on from there? - **If scores are still valid, this student should be considered a continuing student and does not need to be retested.**
5. This question has to do with existing program application pre-requisites. Let us say that a student has not tested. This student wants to enroll into the Pharmacy program at NH- specifically the C1 certificate. Yet the program has application requirements of ENGL 0306 and ENGL 0305 clearly stated within the catalog. Does the state’s no testing needed ruling for a C1 supersede the NH department’s stated application requirements? We have approx. 6 instances of this for C1 certificates at LSC including the Cosmetology, Sonography, EMT/EMSP, HITT, Medical Assisting, Cert Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Tech, and Surgical Tech programs. – **Yes, the student can be placed into the courses within the Level 1 certificate. The pre-requisites should be waived. Curriculum teams will be meeting regarding special admission policies.**
6. Student has taken ENGL 0304 which they completed with a C, they tested into and enrolled into ENGL 0307 but did not pass. Also took and completed HRPO 1311 with a D. Would this student need to retest in Writing? Scores will expire within the week. – **Yes. This student is not TSI complete. He/She can retest and placed accordingly or retake ENGL 0307.**
7. I am working with a student who wants to enroll in the small business management certificate, it is less than 43 hours so they are not required to do the TSI testing, however it contains coursework with needing prerequisites of ENGL 305 and MATH 306. - In this scenario do I allow her to enroll in courses and take testing later when needed. What do

you suggest? - A student enrolling in a level 1 certificate is waived from TSI. Please verify the program/plan is correct in iStar and then assist the student in registering. They will need to test later only if they proceed past the level 1 cert or change out of the level 1 cert for their program/plan.

8. Another advisor question: if a student took summer classes, did not pass anything, is just now coming in to register for fall, does the student need to retest? - Technically, these are continuing students. If they come to sign up for the same course they did not pass, it is ok to register. If they want to go to the next level, they will have to be retested.
9. Student enrolled in SP 2013 and received “F” in Math 0306 and “IP” in ENGL-developmental. Do they continue their sequence or do they take the TSI ? - Yes, they continue the sequence unless they chose to retest.
10. Student test and they receive 360 in the writing with a 3 Essay. Do I place in WRITE 0306 because they didn’t make the 4 Essay? - Yes, they are placed in 0306 based on the essay score.
11. According to THECB, a 5 or more on the essay determines college readiness in Writing. We have a student who made a 6 on the TSI Essay but scored 346 on the multiple choice writing and according to the rules, she should be placed in ENGL 1301, correct? Advisors are asking many of these types of questions today and we need to ensure we are giving out the correct information. From my understanding, the essay determines Writing placement unless it is below 5 then we look at both the multiple choice and essay together. – If a student gets 5 or higher on the essay, they should be placed into 1301 based on their writing placement. However, the English Curriculum team does not recommend to make determination on essay only for the “bubble” students.
12. With this student example above, however, the Reading placement is below college-ready so does this mean she needs to take both ENGL 1301 and Reading? Please clarify. – No, this student will need to finish the reading sequence first and then go to 1301.
13. It would also be helpful if the placement chart was a bit more specific on some issues. For instance:
  - a) For the TAKS exemption in Reading, it should say 2200 and 3 on Essay. It states this on the exemption chart but not the placement chart and advising are asking for clarification on this. - The chart is updated.
  - b) For the ACT/SAT exemptions, the placement chart does not list the required composite scores but the exemption chart does. – The chart is updated with the composite scores.
14. Are we not entering ABE Scores into ISTAR? That is not an option. – Correct. All low scored students should be placed into lowest level of the Dev. Ed. for now.
15. EXAMPLE: If the student makes a 360 and 4 YES: 0307, but without that 3 essay then NO, they need to go into 0306. - Correct.
16. How soon can a student retest after he has taken TSI for the first time? – At the first available opportunity.

