

Counseling

Individual, academic, vocational and personal counseling is available to all students. As an aid to counseling, tests are administered and interpreted as a means of helping students to better understand themselves, their motives, and clarify their objectives. Through the occupational and vocational information provided, students are assisted in selecting the best educational program that is compatible with their ability, interests, and aptitude. For those who choose to go on to a university, a plan of courses is designed to correspond with the student's choice of major and transfer university.

As one component of the counseling and guidance program, counselors assist students in planning their programs of study. Fall enrollees receive their program advisement during the summer, provided they have satisfied all admission requirements. Summer advisement is strongly encouraged to ensure adequate advisement time, give the student a better choice of classes and times, and will possibly eliminate waiting in line during the fall semester.

Testing – Texas Success Initiative Program (TSI)*

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) was mandated by Texas law in 2003 and went into effect in September of 2003. The purpose of TSI is to ensure that all students enrolling in public higher education in Texas possess the academic skills needed to perform effectively in college-level coursework. TSI includes a testing component designed to identify and provide diagnostic information about the reading, writing, and mathematics skills of each student. Students who do not receive the minimum required score on an approved assessment instrument are required to enroll in developmental courses or participate in other activities designed to assist the students in overcoming the academic deficiencies identified by that assessment. The state approved assessment instruments are: Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA), Texas Higher Education Assessment Quick-Test (THEA Q-T), COMPASS, ASSET, and AccuPlacer.

A student **may** be exempted from the requirement to take a test approved for TSI purposes if the student meets one of the following circumstances:

- Met or exceeded the qualifying standards on the ACT, SAT, TAAS, or TAKS tests:
ACT: Composite score of 23 with a minimum score of 19 on both English and math is required for full exemption. Scores may be no more than 5 years old.
SAT: Composite score of 1070 with a minimum score of 500 on **both** verbal and math is required for full exemption. Scores may be no more than 5 years old.
TAAS: Writing - 1770; Math - TLI 86; Reading - TLI 89. Scores must be from a first attempt and be no more than 3 years old.
***TAKS:** A math score of 2200 or higher and a score of 2200 or higher on ELA with a writing subscore of 3. Scores may be no more than 3 years old.
- **Partial TSI exemption**
Students who meet one of the following testing criteria can be partially exempt from the TSI requirements.
ACT Reading & Writing: Composite score of 23 or higher with a score of 19 or higher on the English subtest. Student must take the math section of a test approved for TSI purposes.
ACT Math: Composite score of 23 or higher with a score of 19 or higher on the math subtest. Student must take the reading and writing sections of a test approved for TSI purposes.
SAT Reading & Writing: Composite score of 1070 or higher with a score of 500 or higher on the verbal subtest. Student must take the math section of a test approved for TSI purposes.

SAT Math: A composite score of 1070 or higher -with a score of 500 or higher on the math subtest. Student must take the reading and writing sections of a test approved for TSI purposes.

Note:

1. The composite score and the subtest scores must be earned on the same test administration.
2. ACT and SAT partial exemptions are only valid for tests dated April 2004 or later.

***Exit Level TAKS Reading & Writing:** An ELA score of 2200 or higher with a writing subscore of 3 or higher. Student must take the math section of a test approved for TSI purposes.

***Exit Level TAKS Math:** A math score of 2200 or higher. Student must take the reading and writing sections of a test approved for TSI purposes.

*Exemptions earned with 11 th grade Exit TAKS are permanent. Tenth grade TAKS scores earn a temporary waiver which terminates with high school graduation. At that point, students must have qualifying scores from either Exit Level TAKS, ACT, SAT, or scores from an approved test for TSI purposes.

For additional information on Texas Success Initiative policies or test dates at Trinity Valley Community College, contact the Testing Center at Athens or the Guidance Centers at Athens, Palestine, or Terrell.

Placement Examinations

Trinity Valley Community College adheres to the “open door” admissions policy. This policy provides that all graduates of accredited high schools will be accepted by presenting the proper credentials. However, all students accepted may not be permitted to register for any course or program offered by the college.

Prior to registration some students, unless exempted, may be required to take an approved test for TSI purposes or an official placement test designated by the Trinity Valley Community College testing personnel.

ACT Student Assessment

Trinity Valley Community College is a test center for national administrations of the ACT Student Assessment. Tests are given in September, February, and April. Registration must be completed with the head-quarters of the American College Testing Program in Iowa City, Iowa, approximately 30 days before the chosen date for testing. High school officials should be consulted for further information.

General Educational Developmental Testing Program

The General Educational Developmental Testing Program provides a means for determining the educational level of adults who have not completed a formal high school education. A certificate of high school equivalency, not a high school diploma, may be issued to adults who successfully complete the GED examination, verifying that the holder has demonstrated a level of educational competence equivalent to that of a high school senior. The certificate may be used for job qualification, for admittance to occupational training and college, and for personal reasons.

Individuals who need assistance in paying the GED testing fee should contact the GED Chief Examiner. Recipients are selected on the basis of need and testing readiness.