Texas Success Initiative Assessment Preparation from Vernon College

In accordance with the Texas Success Initiative Law, Vernon College is providing you the following information before you take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment. We encourage you to read all the information carefully and completely. We also encourage you to attend a New Student Orientation before you take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment so that you will know more about Vernon College and the opportunities we offer as well as more details about the Texas Success Initiative Law.

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment is:

- required by the State of Texas to measure your ability to read, write, and do math at a college level. It is an assessment of your skills in each area
- a multiple choice exam as well as a writing sample
- a computerized test so you will receive your results as soon as you finish
- will provide you a multipage print out so that you can see in what areas you did well and in what areas you did poorly which will require developmental class work

YOU MUST ANSWER YES TO THE FIRST QUESTION OF THE TSI ASSESSMENT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE TEST! THE FIRST QUESTION IS: Were you provided information or an activity to help you understand (1) the importance of this assessment (2) sample questions (3) course options (4) resources for students. The information listed here outlines the importance of the assessment, where to find sample tests, course options, and resources for you. If you have any questions about the information outlined here please contact any Vernon College Student Services Office.

VERNON COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM:

Kristin Harris – Associate Dean of Student Services – kharris@vernoncollege.edu
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Vernon Campus – Counseling Office – Osborne Administration Building or ext 2278
Vernon Campus – Testing Center – Wright Library Building or ext 2317
Wichita Falls- Counseling Office -Century City Center- ext 3206
Wichita Falls- Testing Center – Century City Center – ext 3278
Frequently asked Questions:

**How long is the test?** – The test is untimed and can take anywhere from 1 hour up to 5 hours. **Be sure to schedule the test at a time when you can devote 5 hours to it so you won’t be rushed.** Vernon College encourages you to take the test in sections – reading, writing and math at separate appointments.

**How much does the test cost?** – The test costs $30 for all 3 sections (reading, writing and math) or $10 for each individual section if you take the sections separately.

**Does everyone have to take the test?** – No, in New Student Orientation we explain that there are exemptions to the test. Those exemptions are listed at [http://www.vernoncollege.edu/TSISubjectsHome.aspx](http://www.vernoncollege.edu/TSISubjectsHome.aspx) on our website. If you think you meet one of the exemptions or have a question about an exemption please call Student Services.

**Why are the TSI Assessment results important?** – Your success in college is important to you and to Vernon College. These three areas—reading, writing, and math—are the foundation subjects for all your other coursework. Counselors, Advisors and Instructors will use your test results to place you in classes that match your academic ability.

**Should I take a sample test?** – Yes, we encourage you to take a sample test so that you will feel comfortable when you take the test. A sample test will also show you what areas you are weak in so you will know to study those areas before you take the test.

**Do I need to show proof I have taken a sample test?** – No, you will be asked to sign a pledge stating that you have been provided all this information prior to testing at the Vernon College Testing Center.

**Where can I find a sample test?** – There are actually several sample tests that you can use to practice:

- [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)
- [www.tsipracticetest.com](http://www.tsipracticetest.com)
- [www.mymathtest.com](http://www.mymathtest.com)
- [www.testprepreview.com](http://www.testprepreview.com)
- [www.accuplacerpractice.com](http://www.accuplacerpractice.com)
- [www.math.com](http://www.math.com)
- [www.virtualnerd.com](http://www.virtualnerd.com)
- [http://www.collegeboard.org/texas-sample-questions](http://www.collegeboard.org/texas-sample-questions)

**What if I don’t have a computer or internet at home?** – You can use one of the Vernon College library computer labs to take your sample tests.

**What if I fail the TSI Assessment?** – You can still attend Vernon College! The Texas Success Initiative is a state law that requires that you be enrolled in developmental programs for the area of the test you fail—reading, writing and/or math. These developmental programs are designed to prepare you to take college-level coursework in the future.

**What are developmental programs?** – Developmental programs at Vernon College may include developmental courses, non-course based remediation such as workshops, and/or paired courses that include a college-level course and developmental tutoring.