17. Our student meet TSI by us in August 2008. I say she is exempt (our own transcript shows it), does not require any more testing. Getting some push back here with people still in the SSI mode. - *If the TAKS scores are older than 5 years and the student did not take any classes with us at all, she has to be tested on TSI now. If she is a returning student, she does not need to be tested again.*
18. Placement in MATH 1314 with ACT or SAT scores requires the composite and test score to be met or they need to test. No get any score and you meet institutional requirements – correct? - *Yes, on SAT/ACT they are either exempt or they have to test.*
19. If a student makes a 5 on essay the new score chart says 5 essay is ENGL 1301. Am I reading this correctly? - *Yes, if a student gets 5 or higher on essay, he/she can be placed in 1301.*
20. All of the new ESOL students that I have checked so far have the Test Prep hold (even Level 1). How should we handle or document this? - *ESOL students should be waived from the TSI. They need to take COMPASS ESL for placement.*
21. For the TSI purposes, STAAR students can be exempt from testing if they get 2000 in Reading and Writing and 4000 in Math. However, for the dual credit, they will need to use other tests. – *Dual credit students are still being tested for TSI purposes (to determine college readiness) and can use the same tests, including EOCs, to qualify.*
22. Is STAAR no longer on the list of exemptions for college admission? If a student comes to us with the STAAR scores applying for college admission and not dual credit, this student needs to be retested on TSI, correct? - *The TSI is completely separate from admissions policies. In fact, TSI testing and its results cannot be used for admissions purposes, as per law. A student meeting the college readiness standards as defined in TSI rules cannot be tested for TSI purposes and can enroll in entry-level courses without restriction. The institution’s admissions criteria is separate from TSI.*
23. We are getting more and more questions regarding the STAAR. We are working with many high schools on dual credit programs as well, and need to know if we can exempt the students from the TSI now or should wait until 2016. - *Students wishing to qualify for dual credit courses can do so by meeting the college readiness standards on the SAT, ACT, TSI Assessment, or other assessments as described in the rules related to dual credit. If TEA does not make the STAAR English II and Algebra II EOCs available until spring 2016, then those options will not be available until such time.*
24. Do the courses listed **Courses to Satisfy TSI Requirements** ([http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/studentservices/Courses to Satisfy TSI Requirements.pdf](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/studentservices/Courses_to_Satisfy_TSI_Requirements.pdf)) still apply? If yes, when will this updated? Currently GOVT 2301/2302 are listed
  - a. ENGL 1301 is the only course that can serve as reading and writing prerequisites as well as meet TSI.**

*The list is still correct, but should be updated to include GOVT 2305/2306. – In addition, the list will need to go to the curriculum teams for revisions. It should be ready or the Fall 2014 registration.*

25. Can discuss the Integrated Reading and Writing scores. What happens when writing could be met but not reading. Example, if a student scores 5 on essay but a 340 on the reading?  
- They are placed in a lower class according to the lowest score.
26. Can you confirm the new standard - Once Exempt always exempt if noted on a transcript?  
- For veterans, yes, they are exempt. For exemptions based on the test scores, it depends on the scores expiration dates. For Level 1 certificate: only if the students are taking Level 1 certificate. If they are moving from level 1 to a degree or level 2 certificate, or attempt to take a credit course outside of the level 1 certificate, they will have to be tested.
27. Can you confirm Once "Complete" always complete? Some people are still holding on to the old SSI placement theory that old scores invalidated the complete status and required retesting. - According to Rule 4.57, "TSI Assessment results are valid for five years from date of testing," so students would have to retest if it has been more than 5 years since they took the TSI (which won't matter until Fall 2018). SAT and ACT scores are good for 5 years. TAAS is good for 3 years, and TAKS and the STAAR are good for 5 years. Beyond that time limit, students will have to retest. – However, if the students took courses that qualified them as to be TSI complete, this will stay as the transcripts do not expire.
28. Can you confirm the SAT/ACT scores valid for 5 years – must have attended a Texas public institution within 5 years of the score age and official transcript validates the exemption. Students who went out of state that had those high scores and came back after 5 years would then have to test – right? - The 5 years is correct on SAT/ACT, but if a student went out of state to attend a college or university, they can demonstrate college readiness with course grades or completion of a degree.
29. How to handle COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, and THEA scores which were College Ready by state standards but LSCS required to enter developmental? Are these people now considered complete? - If those students want to retest on the new TSIA, then they can, and their earlier scores suggest they may test at college-ready, but they have no score or course that has labeled them as TSI complete. In order for the students to be TSI complete on their old scores, they have to enroll in the class prior to August 26, 2013. If they took the placement test, but did not register for any classes, they will have to be retested on TSI.
30. If student entered LSCS prior to this fall and have COMPASS or ACCUPLACER scores, but did not begin a developmental sequence in math can those scores still be used for placement in spring 2014? Is yes, is there a limitation on how long those scores can be used for placement? - They can use their old scores, but we suggest to retest in Math portion.
31. According to the TSI FAQ from June, **If a student enrolls in a course that begins in the fall, but then is dropped from enrollment for non-payment prior to the beginning of the course, must this student retest?** - If a student tests on one of the four currently approved tests for TSI purposes (ACCUPLACER, THEA, COMPASS, Asset) and is enrolled in at least one course prior to the institution's first class day of fall 2013, the student will not have to retest on the new TSI Assessment, even if the student is temporarily dropped for various reasons, provided the student is re-enrolled and takes the course.

