The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), winner of the National Tutoring Association Excellence Award, is committed to providing academic support services to help you reach your educational goals and succeed in the university and beyond. Our mission is to help students develop the skills necessary to achieve academic success and independence in a supportive learning environment that fosters intellectual growth.

At CASA, students work collaboratively with our staff to achieve academic success by setting educational goals, gaining an understanding of individual learning styles, and mastering learning strategies. Our support services include the Writing Center, Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Peer Mentoring, and Academic Success Coaching.

Academic Collegiate Excellence
The Academic Collegiate Excellence (ACE) Program provides academic assistance and mentorship to first-year students through two avenues: Our CASA Learning Community Mentors and our First Islanders Scholars’ Academy.

CASA Learning Community Mentors work with students throughout the semester and help guide them during the registration process, make referrals for CASA services, campus departments, and answer student questions and concerns using their extensive first hand expertise and experience. Embedded in the First-Year Learning Community courses, the Mentors provide workshops and guidance on academic success strategies in alignment with what is taught in the classroom. The Mentors are academically successful upper-division and graduate students trained to guide first-year students using professionally recognized best practices.

First Islander Scholars’ Academy (FISA)
FISA is designed to provide resources and support to First Generation college students in the form of mentorship, success workshops, community engagement, and meaningful connections with University faculty and staff. To apply, visit our website: http://casa.tamucc.edu/

Academic Success Coaches
Students are invited to visit with the Academic Success Coaches to discuss successful academic strategies and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) information. Students will learn how to avoid probation/suspension status, how to maintain a high GPA, and our Coaches will generate an individualized student plan of retention that fosters student independence to successfully overcome the challenges presented during the pursuit of higher education. Academic Success Coaches are Full-Time, degreed staff who work to guide students towards a successful academic path. For information on TSI, please visit the CASA Website.

Supplemental Instruction
Supplemental Instruction is an academic assistance program connected to entry-level, large lecture courses that provides regularly scheduled out-of-class, peer-facilitated group sessions by trained facilitators who work closely with course faculty. Sessions cover content as well as general study skills.

Writing Center
CASA’s Writing Center is staffed with professional, graduate, and undergraduate Writing Consultants to help all writers at any stage of the writing process. We offer support for various genres of writing and writing in different disciplines. Consultations are available both face-to-face and online. We encourage students to make an appointment, but we also welcome walk-ins. The CASA Writing Center also offers informative and interactive workshops for classes on a variety of writing topics. Please visit http://casa.tamucc.edu/

Tutoring
We offer face-to-face tutoring and lab work for many subjects, including math, biology, chemistry, physics, business, reading and Spanish. Our certified tutors are students highly recommended by faculty in their area of expertise and undergo extensive training. Our labs are designed for individual and group work. Tutoring is available on a walk-in basis. Please visit our website for tutoring schedules.

Starfish
Starfish, which is integrated in Blackboard, is a software tool designed to facilitate meaningful contact between students and their instructors, advisors, and mentors through course progress feedback. TAMUCC faculty and staff use Starfish to raise Kudos, Flags, Referrals, and To-dos, all of which are designed to communicate course progress or connect students to campus support.

CASA’s academic support programs are certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

CASA’s vision is to Integrate, Engage, Motivate, Retain, and Graduate students through academic support and mentoring services.
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative is a state-legislated program that requires students to be assessed in reading, writing, and math skills prior to enrolling in a Texas public institution and to be advised based on that assessment. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has approved the TSI Assessment offered by College Board as the only acceptable assessment instrument for entering students. The assessment or the results of the assessment are not a condition of admission, but a condition of registration to an institution.

WHO HAS TO TAKE A TSI ASSESSMENT?

If you are enrolling as an undergraduate student at a Texas public community college or university, you are required to take the test unless you qualify for an exemption or waiver. Students transferring from an out-of-state or private university, regardless of their undergraduate classification, must also meet this requirement.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE TEST?

All undergraduate students must take the TSI Assessment before enrolling in a public community college or university in Texas. Students are required to take an institution's Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) prior to attempting the TSI Assessment. The PAA will address the following: (1) Importance of assessment in students’ academic career, (2) Assessment process and components, (3) Developmental education options, and (4) Student resources. Information on the PAA can be found online at casa.tamucc.edu under Services and clicking the “Texas Success Initiative” link.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT TAKE THE TEST?

You will be ineligible to register for any college-level classes until you take the test. Incoming freshmen students will not be able to register for orientation unless they qualify for a TSI exemption or have attempted all sections of the TSI assessment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT PASS THE TEST?

You must enroll in appropriate developmental classes. Placement and participation in developmental education is determined on an individual basis for students by the Center for Academic Student Achievement. Students may contact an Intervention Specialist at 825-2977 or go by their office (Glasscock Building, front desk). Students may re-test to meet the TSI standard. Institutions may consider the performance in developmental education, in college-level courses, and on the assessment instrument in determining college readiness.

I AM A SENIOR; DO I HAVE TO PASS THE ASSESSMENT?

If you fail one or more portions of the assessment and have 60 or more cumulative college level hours in the current semester, you may not be permitted to enroll in any senior level courses (4000 level) until you pass the developmental program.

