

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Updates

Summer TACRAO Convening

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Presenter

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What is College Readiness? (THECB)

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

Statute applies to all public Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in Texas

TSI Statute requirement highlights :

1. **Assessment** of academic skills to determine readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework for each entering, non-exempt undergraduate student ([Rule §4.55](#)). *The only Board approved instrument for this purpose is the TSIA2.*
2. **Advise and develop an individualized “plan for academic success”** for each undergraduate student who doesn’t meet the minimum passing standards related to college readiness ([Rule §4.58](#)).

An institution may not use the TSI as a condition of admission to the institution ([Rule §4.55\(q\)](#))

THECB Rule Updates

THECB Rule Updates

On April 25, 2024, the Board approved rule changes effective May 16, 2024, impacting:

- Texas Success Initiative (TSI) - TAC Rules §4.51 – 4.63
- Dual Credit - TAC Rule §4.85
- Optional Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Program (College Connect Courses) - TAC Rule §4.86
- Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program – TAC Rules §13.500 – 13.506

THECB staff is currently working to develop detailed guidance on new and revised rules for institutions.

THECB Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

- (a) Except as set out in subsection (b) of this section, this subchapter applies to each entering undergraduate student not otherwise exempt under §4.54 of this subchapter (relating to Exemption).

- (b) This subchapter does not apply to the following students, and an institution shall not require these students to demonstrate college readiness pursuant to this subchapter. The following figure contains the full list of student categories to whom this subchapter does not apply. [Attached Graphic](#)
 - (1) A student who has earned an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education;
 - (2) A student who transfers to an institution of higher education 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 in the corresponding subject area, as transcribed or otherwise determined by the receiving institution;

THECB Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

(b) This subchapter does not apply to the following students, and an institution shall not require these students to demonstrate college readiness pursuant to this subchapter. The following figure contains the full list of student categories to whom this subchapter does not apply. [Attached Graphic](#)

- (3) A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college;
- (4) A student enrolled in high school who is a non-degree-seeking student as defined in §4.53(8) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions);
- (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; or
- (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.

Figure: 19 TAC §4.52(b)

THECB Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

APPLICABILITY CATEGORIES			
Category	Student	Subject Area	Time Period
Prior or Current Academic Coursework	Student has earned an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education	All	No expiration
	Student transfers from a private or independent institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education and has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework	The subject area in which the student has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework	No expiration
	Student is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less at a public junior college, public technical institute, or public state college	All	Applicable while the student is enrolled in the certificate program of one year or less
	Student is enrolled in high school who is not a degree-seeking student as defined in 19 Texas Administrative Code §4.58(8) and 4.83(10)	All	Applicable while the student is enrolled in high school and classified as a non-degree-seeking student
Military Service	Student 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	All	Applicable while the student is serving on active duty
	Student 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	All	No expiration

THECB Rule 4.53 (Definitions)

- (8) Non-Degree-Seeking Student--A student who has not filed a degree plan with an institution of higher education and is not required to do so pursuant to Texas Education Code, §51.9685.

THECB Rule 4.54 (Exemption)

- Formally titled “Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers”
- Notable Changes
 - (c)(1) College Preparatory Course
 - (c)(3) exempts students who have earned the Texas First Diploma
 - Military exemption criteria is now under Rule 4.52 (Applicability)

THECB Rule 4.54 (Exemption)

Figure: 19 TAC §4.54(c)

