

Vernon College Texas Success Initiative Policies

As mandated by the Texas Success Initiative legislation enacted on August 26, 2013, the following Vernon College Success Initiative Policies manual supersedes all information regarding TSI requirements noted in any Vernon College Catalog or the Vernon College website.

This policy is based upon state legislation enacted by the state of Texas. Vernon College has made a good faith effort to follow the intent of the legislation and will revise this policy manual as stipulated by any updates or clarification notices from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). This manual is produced by the Vernon College Dean of Student Services. The Developmental Plan in Appendix A of this manual is produced by the Vernon College Dean of Instructional Services.

THECB-approved test and passing standards are:

Effective August 26, 2013, the ONLY THECB approved placement test is the Texas Success Initiative Assessment.

The passing scores for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment are:

Reading – 351

Math- 350

Writing – essay score of 5 or an essay score of 4 with a multiple choice score of 363

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Under the Texas Success Initiative law, performance on an assessment test may not be used as a condition for admission into VC. The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Program was created as a measure to help students succeed in college by mandating evaluation of a student's prior knowledge in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Vernon College requires students to meet College Readiness standards in some academic areas as a prerequisite for entry into certain specialized programs. This requirement is limited to highly selective programs for which there is a strong rationale for such prerequisites.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAMS – see CRITERIA FOR MEETING COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS

ADVISEMENT AND ADVISING PROGRAMS – see DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLANS

VC does not allow a new student to register until the student has participated in academic advising. New Student Orientation (NSO) is conducted at scheduled one-hour intervals on specified dates by the VC Counselors on all VC campuses. Returning students may utilize faculty advisors and/or student services advising/counseling staff for advising purposes. Individuals who are COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR may use the Course Schedule Advisor Centers (CSA's) for advising services or their workforce

program advisor/instructor and then register by Campus Connect or in open registration. Students who are seeking waived certificates, have passed all sections of approved assessment tests, and/or meet Success Initiative exemptions are noted as COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR. Returning students who are NOT COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR may submit a completed Trial Schedule each semester to a VC Counselor for signed approval prior to registration. Students who are NOT COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR status may also see VC Counselors on an individual basis by calling the Student Services offices for a scheduled appointment.

ASSESSMENT TESTS – see COLLEGE READINESS STANDARDS

ATTENDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

According to VC’s developmental education plan a student whose performance is below the minimum passing standard set by the Coordinating Board for a tested skill area on the TSI Assessment must continuously participate in a developmental education program until the student is considered COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR in all three academic areas of reading, writing, and math.

“Continuously” means that until the institution certifies that a student has successfully completed developmental education, a student must enroll and participate in at least one developmental program during each semester he/she is enrolled. It is the “best practices” of Vernon College to make every effort for students to enroll each semester in all the developmental classes for each area (reading, writing, and math) that they are deficient in; however, this might not be possible due to scheduling or closed classes.

Each student will be held responsible for his/her classroom attendance. Excessive absenteeism (see course syllabus/outline) in a developmental course/program will result in a student being administratively withdrawn. The grade of “WF” will be awarded for administrative withdrawals.

BLIND STUDENTS – see SPECIAL TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Blind students are required to take the TSI Assessment test with appropriate accommodations. Blind students who seek waived certificates, pass all sections of approved assessment tests, and/or meet Success Initiative exemptions are considered COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR. Accommodations for students with sight disabilities can be made with the Director of Special Services and the Testing Coordinator.

CASUAL ENRICHMENT STUDENTS – see EXEMPTIONS/EXCEPTIONS

The Success Initiative law indicates each institution may exempt a non-degree seeking or non-certificate seeking student from the COLLEGE READINESS requirements. If a student subsequently chooses to seek a degree, all developmental education requirements apply. Casual enrichment students are limited to taking only those college level courses that do not have a COLLEGE READINESS prerequisite associated with them.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS – see EXEMPTIONS/EXCEPTIONS

COLLEGE READINESS requirements do not apply to students enrolled in one-year certificate programs (42 or fewer semester credit hours). Students who enroll outside of their certificate programs must meet prerequisites for each course in which they choose to enroll.

