

Texas Success Initiative

2005 - 2006

Blinn College

Brenham
Bryan
Schulenburg
Sealy

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I. Purpose of the Texas Success Initiative

The Texas Success Initiative is a means of assuring that students receive accurate assessment, advisement and course placement at Blinn College by assessing a student's readiness for certain college-level courses. It is designed to promote student success in college by providing early academic support for students entering the institution with skill deficiencies in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

II. Assessment

A. Initial Testing

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College under any admissions entrance category must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework (see Section V-C.). Blinn College must have the assessment test scores in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

B. Instruments

Blinn College accepts the following testing instruments for Texas Success Initiative compliance: Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA), THEA Quick Test (QT), ASSET, COMPASS, and ACCUPLACER. Test scores are accepted as official scores when the scores are (a) on the official testing score report; (b) received from NES; (c) on an official transcript or an addendum to the transcript; or (d) on a letter from the institution's registrar, on letterhead, with the signature, raised seal, and the words "official seal" printed on the letter. Faxes will not be accepted.

Blinn gives the THEA and THEA QT test. Under some circumstances, Blinn also gives the Compass, Accuplacer, and Asset tests. Any approved test is accepted.

C. Testing Administration

Blinn College, Brenham Campus, is a state location for the THEA Test. The THEA Test Registration Bulletin provides the dates, test costs, and deadlines for the testing dates. Blinn also offers the THEA Quick Test. Testing dates and times, registration information, campus location, and cost of the test are provided to students from the Blinn College website: www.blinn.edu, by clicking on Testing Dates under the "Quicklinks" menu.

D. Minimum Passing Standards

The following minimum passing standards are used by Blinn College (approved by the THECB) to determine a student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework:

1. ASSET

Reading skills – 41

Elementary Algebra – 38

Writing Skills (objective) – 40

(Blinn requires a 48 or better on the Elem. Algebra test to place directly into College Algebra)

Written Essay – 6.

2. COMPASS

Reading Skills – 81

Algebra – 39

(Blinn requires a 70 or better on the Algebra test to place directly into College Algebra)

Writing Skills (objective) – 59

Written Essay – 6

3. ACCUPLACER

Reading Comprehension – 78

Elementary Algebra – 63

(Blinn requires an 86 or better on the Elem. Algebra test to place directly into College Algebra)

Sentence Skills – 80

Written Essay – 6.

4. THEA

Reading – 230

Mathematics – 230

(Blinn requires a Math score of 270 to place directly into College Algebra)

Writing – 220

Essay – 5.

E. Exemptions

Students are exempt from taking a state assessment test if any one of the following conditions applies. Official documentation in the form of official transcripts sent directly to Blinn College or a score report sent directly from the testing agency to Blinn College must be provided for the exemption to be accepted. Blinn College may also require a placement test be taken by the student for certain exemptions.

1. SAT / ACT

For a period of five (5) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs at or above the following standards:

- a. American College Test (ACT): minimum composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and mathematics tests (scores must be from the same test date).
- b. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT): a combined minimum verbal and math score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and the mathematics tests (scores must be from the same test date).

2. Partial SAT / Partial ACT

For those students who have taken the ACT or SAT test, a partial exemption may be granted if a student meets the composite score requirement, but does not meet both of the individual exemption score requirements:

- a. ACT Test: If a student has a minimum composite score of 23 and has a score of at least 19 on either the verbal or the mathematics test but not both, the student will be considered exempt on the section in which a 19 was scored.
- b. SAT Test: If a student has a minimum composite score of 1070 and has a score of at least 500 on either the verbal or the mathematics test but not both, the student will be considered exempt on the section in which a 500 or higher was scored.

3. TAKS

Students may be exempt from taking a state assessment if they have the following scores on their *Exit Level* TAKS test. Minimum TAKS exemption scores are:

- Math Exemption - Math: 2200 (2400 or greater to take MATH1314)
- Writing Exemption - English/Language Arts: 2200 with a 3 on the essay.
- Reading Exemption - English/Language Arts: 2200 with a 3 on the essay.