32. If student entered LSCS prior to this fall and have COMPASS or ACCUPLACER scores, can they continue in the developmental sequence based upon those original scores? – Yes. The advisors may encourage retesting, but it is not a requirement.
33. Does ISTAR automatically indicate that a student is complete if they complete a developmental sequence? - Yes, the milestone process will show the student complete once a grade is on the record to show completion using the appropriate developmental course.
34. CERT 1 Exemption – only applies while in Cert 1 program – do we have students seeking AA and Cert at same time – which takes precedence? - If students are taking courses on an AA degree, then they are degree-seeking students. If students are taking ONLY cert 1 courses, then they are exempt. - AA would always take precedence. – The higher degree takes precedence.
35. Is there a way for a student to be noted as Non-Degree Seeking in ISTAR? Is there a plan for this? - No, there is not currently a way to note that nor is one planned at this time.
36. Level 1 Cert student enrolling in courses outside of CERT program?? Does ISTAR have anything to control this? What happens if a student is enrolled outside of CERT program? - No, there is nothing to control this. If anyone sees this happening, please discuss with the student a change in their degree plan to accommodate for the courses outside the certificate.
37. Can we get more information on the Military Exemption process? What documentation is required? How is it stored? Who is responsible for verifying the military exemption status? - This process should be discussed with the VA office. They have a job aid to be used by the VA liaisons.
38. Please explain the Cut Off Bubble Process: This is still being worked on. When a student scores within the bubble area, then the advisor must speak individually with the student to review second indicators. If the student shows himself/herself to be ready to take on the challenge, then the student moves up to the next level. If the student has too many barriers, then the student needs to be registered into the course in which he/she was placed. At this point we are proposing the following to consider:  
 Students with scores in the bubble ranges, may be placed in the Course if they meet at least one criteria in each category:  
 Category 1. Academic Preparation:  
 \*High School Transcript Evaluation for Math  
 a. Did student pass Pre-Calculus or higher math course?  
 b. Did student pass honors or advanced course in math?  
 \*High School Transcript Evaluation for Reading/Writing  
 Did student pass honors or advanced course in reading or writing course?  
  
 Category 2. Life Factors/Individual Attributes:  
 \*Does student work less than 20 hours per week?  
 \*Does student have transportation conflicts?  
 \*Does student have a clear academic goal and an understanding of the required degree plan?

39. We have some confusion with individuals thinking about the old SSI and placement with SAT and ACT scores. Can you confirm that now placement in college level or high math require the composite score and the SAT score cut-offs? Example, a student has a Composite of 1000 (total of the math and critical reading scores) and a 550 – can they be placed in MATH 1316 – Trig? - [No, they need to have a composite or be retested on TSIA.](#)
40. We would like to get some clarification on how students are placed into classes based on their sentence skills and essay scores. If a student scores a 360 on the SS portion but a 3 on the essay, would they be able to register for ENGL 0307 or would they need to begin with ENGL 0306? Looking at the chart, it seems that the essay now plays a greater role in determining which developmental course a student is required to take. - [A 1-3 automatically places a student in 0306 \(or 0302\) regardless of the SS score.](#)