Vernon College requires students to meet specific COLLEGE READINESS standards in some certificate programs as a prerequisite for entry into certain specialized programs.

Moving from Certificate to Certificate

Students may switch from one waived certificate program to another. Students may be concurrently enrolled in more than one waived certificate program at the same time if they declare that intention to VC through the Office of Admissions and Registrar.

Waived Certificate to Degree Seeking

Students who wish to switch from a waived certificate program to a non-waived course of study (transfer curriculum, degree curriculum) must meet the COLLEGE READINESS standards prior to enrollment in any non-waived college coursework, and if necessary, must enroll in developmental coursework and follow all COLLEGE READINESS prerequisites as dictated by assessment test results.

Degree Seeking to Waived Certificate

Students enrolled in mandatory developmental classes with the goal of seeking a degree may drop all mandatory developmental courses only if switching to a certificate program. Students must officially change from degree seeking status to waived certificate status through both the Counseling Office and the Registrar's Office. The remaining course load after the mandatory developmental classes have been dropped must consist of only certificate courses.

COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP) –see CRITERIA FOR MEETING COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS

COLLEGE READINESS

COLLEGE READINESS is a term designated to indicate a student's ability to successfully enroll and progress in first year college-level academic coursework. VC will refer to a student's COLLEGE READINESS status as "CLEAR" (meaning student has passed all three academic skill areas) or "NOT CLEAR" (meaning student has not passed one or all three academic skill areas).

If a student is NOT COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR, he/she must follow a developmental plan, implementing developmental coursework and/or other non-course based programs in which the student enrolls or participates until he/she has met the COLLEGE READINESS standards. If a student is NOT

COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR he/she must submit a completed Trial Schedule to a VC Counselor for signed approval prior to registration.

Being COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR indicates the student may prepare a Trial Schedule each semester without seeing a VC counselor. We encourage students to utilize the CSA centers or workforce advisors and then register by Campus Connect or in open registration. All students are strongly encouraged to consult the current Vernon College Catalog for course descriptions with noted prerequisites. The CSA centers are operated on the Vernon and Century City Campuses. Their dates and hours of operation are listed in the class schedule of the upcoming semester. Any questions about the CSA centers should be directed to the Dean of Instruction.

COLLEGE READINESS STANDARDS

For initial testing purposes Texas institutions of higher education may only use the Texas Success Initiative Assessment. VC will recognize TSI Assessment scores from any accredited Texas institution of high education evaluating COLLEGE READINESS status.

**THECB-approved test and passing standards are:
Effective August 26, 2013, the ONLY THECB approved placement test is the Texas Success Initiative Assessment.**

The passing scores for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment are:

Reading – 351

Math- 350

Writing – essay score of 5 or an essay score of 4 with a multiple choice score of 363

COLLEGE READINESS –WAIVED CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS—see CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT –COLLEGE-LEVEL AND DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES—

Students who are NOT COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR must continuously participate in developmental coursework or VC-sanctioned contracted non-course based developmental programs until they have achieved the COLLEGE READINESS clearance in all three academic areas noted in the Success Initiative law. In addition to the developmental coursework, the student may also be allowed to take college level courses contingent upon course prerequisites. (For example, a student who has not yet passed the reading and writing portions of the an approved assessment test will not be allowed to enroll in ENGL 1301 Composition I because it has a prerequisite of passing both the reading and the writing portions of the COLLEGE READINESS standards. However, a student who has not yet passed the reading and writing portions of the test would be allowed to enroll in COSC 1301 Introduction to Computing because it does not have any COLLEGE READINESS prerequisites related to it.)

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT – HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE – see HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT – MULTIPLE TEXAS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

VC students can be concurrently enrolled in multiple Texas public institutions of higher education. However, VC students must take appropriate developmental courses or participate in other non-coursed based developmental programs through VC. Being concurrently enrolled in another institution's developmental program will not satisfy the VC enrollment requirements for continuous developmental programs.

COST OF THE TEST

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment taken at Vernon College will cost \$30 for all three sections of the test taken together and \$10 for each individual section (reading, writing, or math) taken separately.