COURSE AND PROGRAM COMPLETION EXEMPTIONS				
Student Category	Institution Where Course or Program Completed	Applicability	Exemption	Exemption Expiration
High School Student who successfully completes College Prep Course (TEC 28.014)	School district partners with any public, private, independent institution of higher education	Applies at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide course(s), or at an institution that accepts the student as TSI-met based on course completion	Corresponding English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) and/or Mathematics sections	24 months from date of high school graduation & student must enroll in college-level course in exempted content within first year of enrollment at institution
Student enrolled and met readiness standards in mathematics and/or ELAR by institution	Any Texas public, private, independent institution of higher education or accredited out-of-state institution	Student has met college readiness standards in mathematics, reading, or writing as determined by receiving institution	Corresponding ELAR and/or Mathematics sections	No Expiration
Student completed college level coursework with C or better	Any Texas public, private, independent institution of higher education or accredited out-of-state institution	A student with a transcribed grade of 'C' or better is not subject to TSI in accordance with Rule 4.52(b).	Corresponding ELAR and/or Mathematics sections	No Expiration

THECB Rule 4.54 (Exemption)

College level coursework in a dual credit course as defined by Rule 4.83(11), including a College Connect dual credit course offered under Rule 4.86, with C or better.	Any Texas public institution of higher education	A student with a transcribed grade of 'C' or better is not subject to TSI in accordance with Rule 4.54(c)(2)(b).	Corresponding ELAR and/or Mathematics sections	No Expiration
Student earned Texas First Diploma	Any Texas public institution of higher education	A student who has earned the Texas First Diploma is TSI-exempt under Rule 4.54(c)(3).	ELAR and Mathematics sections	No Expiration

TSI Rule Update: College Prep Course

Former (TAC RULE 4.54 (a)(10))	New TAC RULE 4.54 (c)(1)
<p>(10) 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. This 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 exemption for the college preparatory course.</p>	<p>(1) 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, under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) The student enrolls 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; and (B) The student enrolls at the institution of higher education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that partnered with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course, or (ii) with an institution that deems the student TSI-met based on the completion of a course that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(1) of this section.

College Prep Course Considerations for TSI

- College Prep Courses (CPC):
 - Cannot be used for dual credit eligibility. CPC exemption becomes available for use at time of high school graduation.
 - Must be completed no later than student's high school graduation date.
- Institutions accepting CPC completions other than their own should be aware of the successful completion criteria (e.g., HS credit vs TSI exemption thresholds)

THECB Rule 4.57 (TSIA College Readiness Standards)

- (a) For the purpose of this section and §4.54(b)(1) of this subchapter (relating to Exemption), the Board shall approve a passing standard ("cut score") on an assessment that corresponds to a 70-75% likelihood of a student earning an 'A', 'B', or 'C' in a college level course for which the assessment instrument is used to establish college readiness.

THECB Rule 4.58 (Advisement and Plan for Academic Success)

- (d) An institution must advise any student who is exempt from the TSI assessment as outlined in §4.54 of this subchapter (relating to Exemption) who earns less than a 'C' in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area of Developmental Education Interventions available to the student to increase the likelihood that the student will succeed in subsequent college courses and complete their selected program, especially through Non-Course-Based options.
- (e) For undergraduate students enrolled in a corequisite model as defined in §4.53(7) who fail to satisfactorily complete the freshman-level course, the institution of higher education must:
 - (1) review the plan developed for the student under this section and, if necessary, work with the student to revise the plan; and
 - (2) offer to the student a range of resources including Non-Course Based Options to assist the student in becoming ready to perform freshman-level academic coursework in the applicable subject area(s).

TSI Support Resources

- Visit the [THECB TSI/DE Webpage](#) for access TSI/DE Resources including but not limited to:
 - Informational Brochures
 - Test Specification Documents
 - Sample Test Questions and Practice Tests
 - Topic Specific Guidance Documents (e.g., ELAR Retest Options, Accommodations, Flexible use of TSI and TSI Essay Scores, etc.)
- THECB YouTube Channel (Webinars and Training Videos)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/TxHigherEd/videos>
 - Recommended search terms: TSI, TSI
- Student Portal (Student Resources)
 - <https://studentportal.accuplacer.org/#/home>
 - Retrieve scores, TSI practice, Informational brochures, Tutorials
- TSI Learning Resources
 - <https://tsi2.pearsonperspective.com/perspective/>

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