Partial exemptions are allowed for students meeting the minimum score in any one of the areas.

4. TAAS

For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) with a minimum scale score of 1770 on the writing test, a Texas Learning Index (TLI) of 86 on the mathematics test and a score of 89 on the reading test (scores must be from the same test date).

5. Degree from a Texas public institution

A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from a Texas public institution of higher education is considered TSI exempt in all areas.

6. Transfer from private or out-of-state college with a related-academic course

A student who transfers to Blinn College from a private institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education and have taken courses corresponding to the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements and earned a grade of "C" or higher in each of the three skill areas. These courses must have course numbers corresponding to courses transferring to Blinn College. The student must test in those areas in which he does not have a "C" or higher in a related academic course.

7. Transfer from another Texas public college

A student who has previously attended another public college in Texas and has been determined to have met TSI standards by that institution.

8. Certificate students

A student who has enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-one certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) at a public junior college, a public technical institution, or a public state college. Blinn College requires the THEA or QT as a placement test for all certificate students.

9. Active duty military

A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment. (A copy of your military ID card must be submitted to the admissions office.)

10. Retired military

A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active military duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

III. Admissions Requirements

Blinn College is an open-admissions college. However, there are requirements that are needed depending upon the student's background. The admissions requirements for the different types of students are as follows. Students who are academically under-prepared may be required to enroll in developmental courses in accordance with the state Success Initiative rules and regulations.

A. High School Graduates

This section includes students with less than twelve hours of transferable college credit.

Any student that has graduated from a state accredited high school is eligible to apply for admission to Blinn College. The following documents are required for admission:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. A completed official copy of the high school transcript showing the last year's grades and date of graduation.
3. Official THEA, approved placement test, or exemption test scores and documentation. (For those students transferring to Blinn College with less than twelve hours of transferable college credit, an official transcript from the accredited college is required.)
4. Advising form

B. Transfer or co-enrolled students

This section only includes those students with more than twelve hours of transferable college work.

Students transferring to Blinn College from an accredited college or university must supply Blinn College with official transcripts from each college or university attended. Only credits from accredited colleges or universities are accepted. The following documents are required for admission:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. An official transcript from all colleges attended.
3. Official THEA, other approved placement tests, or official exemption documentation
4. Advising form

C. Students who have completed the General Educational Development (GED) test

Students who have completed the GED test are eligible for admittance to Blinn College. The following documents are required for admission:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. GED certificate with official scores and completion date.
3. Official THEA, other approved placement tests, or exemption test scores and documentation
4. Advising form

D. Students who are reentering Blinn College after not being enrolled for more than one long semester

Any student who has previously attended Blinn College but has been away for more than one long (fall or spring) semester and has not attended another college or university since last attending Blinn College is eligible for readmission. The documents needed are:

1. Updated and completed paper application or updated and submitted electronic application. (A new application has to be submitted even if nothing has changed to comply with state residency requirements.)
2. Official THEA, other approved placement tests, or exemption test scores and documentation
3. Advising form

E. High School students enrolling in a Dual Credit program

High school students may attend Blinn College beginning the summer following their sophomore year in high school. Students are limited to two (2) college credit courses during each semester. Students seeking admission under this provision are required by state law to have passed the section(s) of the THEA, TAKS, or other approved placement test, which directly relates to the course(s) for which they want to register OR satisfy exemption criteria as exhibited by ACT, SAT, or TAAS scores. Scores/exemptions must be furnished on an official document at the time of registration by the high school or the student. A placement test of the THEA or other approved placement test will be required if exit-level TAKS scores are not available or not high enough to be exempt. The student will bear the cost of this test. SAT and/or ACT scores can also be used for placement for those students exempt based on TAKS scores if the scores are at or above the level to make the student “college-ready” in that area.

(Students wishing to continue enrollment at Blinn College following their high school graduation are required to submit a final copy of their high school transcript showing the student’s high school graduation date.)