YOU ARE EXEMPT FROM THE TSI IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

- You have an associates/baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- You, on a single test administration of an SAT administered prior to March 2016, have a composite score of 1070 with at least 500 on the Verbal (Critical Reading) and Math sections (excludes writing).
You, on an SAT administered on or after March 5, 2016, have a score of 480 on the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) test and a score of 530 on the mathematics test. (There is no combined score).*

You on a single test administration, have an ACT composite score of 23 with at least 19 on the Math and English sections.*

You have an exit-level TAKS score of 2200 on the Math and a 2200 on the English Language Arts section with a 3 on the Writing subscore.*

You have a minimum score of 2000 (Level 2) on the STAAR English III EOC for reading or writing and a minimum score of 4000 (Level 2) on the STAAR Algebra II EOC.*

You were honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty as a member of the Armed Forces, Texas National Guard, or served as a member of a reserved component of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 1990.

You have met the readiness standard at another Texas public higher education institution.

You are a transfer student from an accredited Texas private institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution with acceptable college-level course work determined by the receiving institution.

(Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi has elected to use the following course work with the grade of A, B, C, or Pass/Credit to meet the following standards: (1) Math readiness standard – College Algebra (MATH 1314) or higher, (2) Reading readiness standard – a three-credit hour course in history, political science/government, economics, philosophy, literature, or Composition I (ENGL 1301) or Composition II (ENGL 1302) and (3) Writing readiness standard – Composition I (ENGL 1301) or Composition II (ENGL 1302).

YOU QUALIFY FOR A WAIVER FROM THE TSI OR PORTION OF THE TSI IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

- You are serving on active duty in the Armed Forces, Texas National Guard, or Reserve Component of Armed Forces and have been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.
- You are a non-degree seeking, visiting student. (You must complete a TSI waiver contract). At the point you become degree-seeking, TSI standards must be met.
- You have successfully completed a college preparatory course under Texas Education Code §28.014 with one of our partnering school districts or institutions of higher education.*

WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM PASSING STANDARDS ON THE TSI ASSESSMENT?

Mathematics - 350; Reading – 351; Writing – a placement score of at least 340, and an essay score of at least 4, or a placement score of less than 340, and an ABE Diagnostic level of at least 4, and an essay score of at least 5.

WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TEST?

Sample questions and test taking tips specific to the TSI Assessment can be found under the Placement Exam link at testing.tamucc.edu.

*SAT, ACT, TAKS, and STAAR EOC scores are valid five years from the date of testing to the first day of enrollment in an accredited Texas public college/university institution. After April 1, 2004, students holding the composite score on the SAT/ACT may be exempt from a portion of the TSI Assessment in the individual area in which they met the required score. For example, a student that holds a 1070 SAT composite on a test administered prior to March 2016 with a 600 on the Verbal (Critical Reading) section and a 470 on the math section will be exempt from the TSI Assessment in both reading and writing. A student holding a 480 on the EBRW SAT test administered after March 2016, will be exempt from both reading and writing. Mixing or combining scores from the SAT administered prior to March 2016 and the SAT administered on or after March 5, 2016 is not allowable. Students with an exit-level TAKS score of 2200 on the math, 2200 on the English Language Arts (ELA), and a 2 on the writing subscore, would be exempt from the TSI Assessment in math only. In order for a student to be exempt from the TSI Assessment in reading and writing with TAKS scores, the student must have both a 2200 on the ELA and a 3 on the writing subscore. Students with the required score on the STAAR Algebra II EOC, but not the STAAR English III EOC, will be exempt from the TSI Assessment in math only.

In regards to the college preparatory course, the waiver is good for a period of two years from the date of high school graduation with respect to the content area of the course.

For questions regarding testing, please contact the Office of Academic Testing at (361) 825-2334 or visit with us in the Student Services Center Room 210.

Revised 7/27/2017
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF
TSI ASSESSMENT SCORES

A Texas public institution has the ability to access student score reports from across all Texas public institutions of higher education and school districts. In order to retrieve those scores, please provide the following information:

PLEASE PRINT:

Institution where the exam was taken:
(If there are multiple locations, please provide the campus location. If taken at a high school, please provide the name of the ISD and high school. Do not use acronyms).

___________________________________________________

First name: __________________________________________

Last name: __________________________________________

Date of birth: ________________________________________

TSIA Student ID:* ____________________________________

*Optional. May be necessary if more than one record is retrieved with the four required pieces of information)

I understand and agree to the following:

I hereby knowingly, freely, and voluntarily waive any right or cause of action arising as a result of the transmission of my test scores from which any liability may or could accrue to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the State of Texas, and any other governmental body, institution of higher education, or corporate entity which was associated with the transmission of the requested information.

Date: ___________________________     Student ID: __________________________

Student’s Name (Please Print): ____________________________________________

Student’s Signature: ______________________________________________________

Please return this form to the Office of Academic Testing
SSC Room 210, 361-825-5506 (fax), or atcweb@tamucc.edu
Texas Success Initiative Retest

Contact Academic Testing Center to schedule an appointment
Website: [http://testing.tamucc.edu](http://testing.tamucc.edu) // Phone: 361.825.2334 // Fax: 361.825.5506

**TSI Study Material:**

- Web-based study app: [https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/login](https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/login)
- Math, Reading, and Writing practice questions: [http://casa.tamucc.edu/assets/tsi/tsi-sample-questions.pdf](http://casa.tamucc.edu/assets/tsi/tsi-sample-questions.pdf)
- All resources/study material found on our website: [http://casa.tamucc.edu/tsi/resources.html](http://casa.tamucc.edu/tsi/resources.html)

**TSI PASSING SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>5 Essay or 4 Essay and 340 Multiple Choice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Study guides available at CASA’s front desk*