CRITERIA FOR MEETING COLLEGE READINESS STANDARDS

Effective Fall 2013, a student may demonstrate college readiness by meeting or exceeding the Board approved single statewide standard set forth in Rule 4.57: Mathematics – 350, Reading – 351, and Writing – Essay score of 5 OR an essay score of 4 with a multiple choice score of 363. With the implementation of the new TSI Assessment on the first day of class of Fall 2013 Texas institutions will no longer have the authority to raise college readiness standards. A student meeting or exceeding the standards must be allowed to enroll in any entry-level course in the applicable subject areas. In addition, students may also demonstrate college readiness through the following approved alternatives set forth in Rule 4.59.

- Successful completion of developmental education courses/interventions, including non course competency based options (NCBO's)
- Successful completion of a college level course accepted by the receiving institution as transfer or dual credit.
- The THECB has defined successful completion as a grade of A,B,C or Pass/Credit.

If a student has Texas public college or university transcripts that show prior completion of courses that are identified to show COLLEGE READINESS:

- The student must provide Vernon College with transcripts from accredited Texas Public Institutions of Higher Education which clearly show coursework and grades.
- The Vernon College Student Services Office and/or Admissions Office will determine if the earned credit will meet the standards below to make the student COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR. A grade of 'C' or better in each identified course will be required for the student to be eligible for this provision.
- For the reading and writing portions of the standard the student must have received credit in one academic transfer course that has a TSI requirement of reading and writing.
- For the math portion of the COLLEGE READINESS standard the student must have received credit in one academic course that has a TSI requirement of math.

Individual College Level Examination Program (CLEP) scores generally will not be considered for evaluation of COLLEGE READINESS as mandated by the Texas Success Initiative. If a student has a

previous college transcript that clearly shows transcribed CLEP credit for one or more of the specific academic courses described above, Vernon College will assess the CLEP scores for COLLEGE READINESS. CLEP tests completed through the Vernon College Testing Center will not be awarded as credit on the student's VC transcript until the student has completed six semester hours at Vernon College. Therefore, CLEP tests taken at Vernon College are not immediately eligible for use as TSI clearance.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs administered through public high schools, with previous college transcripts that show the transcribed credit awarded from these programs, will be considered in the same format as CLEP.

DEAF STUDENTS –see EXEMPTIONS/EXCEPTIONS; SPECIAL TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION – see ATTENDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES; DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN

The Texas Success Initiative mandates that an institution of higher education may refer a student to developmental coursework as considered necessary by the institution to address a student's needs in ensuring COLLEGE READINESS to perform first year college-level academic coursework. An institution of higher education cannot require enrollment in developmental coursework if a student has been previously determined by any institution of higher education to have met COLLEGE READINESS standards.

Vernon College policy stipulates that a student who is not COLLEGE READINESS clear must test a minimum of one time in each area of reading, writing, and mathematics. A student may only retest using the TSI Assessment and student can choose to re-test as many times he/she chooses.

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN (provided by the Office of Instructional Services)

In order to promote student success at Vernon College (VC) and to comply with the mandate of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), VC implemented a Developmental Education Plan. Specific components of the Plan include:

1. Provide for quality and accountability of the Developmental Education Program.
2. Promote improvement in, and the effective delivery of, the Developmental Education Program.
3. Describe the path students must take to meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI).
4. Include advising programs to advise students at every level of undergraduate courses and degree options appropriate for the individual student.
5. Specify when a student shall begin developmental education.
6. Specify what developmental education must be taken.
7. Specify when the student has successfully completed all required developmental work.
8. Include policies to require and monitor students' participation in appropriate developmental education courses and/or other types of programs until such students have fulfilled the requirements of the TSI.
9. Include provisions for transferring students.

10. Include the test instruments and performance levels to be used to assess and place students into a developmental education program or into collegiate-level courses.
11. Include the circumstances under which a student who does not pass all areas of an assessment may, before completing a developmental education program or passing all areas of assessment, enroll in college-level coursework.
12. Include the requirements for student completion of a required developmental program.
13. Include mechanisms and standards to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of the institution's developmental education program.

The complete Vernon College Developmental Education Plan is on file and accessible through the Office of the Dean of Instructional Services in the Osborne Administration Building on the Vernon Campus.