Required documents for admission are:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. Written permission for the high school principal
3. A “B” or better average in high school work
4. An official high school transcript indicating course work completed up to the time of enrollment in Blinn College.
5. Advising form

F. Graduates of a Home School or a Non-Accredited High School

Any student who has completed a home school program or has graduated from a non-accredited high school is eligible to apply for admission to attend Blinn College. Home School graduates with a transcript are under the requirements of a high school student. If they do not have a transcript, the student is under the requirements of individual approval students.

The following documents are required for admission:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application

2. Official THEA, other approved placement test, or exemption test scores and documentation
3. A completed copy of the student's transcript signed and notarized by the principal or head of instruction, showing the last semester's grades and date of graduation
4. Advising form
5. For those students who are seeking Title IV Financial Aid, a Department of Education Ability-to-Benefit test may be required.

G. Students without a high school diploma or GED certificate

Any person who has not graduated from high school and who has not received a GED certificate may enroll in Blinn with the approval of the Registrar or the Director of Admissions. The following documents are required for admission:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. Official THEA, other approved placement test, or exemption test scores and documentation
3. Advising form
4. For those students who are seeking Title IV Financial Aid, a Department of Education Ability-to-Benefit test may be required.

For those students under the age of eighteen (18) years of age:

5. A copy of the student's transcript signed and notarized by the principal or head of instruction, showing the last semester's grades
6. Students are limited to two (2) college credit courses during each semester.

H. Students enrolling in a certificate program

Any person seeking a technical certificate is eligible to attend Blinn College. These students are exempt from Success Initiative testing requirements as long as the student enrolls in the courses within the certificate program(s) as outlined in this bulletin. However, first-time-in certificate students will be required to meet the take the THEA, ASSET, Accuplacer, or COMPASS test for placement unless their SAT, ACT, or TAKS scores are greater than the "college-ready" level. The student will bear the cost of this test. Continuing certificate students will be exempt from this requirement. New students will not be allowed to register for classes until this requirement has been met. For those persons seeking certificates that are less than forty-two credit hours, the admissions requirements are:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. Placement test scores
3. Advising form
4. Success Initiative documentation

I. Students who are non-degree or non-certificate students

Any person that is not intending to seek a degree or a certificate nor plan to transfer to another college or university is eligible to attend Blinn College. Students being admitted under this method may not take more than two (2) courses during each semester. The following admissions items are required:

1. Completed and signed paper application or submitted electronic application
2. Proof of successful completion of one of the following conditions:

- i. Graduation from a state accredited United States high school
- ii. Successful completion of the GED test
- iii. Graduation from a non-accredited high school or from a home-schooled program
- iv. Has been out of high school for a period of five or more years
- 3. Official THEA, other approved placement test, or exemption test scores and documentation
- 4. Advising form

J. International Students

The following requirements apply to students who are not U.S. citizens:

For those students who are not U.S. citizens, the following requirements are necessary for admission to Blinn College:

1. Legal Immigrants
 - i. Submit a certified copy of I-551
 - ii. Alien Registration Receipt Card or permanent residence card
 - iii. Meet the same requirements as a U.S. citizen depending on the category of admission
2. Immigration Status Pending
 - i. If married to a U.S. citizen, submit a certified copy of marriage certificate
 - ii. Evidence that petition to change status has been filed with Immigration and Naturalization Service
 - iii. Meet international admission requirements (below) until status change is approved and I-551 is issued.
3. Nonimmigrant Aliens
 - i. The following requirements apply to all applicants holding visa category A-L issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and to all non-citizen applicants who do not qualify for admission as Immigrants or Refugees:
 1. Application for admission showing intended major and campus selection.
 2. Nonrefundable \$200.00 international student application fee.
 3. Financial statement from bank or government official documenting source of adequate funds.
 4. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with minimum score of 500. TOEFL may be required regardless of prior enrollment in U.S. high school or college.
 5. Academic background:
 - a. Entering freshman: Certified English translation of high school transcript showing completion of secondary school.
 - b. Transfer from foreign college: Certified English translation of transcript and/or syllabi reflecting source work and/or program completed at college or university outside the United States. Grades received must reflect satisfactory performance.
 6. Official THEA or other approved placement test scores or official exemption documentation
 - ii. Transfer from U.S. college or university:

1. Official transcript from each college or university attended; cumulative GPA must be at least 2.0.
2. Foreign student advisors report and a copy of current I-20.
3. Compliance with all requirements and procedures established for visa category by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
4. Copy of passport and I-94 card.
5. Application and all documents must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to registration.