<b>Writing</b>	
0306	310-349 OR 1-3 on Essay
0307	350-362 and 4 on Essay
1301	363-390 and 4 on Essay OR 5+ on Essay

41. Please discuss the ESOL waiver and how it will be handled at LSCS. Is there something that ISTAR will track for registration counter staff to know?
- (b) An institution may exempt a non-degree-seeking or non-certificate-seeking student.
- (c) 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 prior to the student attempting 15 credit hours of developmental ESOL coursework or attempting 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(l) (1) and (2) for developmental education still apply. – [The ESOL students are waived from the TSI. However, there is no actual waiver on the student's TSI record in iStar. We do not have a way to push that waiver on a student and then another way to remove that physical waiver.](#)

Can we say that ESOL students are waived from the requirement? - [Absolutely. But as far as putting an actual physical paper waiver in the system – no.](#)

42. **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.**” Does this college-level coursework have to include specific English and math courses or will one ARTS class suffice for the student to take any class, including math? – [Look at the list: \[http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/student-services/Courses\\\_to\\\_Satisfy\\\_TSI\\\_Requirements.pdf\]\(http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/student-services/Courses\_to\_Satisfy\_TSI\_Requirements.pdf\)](#)

43. **“A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.”** Would a student who had enrolled in college-level coursework have met readiness standards by that institution, even if the student withdrew from or earned a D or F in those classes? - [They are exempt.](#)
44. Would those classes have to have included English and math classes or would a sociology or arts class work? – [Look at the List: \[http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/student-services/Courses\\\_to\\\_Satisfy\\\_TSI\\\_Requirements.pdf\]\(http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/student-services/Courses\_to\_Satisfy\_TSI\_Requirements.pdf\)](#)
45. If an institution has given a student AP or CLEP credit for any college level class, is the student considered to have “met readiness standards”? For example, AP credit for ENGL 1301 or CLEP credit for Spanish. Would the student need credits in reading, writing and math? – [No. They can take other classes, ex. Kinesiology, etc.](#) Would the student also have to have enrolled in the institution after receiving the AP or CLEP credit? – [Yes - based upon their scores and they attended the institution, we deem them college ready.](#)
46. FTIC student who is in devel class (MATH) he is failing, but new rule states he must enroll in DEVEL as long as he is enrolling in other college level courses (ENGL). Now the student wants to drop the MATH, can he? – [After getting approval from his instructor.](#)
47. Advisor Training Manual states, “Essay score alone will not be considered for a qualifier” but on the New TSI Course Placement Scores a “5” on Essay states College Level Write. - [This is for bubble students only.](#)
48. Advisor Training Manual states, STAAR will be accepted as of Aug. 26, 2013. Please give more information on levels and what the High Schools are currently testing on. – [The Coordinating Board did approve the English II EOC \(Level II Final standard of 2000 for English II reading and 2000 for English II writing\) as an approved eligibility for dual credit. This approval will be effective 20 days after posting, estimated to be Nov. 18, 2013.](#)
49. A student’s TAKS score is 2009 in Math. He took the Accuplacer and scored 83 in MEA, which placed him into MATH 0310. He did not take Math this term but did take other courses. In determining the appropriate math course for spring, would he place into MATH 0310? OR – On the old TSI chart (the back of the placement chart), the MEA 83 score would be considered college level. How should this student place? - [Use the old Placement chart, p 49, 2013 catalog. Advise to retest if the student agrees.](#)
50. A student attended LSC during Spring 2013 (enrolled in MATH 0306, ENGL 0309, and HUMD 0330). The student did not successfully complete any of these courses. The student did not enroll for Fall 2013. When the student enrolls in Spring 2014, does he need to retest or can we use the old test scores? – [This student can be considered a returning student. We can use the old test scores because the student was enrolled before Aug. 26, 2013. Student needs to enroll in HUMD 0330. However, it might be best to retest since the student was not enrolled in Fall 2013, and the student was not deemed college-ready through previous tests or coursework. Retesting can give us a better understanding where the student is at this moment.](#)