DIAGNOSTICS

Information about the diagnostics of the Texas Success Initiative Assessment can be found on the THECB website or the College Board website.

DISABLED STUDENTS – see SPECIAL TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

DISTANCE LEARNING

The COLLEGE READINESS standards under the Texas Success Initiative law apply to individuals involved in distance learning coursework with VC. Distance Learning at VC includes, but is not limited to Internet courses, Interactive Video classes, and on site (high school learning centers) courses. VC does not offer correspondence courses. The COLLEGE READINESS standards also apply to courses taken through the Virtual College of Texas (VCT), regardless if Vernon College is the host school or provider school. VCT students must meet course prerequisites and mandatory developmental enrollment as stipulated by Vernon College/Texas Success Initiative policies.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES – see HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

EXEMPTIONS / EXCEPTIONS

A new Vernon College student may demonstrate his/her COLLEGE READINESS through THECB-approved testing exemptions. A college student providing official college transcripts indicating TASP/TSI exemption status prior to September 01, 2003, will be considered COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR. If a student is exempt, there is no requirement to enter developmental education or pass an assessment test– even if the student was previously tested and failed one or more portions of an approved THECB assessment test.

Exemptions from taking an entry assessment test include:

- ACT, SAT, or TAKS, STAAR EOC exit level scores that meet THECB standards;
- Student previously graduated with an Associate or Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning;
- Student is enrolling in a certificate program of one year or less;
- Student is serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or Texas National Guard;
- Student is currently serving in a reserve unit of the United States Armed Forces and had served for at least three years in a reserve unit prior to college enrollment;
- Student, who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty in the United States Armed Forces or the Texas National Guard, or as a member of the Reserve units of the United States Armed Forces;
- Student who transfers to a public Texas 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 will be exempt for portions of the TSI law if at Vernon College that coursework would have a prerequisite of reading, writing and/or math. A student may be TSI clear in reading and writing but not clear in math or vice versa.

There may be occasions when a student is erroneously declared exempt. When such an error has been made, institutions must determine the circumstances and take appropriate action. The “once exempt, always exempt” provision is applicable only if the exemption was valid in the first place.

ACT/SAT/TAKS/STAARS EOC

Students who meet the following standards may be exempt from taking an entry assessment test if they have valid ACT, SAT, or TAKS, STAAR EOC scores. It is the student’s responsibility to provide official ACT, SAT, and TAKS, and STAAR EOC scores to VC to qualify for an exemption prior to enrollment in any college-level courses and prior to expiration of those specific scores.

The minimum exemption standards for these tests are:

Name of Test	Composite Score	English/Verbal Scores	Math Scores	Expiration Date (Time limit is set from testing date, not high school graduation date)
SAT	Combined 1070	500 (CR-Critical Reading score)	500	5 years
ACT	Composite 23	19	19	5 years
TAKS Exit Exam taken in 11 th Grade**	N/A	2200 with Writing Composition Sub-score of 3	2200	5 years
STAAR EOC	N/A	Level II (2000 on reading AND writing) on English III EOC exam	Level II (4000) on Algebra II EOC exam	5 years

NOTE: “Residual” ACT and SAT scores are not valid for COLLEGE READINESS standards.

Exemptions based on ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores must be associated with actual enrollment in college. As an open admissions college, VC will accept hand carried score reports when advising for placement into courses. However, the student must provide official scores to VC as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the first semester of enrollment, in order to be officially COLLEGE READINESS cleared. VC will accept ACT and SAT scores that are reported on an official high school or college transcript.

These exemptions are time limited as noted in preceding chart. The time limit begins from initial testing dates, not the student's high school graduation date. Students who are enrolling for the first time in a Texas public institution of higher education after those periods have elapsed will have to meet COLLEGE READINESS standards through assessment testing or by meeting other exemptions previously listed.

Associate or Baccalaureate Degree from an Institution of Higher Learning

Students claiming this exemption must provide **official** transcripts that clearly indicate degree status. As an open admissions college, VC will accept hand carried transcripts when advising for placement into courses. However, the student must provide official scores to VC as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the first semester of enrollment, in order to be officially COLLEGE READINESS cleared.