No admission decision can be made or an I-20 issued until official transcripts from all colleges attended have been received by the Foreign Student Office at Blinn College.

International students who are in the United States on student visas, but who have not attended the college from which they received their initial I-20, will not be considered for admission to Blinn College until they have been enrolled at the college issuing the initial I-20 for at least one semester as full-time students (12 or more hours). International students must enroll in and maintain 12 semester hours during fall and spring semesters. Blinn College does not accept foreign credentials from any college/university which is not accredited by a United States regional accrediting agency.

IV. Testing Requirements

Blinn College must assess, by an instrument approved in Section 4.56 of the Texas Success Initiative, the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student prior to enrollment of the student. Under exceptional circumstances, Blinn may permit a student to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework without assessment but shall require the student to be assessed not later than the end of the first semester of enrollment in freshman-level academic coursework. Blinn College requires all students to be assessed prior to registering for classes. The following student categories are required to take a placement test prior to registering at Blinn College: certificate students, exceptional circumstance students, non-degree seeking students, and dual credit/early admission students using TAKS scores as an exemption without appropriate SAT/ACT scores.

A. High School Graduates

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College as a high school graduate must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework. Blinn College must have the assessment test scores or exemptions in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

B. Students transferring from an accredited college or university or are concurrently enrolled in an accredited college

If a student transfers to Blinn College from a Texas public, private in-state institution or an out-of-state institution and has not passed a section of the state assessment test or other approved placement test, but has taken one of the related academic courses and passed it with a grade of "C" or better, the student will be

considered “College-ready” in the related failed section. Students who have met at least one area as “College-ready” can enroll in classes in that area, in other academic areas that do not require TSI completeness, or the lowest-level development course in the area in which the student is not “College-ready”. The student cannot enroll in college level courses in the not-ready area until the student has taken the state assessment test or approved alternate test.

The student will need to be advised by a counselor for his/her next step in the Success Initiative sequence.

“College Ready” status for certain courses that have related academic courses as prerequisites can be used on a case-by-case basis. Example: PSYC 2308 has PSYC 2301 as pre-requisite.

If a student transfers to Blinn College from a Texas public or private institution and has not passed a section of the state assessment test or other approved placement test, and has taken developmental courses in that area, Blinn College will accept the course as the equivalent developmental course. The student will need to be advised by a counselor for his/her next step in the Texas Success Initiative sequence.

A student who transfers to a Texas public institution from a private or out-of-state institution may use transferred coursework, which are given common course numbers corresponding to Blinn’s approved related academic courses, to satisfy Texas Success Initiative requirements. If the student has taken a related academic course and made a grade of “C” or better, the student is “College-Ready” in that area.

The student must make a grade of “C” or better in the transferring course to be marked “college ready”. If the student makes a “D” the student must take the appropriate section of the THEA or QT Test.

If the student has not taken a related academic course in a specific section, the student must be tested for the remaining skill area(s) and must comply with all other Blinn College Texas Success Initiative requirements.

If the student has not taken THEA and has made a grade of “D” in a related academic course, such as ENGL 1301, MATH 1314, etc. the student will be required to take THEA, Compass or ASSET before going on to the additional classes. If the student is registered for the related academic course before testing, he/she must drop the course and must take the test before he/she can proceed.

A student who transfers from a Texas public institution and his/her official transcript states “College-ready” in the reading, writing, and/or math sections will be allowed to continue in “College-ready” courses.