**How will I know if I pass?** – After you complete your test you will receive a printed report that will let you know if you passed and how you did on each section of the test.
**How will I know what developmental coursework to take?** – After you complete your test you will set an appointment with a Vernon College Counselor. The counselor will review your test scores with you, help you determine your educational goals, identify potential hurdles and support systems for you, and create an educational plan. Each student in developmental coursework will have their own Individual Developmental Plan.

**What is an Individual Developmental Plan?** – An Individual Developmental Plan is designed with a Vernon College Counselor to provide the best opportunity for each student to succeed. The plan will include: career advising, developmental program options, campus and community resource options, a degree plan, your point of contact at Vernon College for regular interaction, registration dates, and your TSI Assessment scores.

**Can I retake the test if I do poorly?** – Yes, you may retake the TSI Assessment at any time. The Vernon College Testing Centers require you to schedule an appointment so please call ahead to arrange a testing time.

**Do I have to retake the entire test or I can I just retake one section?** - You only need to retake the sections that you fail. You do not need to retake any sections of the test once you pass them. You may schedule time to retake 1, 2 or all 3 sections. You must pay the testing fee every time you take the test.

**Are there programs or people to help me study for the test?** –

There are learning tools available from the College Board including an application for smart phones and “my foundations lab” which can provide you specific guidance determined by your initial test results. These products do include a charge that you will have to pay. They are available from the College Board website at [http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students](http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students).

Region IX Service Center in Wichita Falls occasionally offers a study class for the TSI exam. Contact them for dates at (940) 322-6928.

**Are there other community resources that can help me as I start my education?** - Yes! Listed below are some area resources that may be able to help you as you start your education:

- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) - [Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services](https://www.texasrars.org/)
- Workforce Solutions North Texas - [Workforce Solutions - North Texas](https://www.workforcesolutionsnorthtexas.com/)
- Region IX Service Center - [Region 9 ESC](https://www.texasreg9esc.org/)

Preparing For Your Exam

Taking the entrance exam is an important step in your college future. It is important that you do as well as you can on the exam because this exam will determine if you will be placed in college-level courses, or if you will be placed in appropriate developmental classes. Choose wisely when deciding on a testing date. If you are ill, pressed for time, or mentally preoccupied, it may be best to reschedule and test at another time.

PRIOR TO TEST DAY

1. Schedule an appointment in the Testing Center. You may test in Vernon (940-552-6291 ext. 2317) or in Wichita Falls (940-689-3778). The available hours are on the Vernon College website at www.vernoncollege.edu. Click on Inside VC/Services for Students/Testing Center.
2. THE ENTIRE EXAM CAN TAKE AS LONG AS 5 HOURS. When setting your appointment, allow yourself plenty of time to take the test. You do not want to do poorly on the test because you are rushing to finish to be somewhere else.
3. Complete the Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) located on the VC testing webpage. You may do this from your home computer or you may visit the VC Library.
4. Take the sample test located at www.collegeboard.org/texas-sample-questions.
5. After taking the sample test, you may want to review your answers to see what you missed and to assess any weaknesses.
6. Get plenty of sleep the night before the exam.

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

1. Stay focused. You have worked hard to prepare and you want to do well.
2. Make sure you eat before the exam as you won’t be able to concentrate if you are hungry.
3. Wear comfortable clothing and use the restroom before beginning the exam.
4. Arrive on time.
5. Bring your picture identification and the fee. The Testing Administrator will tell you the amount you owe when you make your appointment. If you are paying in cash, bring the exact amount if possible.
6. Know your social security number.
7. Sign the pledge that you have completed the Pre-Assessment Activity (see “Prior to Test Day” #3 above).
8. After checking in, you will be required to turn off your cell phone and put your belongings into a locker. Lock the locker and keep the key with you.
9. Follow all directions given by the Testing Administrator.
10. Quietly enter the testing room and proceed to the computer assigned to you by the Testing Administrator.
11. If you have any questions, please quietly get up and go to the office to speak with the Testing Administrator.

When you are finished with the exam, you may print a copy, then quietly leave the testing area. You may pick up a copy of your scores from the Testing Administrator.