

# TSIA – what is it?

TSIA – Texas Success Initiative Assessment is the college placement exam that the state of Texas decided to use as of Fall 2013.



**Coastal Bend**  
COLLEGE

# Do you need to take the TSIA?

- If you are not sure if you need to take the TSIA – look at the following links to see if you would be considered TSIA exempt based upon other exams that you may have taken.
- [TSI/Exemptions](#)

# What to do before taking the TSIA

- 1. If you will be a CBC student – you will need to fill out and submit your CBC Application Form – [http://coastalbend.edu/admissions\\_application/](http://coastalbend.edu/admissions_application/)  
After you submit the form, your CBC ID# will be e-mailed to you. This takes just a few minutes. You will need this ID# for the exam.
- If you will not be a CBC student – you do not have to fill out the CBC Application form.

- 2. Make your reservation to take the TSIA. TSI Bootcamp participants will need to register with the Continuing Education department – <http://www.coastalbend.edu/ce/> and then fill out and submit the online testing contract - <http://www.coastalbend.edu/tsibootcampcontract/>

- For those who will be taking their TSIA at a CBC location and not through the TSI Bootcamp – they will need to pay the TSIA fee - \$10 per section for non dual-enrolled students / \$5.00 per section for dual-enrolled students (fees subject to change) - at the site and fill out and sign the [College Placement Testing Contract](#) and then schedule their appointment – based upon that site’s schedule. Go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/collegeplacement/> and click on the site that you want to test with – upper left side of the screen to see the TSIA schedules for each of our CBC sites.

## **The TSIA Contract informs the individual about the mandatory “Pre-Assessment Activity” which consists of the following:**

- **(1) the importance of this assessment,** [Based upon your scores on the TSIA – this will decide whether you are eligible for a college level course or if you will need to take a developmental or preparation course – which will not give you college credit. A developmental course will help you build your skills so that you will eventually be able to take a college level course. These courses give you a foundation in the subject area that you need preparation in. The TSIA exam is very important and we want you to do as well as you possibly can.]

# “Pre-Assessment Activity” continued

- **2) sample questions**, [go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/tsiresource/> for sample questions and other resources to help you prepare for the TSI Assessment]
- **3) course options**, and [Coastal Bend College offers various course options: NCBO - Non-Course Based course - which is a non-semester length course delivered in an intense workshop setting, Integrated Course - which is a course that integrates two areas - such as Reading and Writing together so that a student gets two courses for the time and price of one course, Lecture courses (class-room style course with instructor – face-to-face); Distance Learning courses (class-room setting, but video cameras and microphones link you to other sites with other students. The instructor may move around from site-to-site to have face time with each area); Internet courses (do your course work from home, but some courses may have you take a proctored exam at a CBC site); Accelerated Learning Academy courses (go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/ala/> )]

# “Pre-Assessment Activity” continued

- **(4) resources for students. Services available for students at CBC**

Tutoring Go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/tutoring/>

Financial Aid Go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/FinAid/>

Title V – Laptop Computer/Calculator Loan program Go to:

[http://www.coastalbend.edu/tech\\_request/](http://www.coastalbend.edu/tech_request/) Library Go to:

<http://lrc.coastalbend.edu/>

Student Development Advisors Go to:

<http://www.coastalbend.edu/Counseling/>

Testing Go to: <http://www.coastalbend.edu/testing/>

Disability Services Go to:

<http://www.coastalbend.edu/specialneeds/>

Housing/Student Activities Go to:

<http://www.coastalbend.edu/StudentLife/>



# Preparing for the TSIA

- *It is highly recommended that the individual does inter-active study using PLATO – which is free for prospective CBC students – or the individual can watch the free videos from the Mometrix Test Preparation site and take practice exams.*
- Go to the following site -  
<http://www.coastalbend.edu/tsiresource/>

- *It is best for an individual to practice before the exam so that they will be more comfortable and less anxious when they come in for testing. By going through the practice exams and tutorials they will have an idea of the types of questions which may be on the exam.*



# What's on the TSIA?

- *The TSIA covers Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The exam is not timed. Each section can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours for an individual to complete.*
- *There will be 20 – 30 college placement questions for each subject. If you are not at a college level in the subject you will have additional diagnostic questions, approximately 20 to 100 more questions. So it's very important that you don't rush through the exam, but take your time. These questions will show you your strengths and weakness on your score report. This way you will have an idea of what you need to study before re-testing.*

# What you need to have with you on test day:

- Bring your Photo ID – this can be your Texas ID card, Driver’s license, Passport, Military ID, high school ID card, or a school annual. It must have your photo and name on the ID.
- *You must use your legal name for the exam. You may not use your nickname.*
- *The name on your official government-issued document –is the name that you will use for testing.*
- *You will sign-in on a sheet and then the Proctor will compare your signature to the signature on your Photo*

- Know your CBC ID# if you will be a Coastal Bend College student. If you will not be a CBC student – then bring your social security number to use for testing.
- *Please be careful when entering your Student ID# - if you will be a Coastal Bend College student – we ask that you enter your Coastal Bend College ID# in that field – no spaces or dashes between the numbers. If at a later time you request your TSIA scores – we will search for your records based upon the number you enter in the Student ID# field.*
- *If you will not be a CBC student – then you may use your social security number.*

# No personal items allowed with you during the exam

- If you bring in any personal items – cell phones, electronics, books, etc... be aware that you must turn all electronics off and leave them in a designated area while you test.
- You are not allowed to have your items by your computer while testing.

# Starting the exam

- After the proctor logs you in to the exam site – they will select which area/(s) of the exam that you will be taking.
- The proctor will read a script and direct you on the procedures for testing.
- Then you will enter your student information on a couple of screens before you start 15 background questions.
- *The first background question asks if you were told about the (1) importance of the exam (2) sample questions (3) course options (4) resources. If you answer no this first question – the exam will stop and you won't be able to test. **So remember to answer "Yes" to the first question.** Then you will complete 14 additional survey questions before the exam will start.*

# During the exam

- *There will be 20 – 30 college placement questions for each subject. If you are not at a college level in the subject you will have additional diagnostic questions, approximately 20 to 100 more questions. So it's very important that you don't rush through the exam, but take your time. These questions will show you where your strengths and weakness and will show on your report. This way you will have an idea of what you need to study before re-testing.*



# The Mathematics exam

- *No hand held calculators are allowed during the exam. In the exam you will see a calculator icon for certain math questions – you may click on the calculator icon and use the calculator function on those questions only. If you do not see the calculator icon – then you will use the scratch paper and pencil which is provided for you to work the problems.*

# Completing the exam

- *At the completion of the exam you will remain seated and raise your hand and the Proctor will collect your scratch paper and print your score report.*
- *It's best for an individual to complete the TSIA by the end of the week that they start the exam – since the Exam Platform has updates installed during the weekend and there is a possibility that an exam not completed before the weekend could be lost during the major updates.*

# Score Report

- To be at college level your goal is to have the following scores in each area:
- Reading – 351 or higher
- Writing – 363 or higher on the multiple-choice area with a 4 on the essay. OR an essay score of 5 or higher – which will automatically make you eligible for college level English.
- Mathematics – 350 or higher

- *The highest score you can make on the multiple choice area of each exam is 390. The highest essay score you can achieve is an 8.*

*Based upon the scores you earn, you will know whether you are ready to register for a college-level course or if you need to take a developmental course – which is a course that gets you ready for a college-level course.*

**If you have questions about this presentation– please call the Testing Department at (361) 354-2334.**

**Presentation created by: Roberta Kreis – Testing Coordinator - 3/8/16**