C. Students who have completed the General Education Development test

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College as a student who has completed the General Education Development test must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework. Blinn College must have the

assessment test scores or exemptions in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

D. Students who are reentering Blinn College after not being enrolled for more than one long semester

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who re-enters Blinn College after not attending for more than one long semester must meet the testing requirements as specified by the current semester (as opposed to when the student initially enrolled). Blinn College must have the assessment test scores in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

E. High school students enrolling in a Dual Credit program

A high school junior or senior may attend Blinn College during the summer following his/her sophomore or junior year or during his/her junior or senior year on a part-time basis. Students seeking admissions under this provision are required to have passed the section(s) of the state approved assessment test(s) which directly relate to the course(s) for which they register or satisfy exemption criteria as exhibited by ACT, SAT, TAAS, or TAKS scores. The scores must be at or above the level to make the student "college-ready" in the area in which the dual credit course will be taken. Blinn College offers the THEA, Compass, and Accuplacer tests for a fee. Students must contact the Counseling Office on the campus they plan to attend to register for any of these tests. The student will bear the cost of the test.

Students can also use their ACT and SAT scores by subject score only to be college-ready. For SAT, the composite score of 1070 must be met first, and then a minimum of 500 on either the math or verbal section can be used for college-readiness. The score and composite must be from the same test date. For ACT, the composite score of 23 must be met first, and then a minimum of 19 on either the math or verbal section can be used for college-readiness. The score and composite must be from the same test date. The verbal section on ACT or SAT satisfied both the reading and writing sections of assessment.

F. Graduates of a Home School or non-accredited high school

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College as a high school graduate from a Home School or non-accredited high school must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework. Blinn College must have the assessment test scores or exemptions in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

G. Students without a high school diploma or GED certificate

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College without a high school diploma or GED certificate must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework. Blinn College must have the assessment test scores or exemptions in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

H. Certificate Students

A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent) at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college is waived from taking a state assessment test. However, students at Blinn College entering a certificate program are required to take a placement test (THEA or other approved placement test) prior to registering for classes. Students enrolling in a certificate program must be advised by a technical advisor prior to registering. The student will be advised into suggested developmental courses, if applicable. The student is required to take courses within the certificate program; however, if the student wants to register for courses outside the certificate program, the pre-requisite program will be used for any related academic courses in relation to reading, writing, and math sections of the assessment tests. The student will bear the cost of the placement test.

Certificate students who took the local placement test without the essay section and then took THEA, should use the THEA scores over the placement scores.

Certificate students must take a test for TSI purposes prior to registration. Blinn uses the scores for placement to determine if developmental courses are pre-reqs or co-requisites for some technical courses.

I. Non-degree Seeking Students/Casual Students

Non-degree seeking and casual students are not exempt at Blinn College. These students will be limited to registering for two courses each fall and spring terms, and one course each summer session. Students at Blinn College entering as a non-degree seeking or casual student are required to take a placement test (THEA or other approved placement test) prior to registering for classes. The student will bear the cost of the test.

J. International Students

Each undergraduate student, unless otherwise exempt, who enters Blinn College as an International student must be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics prior to enrolling in any academic or technical college-level coursework. Blinn College must have the assessment test scores or exemptions in the student's computer file prior to being cleared for advisement and registration.

K. Exceptional Circumstances Students

Students who have not been tested after all reasonable testing opportunities have passed will be advised into the lowest level developmental courses or non-related academic courses for the first semester at Blinn College. This student does not have any previous coursework at Blinn College. This category is used after the THEA Quick Test is given on each campus. At that time students will be directed to take the COMPASS or Accuplacer test on one of Blinn's campuses. The student will bear the cost of this test. Any student needing testing accommodations will be given the exceptional circumstance code for one semester, and directed to the next THEA Test administration in Austin, Texas for appropriate accommodations.

Students missing the last available THEA or THEA QT (whichever comes last) will be required to take the COMPASS or Accuplacer test prior to registration. Students will not be allowed to enroll without some type of test scores.

V. Advisement and Developmental Education

Students who are new to Blinn College and have passed or are exempt from the state assessment test will have the option of being advised or signing an individualized degree audit. All students who have not passed a section(s) of state assessment test are required to be academically advised every semester prior to registering for courses.