Certificate Programs of One Year or Less

Students enrolled in VC's Level-One certificate programs (or the Licensed Vocational Nursing certificate program) are exempt from COLLEGE READINESS requirements as long as they remain within the curriculum specified for each certificate program. (Level one certificate programs contain 42 or fewer semester credit hours.)

Active Duty Military – U.S. Armed Forces or Texas National Guard

Students claiming this exemption must provide copies of an approved tuition assistance form from the Base Education Office or a valid military ID card proving current active duty status.

Current Reserve Military – U.S. Armed Forces or Texas National Guard

Students claiming this exemption must provide copies of a valid military ID card proving current status. Students will also be required to provide VC with official verification of reserve status at least three years prior to college enrollment.

Honorably Discharged, Retired, or Released Active Duty Military, Reserve Military, and Texas National Guard, On or After August 1, 1990

Students claiming this exemption must provide copies of his/her DD214 form for the U.S. Armed Forces or the NGB 295 form for the Texas National Guard.

PLEASE NOTE: THE VC OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT ALTERNATE FORMS OF PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE.

Transfer Students from an Accredited Private or Independent Institutions of Higher Education or Accredited Out-of-State Institutions of Higher Education

Student who transfers to a public Texas 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 will be exempt for portions of the TSI law if at Vernon College that coursework would have a prerequisite of reading, writing and/or math. A student may be TSI clear in reading and writing but not clear in math or vice versa.

Students claiming this exemption must provide **official** transcripts that clearly indicate completed coursework. As an open admissions college, VC will accept hand carried transcripts when advising for placement into courses. However, the student must provide official transcripts to VC as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the first semester of enrollment, in order to be officially COLLEGE READINESS cleared.

EXPIRATION OF THECB-APPROVED ASSESSMENT TEST SCORES

Any student who has achieved the minimum passing standards of a THECB-approved assessment test prior to August 26, 2013, or the Texas Success Initiative Assessment after August 26, 2013, will be noted as COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR **provided** the student is enrolling or has enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning no later than five years from the date the test is taken and the set score level is achieved. A student who is enrolling for the first time in a public institution of higher education after the five-year period has elapsed must comply with all Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and COLLEGE READINESS provisions. The five-year period will begin on the date when the minimum passing standard is achieved on each test section.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school students who wish to enroll in college-level courses are subject to COLLEGE READINESS requirements as follows:

- High school students are eligible for authorized exemptions to COLLEGE READINESS requirements.
- High school students who do not meet the criteria for COLLEGE READINESS exemptions and plan to enroll in dual credit courses or are concurrently enrolled must take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment for COLLEGE READINESS purposes prior to enrolling in college-level coursework.
- High school students who do not meet all COLLEGE READINESS standards are not required to take developmental classes while in high school. However, the student cannot enroll in college-level classes related to the portions of the assessment test that have not been passed.
- The current Vernon College Catalog stipulates enrollment and admissions standards for concurrently enrolled high school students who wish to take waived certificate courses.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS – see UNACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL OR HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

HOW MANY TIMES CAN THE TEST BE TAKEN

There is no limit on the number of times or time limit when a student can take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN

Every student who fails to meet the minimum passing standards for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment will develop a plan with the Vernon College Counselor which shall include:

- Career advising
- Course based and non course based remediation
- Campus and/or community resources
- Degree plan or plan of study
- Regular interactions between the student and designated point of contact
- Registration and next steps
- Differentiated placement

This plan will outline the appropriate measures and steps to determine COLLEGE READINESS for each student.

INITIAL TESTING – see DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AND HOW MANY TIMES CAN THE TEST BE TAKEN

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING

Each institution of higher education shall report annually to the THECB on the success of its students and the effectiveness of its Texas Success Initiative Plan. The THECB shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Texas Success Initiative on a statewide basis and with respect to each institution of higher education.