51. A student tested in 2011 on Compass. The student enrolled in courses during 11/FA, 12/FA, and 13/SP but was dropped from courses prior to official day in every semester. (Nothing shows up in the student's course history). The student returns to take courses in 2014 Spring. Does the student need to retest? - The student was not enrolled in Fall 2013, and the student was not deemed college-ready through previous tests or coursework, so the test scores are no longer valid. The student must retest.
52. A returning student has testing with Accuplacer/Compass and has college level English skills but math scores are below college level. If the student wants to retest, can this student test on the TSI? I think they can, but I wanted to confirm that we can mix old and new scores. – Yes. However, if the student was not enrolled in any classes prior to Fall 2013, and the student was not deemed college-ready in Math through previous tests or coursework, the test scores are no longer valid. The student must retest.
53. In Nursing, they are beginning to tell pre-LVN students that they will need college level math scores to apply to the program (I think this begins next year). They are basing this off the fact that TSI is now the same as college level. I am wondering whether returning students with Compass/Accuplacer scores would need college level scores (SSI) or could they go by the old TSI guidelines? Some suggesting came from the campus that these students may want to retest on the new TSI Assessment rather than attempting to complete MATH 0310. Since previous TSI guidelines are much below the SSI guidelines. - The LVN program is requiring college-level math scores. Please, check with the LVN program to see what they will accept when it comes to the old scores. If the LVN program is telling students to take the new test, then the student should be retested. In any situation, the advice can be given to the students that they will need to finish their TSI requirements by the time of graduation.
54. I am also wondering how student scores on Accuplacer/Compass relate to TSI scores. This one may be more impactful to students and whether they choose to pursue the LVN program. - There is no relationship between Accuplacer, Compass and the TSIA.
55. Student took Compass in 2012, enrolled in classed (viewed in Enrollment Request Search), dropped from all the classes before official day roll. Are the test scores still valid? - The student did not complete coursework in Fall 2013, and the student was not deemed college-ready through previous tests or coursework, so the test scores are no longer valid. The student must retest.
56. Same scenario, dropped from all the classes after official day roll. - If we have a record that the student was enrolled, the scores are still valid. However, the student will have to re-enroll into the class he/she dropped (Dev. Ed.).
57. What are we doing with students who tested in Developmental math (math 0308) still has Math 0310 to take, but TAKS scores in math =2200, which places them math 1314? - That student is now deemed college-ready. From an advising perspective, those students should be warned that they might have holes in their learning that will make it difficult for them to be successful in college-level math. The choice is theirs, and they are officially now TSI complete. There is not enough research yet regarding this and will be found through individual reviews. If possible, the student can be enrolled in the NCBO + Math 1314 to make sure the student has an opportunity to review the material. Check with the math department chair person to see what he/she recommends.



58. Some students who are currently enrolled in classes have the S35 hold although they will not need to take the TSI Assessment. The closer we get to registration, the more I am seeing this. Will this issue be addressed globally or will we (Admissions) have to manually release these holds on individual students? Example: A student has the S35 but is currently taking HUMD, Math, and English. The advisor alerted me to this issue and I had the hold removed. I can't imagine how many more out there are in this situation. Is there a way to run a query to find out? I can find another example where the hold is still there for you to see if you need it. But for this case, I removed it because her advisor is about to meet with her. – [Admissions will have to manually release the hold for now.](#)
59. After watching the PAA, some students' S35 hold does not disappear. They have both an S35 and an S36. Why is this happening? I will remove the hold but wanted you to take a look first. – [Advisor will have to remove the holds manually unless otherwise communicated.](#)
60. When entering test scores, it is way too easy to delete information that is already there. Some people are forgetting to add a row when entering a new test and instead just changing what is already there. They are assuming that the information saves, but it doesn't. New Proctors who come on board usually make this error. It takes time to make sure they are fully trained and the system just allows it. I just happened to witness one of my Proctors doing this yesterday and of course I corrected her but I don't know how many she had already done this way. She was unclear on the process and it would just be ideal if the system did not allow this to happen. Can we do something about this? I also find out from advisors and students that data is missing. Once reported I can re-enter the scores but I hate that it doesn't prevent this from happening to begin with. I think this is a huge issue. – [Make sure that the entering personal is aware of the job aids and the correct procedures.](#)