A. Advising Requirements

The Student Data Form (SDF) has all advising information listed for the student. Students should not be advised without appropriate test scores. For those students with test scores but without an updated SDF, the student should be advised based on those scores, then sent to the TSI Coordinator for current information to be entered.

As assessment scores or other approved placement test scores are available and students meet with an advisor, the following sequence occurs:

Students' Texas Success Initiative status is determined when the minimum standard score requirements on the assessment test are not met.

The SDF will have the TRACK # and the retake code listed for any student in that category. Students will also have a TSI code for the general status of the student, as well as a test code and pass/fail code for each section.

Initial or passing THEA test scores, other approved placement test scores, prior developmental courses taken at Blinn, and/or prior developmental courses taken at other Texas public institutions are reviewed to determine correct placement in the development sequence. (See THEA Score Placement Guide or Alternative Assessment Instruments Placement Guide.)

Once the developmental sequence has begun, students must successfully complete the sequence of developmental courses in that area to be considered "College-Ready". Successful completion requires a grade of "C" or higher.

While developmental courses can be delayed, developmental course sequence will be recommended to students in order to address Texas Success Initiative success and facilitate progression into related academic courses.

Texas Success Initiative liable students will have a hold on their registration file until the advisement process has been completed each semester. These students are required to be advised and will need to sign the Assessment Verification form at the advising appointment. This form, as well as the advising document, will need to be turned in to the Admissions Office/Enrollment Services for the hold to be removed and allow the student to register.

Related academic courses cannot be taken until the developmental sequence has been successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better in the failed skill area and the assessment test retaken if the student is a Track 1 student (see Placement charts).

B. Retake Test Completion

Each student who fails to meet the standard error of measure score as the student's initial score must retake an approved assessment test one time once the highest developmental course is completed with a grade of "C" or better in the failed section. [Section 4.59(c)] The test must be taken in the semester immediately following the completion of the highest developmental course. These students will be allowed to register for a related academic course in the same semester; however, if the test is not retaken in that semester, a hold will be placed on the student's record preventing the student from enrolling in any other related academic courses until the test is retaken. If a student does not enroll in the summer semester, the semester immediately following the spring semester is the fall semester. Once the test is retaken, the student will be marked "College-Ready" for the failed section, and will be allowed to register in related academic courses for that section. These students are the Track 0 and Track 1 students in the Placement Charts section.

Students who initially perform at or above the standard error of measure score are not required to retake an assessment test at the end of the developmental sequence, but are allowed to enroll in a related academic course for the failed section in the semester immediately following the completion of the highest developmental course. These students will be marked "College-ready". These students are the Track 2 students in the Placement Charts section.

Students not retaking the test in the semester immediately following the completion of the developmental sequence in the appropriate section, will be blocked from any other related academic courses.

If student completed the sequence in the spring semester, and enrolls for summer school, both summer sessions are the free semester. If the student does not enroll in summer, the fall semester is the free semester.

Scores of "000" will be counted as a retake of that section.

C. Placement Charts

a. Reading Section

If the student failed the reading section of one of the assessment tests, the following charts are used based on the student's initial reading score to find the course placement and "track number" required for reading developmental courses. Once the student has determined the "track number", refer to the second chart for the course sequence the student is required to complete prior to enrolling in the related academic courses. Students will need to complete the course/testing sequence to be considered "College-ready" in each section.

Placement Chart for Reading						
		THEA	ASSET	MAPS	ACCUPLACER	COMPASS
Track 0	READ0304	0-165	0-27	0-99	0-49	0-49
Track 1	READ 0305	166-199	28-33	100-108	50-62	50-59
Track 2	READ 0306	200-229	34-40	109-113	63-77	60-80
Passed reading	No developmental	230 or >	41 or >	114 or >	78 or >	81 or >

section	courses required					
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Track 0	Track 1	Track 2	Passed Reading Section
Read 0304 ↓			
Read 0305 ↓	Read0305		
Read 0306 ↓	Read 0306	Read 0306	
Retake test (Have one semester to retake test)	Retake test		
Reading section marked "College-ready"			
Enroll in related academic courses: HIST 1301, HIST 1302, GOVT, 2305, GOVT 2306, PYSC 2301, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2323, ENGL 2332, ENGL 2333, ENGL 2327, ENGL 2328			

b. Math Section

If the student failed the math section of one of the assessment tests, the following charts are used based on the student's initial math score to find the course placement and "track number" required for math developmental courses. Once the student has determined the "track number", refer to the second chart for the course sequence the student is required to complete prior to enrolling in the related academic courses. Students will need to complete the course/testing sequence to be considered "College-ready" in each section.

Placement Chart for Math						
		THEA	ASSET	MAPS	ACCUPLACER	COMPASS
Track 1	MATH 0309	0-209	0-28	0-604	0-50	0-25
Track 2	MATH 0310	210-229	29-37	605-612	51-62	26-38
Passed math section I	MATH 0312	230-269	38-47	613-711	63-85	39-69
Passed math section II	No developmental courses required	270 or >	48 or >	712 or >	86 or >	70 or >

Track 1	Track 2	Passed Math	Passed Math Section
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		Section I	II
Math 0309 ↓			
Math 0310 ↓	Math 0310		
Math 0312 ↓	Math 0312	Math 0312	
Retake test (One semester in which to retake the test) ↓			
Math section marked “College-ready”			
Enroll in related academic courses: MATH 1332 OR MATH 1314			

c. Writing Section

If the student failed the writing section of one of the assessment tests, the following charts are used based on the student’s initial writing score to find the course placement and “track number” required for writing developmental courses. Once the student has determined the “track number”, refer to the second chart for the course sequence the student is required to complete prior to enrolling in the related academic courses. Students will need to complete the course/testing sequence to be considered “College-ready” in each section.

Placement Chart for Writing						
		THEA	ASSET	MAPS	ACCUPLACER	COMPASS
Track 1	ENGL 0320	Essay score of 4 or below				
Track 2	ENGL 0321	An essay score of 5, with a multiple choice score less than :				
		220	40	310	80	59
Passed Writing section	No developmental courses required	An essay score of 5, with a multiple choice score greater than or equal to :				
		220	40	310	80	59
Passed writing section	No developmental courses required	Essay score of 6 or above				

Track 1	Track 2	Passed Writing Section
Engl 0320 ↓		
Engl 0321 ↓	Engl 0321	
Retake test (Have one semester in which to retake) ↓		
Writing section marked “College-ready”		
Enroll in related academic courses: ENGL 1301		

D. TAKS Exemptions

Students who have Texas Success Initiative exemptions with TAKS scores will be placed in courses based on the following charts. Writing essay scores

must come from an official label or letter from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) until these scores are placed on the high school transcript:

MATH

Minimum Math TAKS Score	Math Course Placement
2200	MATH0312
2400	MATH1314

Writing

Minimum Writing Essay TAKS Score	Writing Course Placement
3	ENGL1301

Reading

Minimum Reading/Language Arts TAKS Score	Writing Course Placement
2200	Any Reading course
Essay 3	

E. SAT and ACT Score Placement

Students who have Texas Success Initiative exemptions with SAT or ACT scores place into higher level math courses based on the score when the exemption is used. Students who are exempt based on the TAKS test can also use SAT or ACT scores for placement if these scores will place the student in a higher-level math course.

Students who have taken a state assessment test and also have SAT or ACT scores that are not a full exemption, but have a section high enough to make them “College-ready”, will be able to use the score to place the student into a higher math or English course that the assessment test score would not have achieved alone. The following charts display the ACT and SAT scores and appropriate course placement for Blinn College:

MATH

Minimum Math ACT Scores	Math Course Placement	Minimum Math SAT Scores
19	Math 1314	500
22	Math 1316, Math 1324, Math 1325, Math1342, Math 2313	550
25	Math 2412	580
28	Math 2413	630

Writing

Minimum English ACT Scores	English Course Placement	Minimum Verbal SAT Scores
19	ENGL1301	500

Students having “other readiness” scores cannot be advised on those scores alone. The student must have tested with the THEA or other approved placement test.

Once the test is taken and entered, the “other readiness” scores will be used to place the students in a higher level course if appropriate.

F. Course Restrictions for Students in Developmental Education

The following courses are the related academic courses associated with the reading, writing, and math sections of the state assessment tests:

1. Writing

ENGL 1301 (Composition I)
ENGL 1302 (Composition II)

2. Reading

HIST 1301, 1302 (U.S. History)
ENGL 2322, 2323 (British Literature)
ENGL 2332, 2333 (World Literature)
ENGL 2327, 2328 (American Literature)
PSYC 2301 (General Psychology)
GOVT 2305, 2306 (American Government)

3. Mathematics

MATH 1332 (College Mathematics);
MATH 1314 (College Algebra);
MATH 1316 (Plane Trigonometry);
AT THE DISCRETION OF BLINN COLLEGE, A GRADE OF
“C” OR BETTER IN A MORE ADVANCED MATHEMATICS
COURSE FOR WHICH ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE
PREREQUISITES.

G. Other Course Restrictions based on TSI scores

(These classes will be pilot-tested during the 2005-2006 year.)

1. BIOL1406: Placement into READ0306 or higher based on a state-approved assessment test or completion of READ0305 with a grade of “C” or better.
2. BIOL1407: Placement into READ0306 or higher based on a state-approved assessment test or completion of READ0305 with a grade of “C” or better.

VI. Evaluating and Reporting

A. Attendance Policy

A student who is enrolled in a developmental course and acquires the equivalent of two weeks of absences will be withdrawn from the course. (Spring/fall semesters: 4 class days for T/TR course and 6 class days for a M/W/F course; Summer sessions: 3 class days for any course.) An appeals process is in place for students who are withdrawn from developmental courses. The Division Chair is the highest level of appeal.

B. Accommodations for Testing

The Blinn College Director of Disability Services provides the Testing Director with accommodations needed for students for the THEA Quick Test based upon written documentation determined by National Evaluation Systems (NES) guidelines, which include readers, extended time, calculators, snacks, isolation, frequent breaks, and computer access. If other accommodations are requested, the student is referred to NES in Austin, Texas. Students with dyslexia or other related disorders have to provide the Director of Disability Services with appropriate documentation. The Director of Disability Services informs the Success Initiative Office that the student qualifies for this provision, the student completes the developmental sequence, the assessment test is retaken if the student is a Track 1 student, and the “College-Ready” status is marked on the student’s record for that section.

C. Completion Status

Students who initially fail one or more sections of the state assessment test must become “College-Ready” for each failed section before they can graduate. To become “College-Ready”, the student must either: (a) Achieve a passing score for sections of the assessment test for he/she initially failed, (b) complete the highest developmental course in the failed area with a grade of “C” or better (Track 2), or (c) retake the assessment test after completing the highest developmental course with a grade of “C” or better (Track 1). The transcript for each student will be marked “College-Ready” when the student has completed the appropriate track. For students to graduate from Blinn College, they must be marked “College-Ready” for each section of the test.

D. Transcripts

1. Receiving transcripts

Blinn College accepts exemptions and state assessment scores (THEA, QT, ASSET, COMPASS, and ACCUPLACER) on (1) an official transcript; (2) an addendum attached to the official transcript; or (3) a letter from the institution’s registrar, on letterhead, with signature, raised seal, and the words “official scores” printed on the letter. Faxes will not be accepted.

2. Sending transcripts

Blinn College has followed the TACRAO guidelines for transcribing Texas Success Initiative information on the electronic and paper transcripts. See the TACRAO website for more information.

When transcripts are sent, the highest scores will print.

VII. Contact Information

Contact Information for the Texas Success Initiative for Blinn College:

Dennis Crowson, Registrar
 Blinn College
 902 College Ave.
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 979-830-4141

dcrowson@blinn.edu