VC will adhere to designated THECB reporting requirements by including in its report the students' grades in developmental courses and non-coursed based developmental programs as well as the initial college courses taken after completion of the students' Individual Developmental Plans.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)PROGRAMS – see CRITERIA FOR MEETING COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS

INTERNET COURSES – see DISTANCE LEARNING

NON-COURSE-BASED DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION – see DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) stipulates that each institution of higher education will develop non-course based programs in addition to developmental coursework. Please refer to the Developmental Education Plan in the Office of the Dean of Instruction for specific information on non-course based developmental programs. VC reserves the right to modify the VC Developmental Plan at any time.

PRE-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Mandatory Pre-Assessment Activity

Students must participate in a Pre-Assessment Activity before taking the TSI Assessment. Colleges or universities are required to provide the Pre-Assessment Activity and to document students' participation. Students will not be allowed to take the TSI Assessment until they have completed the Pre-Assessment activity.

The activity includes the following:

- An explanation of the importance of the TSI Assessment
- Practice test questions and feedback
- An explanation of all of the developmental education options available to students who don't meet the minimum passing standard
- Information on campus and community resources that will help students to succeed in college

Students should take advantage of free sample questions that are designed to familiarize them with the types of questions asked on the TSI Assessment. To access the full sample questions document visit: <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-sample-questions.pdf>

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites for each VC course are listed in the current VC catalog along with each course description.

PRIVATE/OUT-OF-STATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - see HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

REPORTING– see INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING

SPECIAL TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Special Accommodations for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment test are made through Vernon College. All questions or requests should be directed to the Director of Special Services. Students should be prepared to provide documentation of disabilities and needs. The Texas Success Initiative Assessment is an untimed test. All testing accommodations are arranged with the Testing Coordinator by the Director of Special Services.

TESTING STANDARDS FOR COLLEGE READINESS

THECB-approved test and passing standards are:

Effective August 26, 2013, the ONLY THECB approved placement test is the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA).

The passing scores for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment are:

Reading – 351

Math- 350

Writing – essay score of 5 or an essay score of 4 with a multiple choice score of 363

TESTING INFORMATION

Information will be printed annually in the VC catalog relating to the testing and developmental requirements of the Texas Success Initiative Program and the rules adopted by the THECB. This information will also be published on the Vernon College website as to allow more timely publication of rule changes or additional information.

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) POLICY MANUAL

The Vernon College Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Policy Manual provides information on Vernon College institution specific policy regarding the state law.

TEST ADMINISTRATION

Texas Success Initiative Assessment test scores become permanent once the student enrolls in college and is entered on the student's official college transcript. A student is not required to complete a course; he/she must only stay enrolled past the official count day and can receive a "W." The test scores will then be permanent on the transcript.

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) PROGRAM

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is mandated by the Texas State Legislature effective September 1, 2003, and then updated August 26, 2013. The program is set up to assess a student's COLLEGE READINESS for first year college-level academic courses. It requires an assessment of the student's basic academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, and math. The TSI law also requires that each Texas college or university provides pre-assessment activities, testing, academic advising and individual developmental plans for students who have not reached COLLEGE READINESS level. Each institution of higher education will implement developmental coursework and/or other non-course based programs in which the student enrolls or participates until he/she has met the COLLEGE READINESS standards.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD (THECB)

The THECB is a statewide board consisting of nine members appointed by the Texas Governor who represents as the highest authority in the State of Texas in matters of public higher education and is charged with the duty to take an active part in promoting quality education in the various regions of the state.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts must indicate a student's progression and completion of the Success Initiative Plan. VC will note this on a student's VC transcripts by recording COLLEGE READINESS CLEAR or COLLEGE READINESS NOT CLEAR. After the student has completed his/her developmental plan in each designated academic area, the transcript will be marked as "TSI COMPLETE".

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student who transfers from another college or university must either take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment or provide official transcripts to be evaluated for appropriate placement into academic courses.

UNACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL OR HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

Students who complete a home study program or graduate from an unaccredited high school will be considered for unconditional admission to a degree program if their ACT or SAT scores meet the COLLEGE READINESS exemption standards or they have passed the Texas Success Initiative Assessment in all three areas of reading, writing and math.

VIRTUAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS (VCT) – see DISTANCE LEARNING

WITHDRAWING FROM DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION—see DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN