

Advisement Plan for Academic Success

Mission/Purpose

Grayson College will significantly improve the success of underprepared students by addressing their individualized needs through reliable diagnostic assessment, comprehensive support services, and non-traditional interventions, including modular, accelerated learning, non-course competency-based, technologically based, and integrated instructional models. Student success and completion are at the core of every advisement plan.

Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA)

Because Grayson College wants students to experience academic success, new students are encouraged to take reading, writing, and mathematics assessments to determine levels of specific course readiness and, if necessary, to place students in courses designed to support students in their first college level reading, writing and math intensive courses. In accordance with the Texas Success Initiative, students are required to take a state-approved assessment prior to enrollment in reading, writing and mathematics intensive courses, or students can demonstrate course readiness with performance on the ACT, SAT, STAAR, or using multiple measures. Test scores can be sent to admissions@grayson.edu or delivered in person to the Office of Admissions and Records. Students may also qualify for an exemption or waiver for certain situations.

Students who are not otherwise exempt must take the TSI Assessment 2.0, which is aligned to the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. It offers placement scores and a diagnostic profile of students' college readiness and/or adult basic education levels. The TSI Assessment 2.0 is offered during all normal Testing Center hours. No appointment is necessary, and the Testing Center hours can be found on the Testing Center's webpage; a link to this page can be found on the Grayson College homepage. All students will be required to complete a pre-assessment activity before starting their exam, which is primarily designed to help students perform better on the assessment. The test fee is \$20 for the whole test or \$10 for each part - English language arts with reading (ELAR) and math. Assessment scores are used in the advising process for course selection.

For the purpose of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), students who have completed the equivalent of a U.S. associates or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university outside the United States are exempt from placement testing. In order to receive this exemption, students must submit an official copy of their college transcript and a course-by-course international credential evaluation from a foreign credential evaluation service recognized as a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), such as World Education Services (WES) or Foreign Credential Service of America (FCSA) to the GC Office of Admissions and Records Office. The request for evaluation and any costs associated are the responsibility of the student. Foreign students who have not completed a degree are required to meet TSI requirements before enrolling in courses that lead to an associate degree. Students enrolling in certificate programs must complete, if required, the placement testing for the certificate they are seeking.

Exemptions include: Texas Education Code Sec. 51.338

Exemptions for College-Level Experience

- Associate's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
- A student who transfers to an institution from a public, 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 as determined by the receiving institution.
- A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.
- For students meeting non-Algebra intensive readiness standards in mathematics, as defined in 19 Administrative Code 4.59 (relating to determination of readiness to perform entry-level freshman coursework), institutions may choose to require additional preparatory coursework/interventions for Algebra intensive courses, including MATH 1314/1324/1414 or their local equivalent.
- College credit hours within the past five years from a private or out-of-state public institution with grades of A, B, or C in approved courses in all three skill areas.
- A student who is enrolled in a certificate program of one year or less (Level-One certificates, 42 or fewer semester credit hours or the equivalent).

Exemptions for College Preparatory Courses

- A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course under Education Code 28.014 is exempt for a period of 24 months from the date of high school graduation with respect to the content area of the course. The student must enroll in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education. This exemption applies only at Grayson College with students from the school districts with a Memorandum of Understanding.

Non Credential Seeking - This includes: visiting, personal enrichment, concurrent high school, early admission, and non-credit workforce and career training students.

Military Experience

- A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or for at least the three-year period preceding enrollment, as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States;
or

- A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active 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. Waive for Not Credential Seeking

Waive for Not Credential Seeking

- Non-degree Seeking students. This includes: visiting, personal enrichment, concurrent high school, early admission, and non-credit workforce and career training students.

Multiple Measures

- Multiple Measures English: Students who are no more than two years post high school graduation and who have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and have completed four years of English (see list below) with at least a B in the fourth year. Eligible courses include: ENG I, ENG II, ENG III, ENG IV, Research/Technical Writing, Creative Writing, Practical Writing Skills, Literary Genres, Humanities, Visual Media Analysis and Production, Business English, Independent Study in English, Legal Research and Writing, AP English Language and Composition, and AP Literature and Composition.
- Mathematics: Students who are no more than two years post high school graduation who have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher who have completed four years of Mathematics with the last year being Pre-Calculus or higher (Calculus 1 or 2) with at least a B in the fourth year.

College Readiness Standards for SAT, ACT, TAKS, STAAR EOC within the last 5 years.

TEST	READING & WRITING EXEMPTION	MATH EXEMPTION
SAT (March 2016 and later)	480 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	530 Math
ACT taken prior to 2/15/23	23 Composite with 19 English	23 Composite with 19 Math
ACT taken on/after 2/15/23	Combined score of 40 on English and Reading	22 Math
TAKS	2200 ELA (English Language Arts) with 3+ Writing sub-score	2200 Math
STAAR	4000 on the English III (EOC)	4000 on the Algebra II (EOC)
GED	165 on the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) for the English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) Exemption.	165 on the Mathematical Reasoning
HiSET	15 on the Reading subtest, a minimum score of 15 on the Writing Subtest with a minimum score of 4 on the essay, for English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) Exemption	15 on the Mathematics subtest Math Exemption

Notes:

- Scores from ACT tests taken before and after 2/15/23 can be combined.
- Mixing or combining scores from the SAT administered prior to March 2016 and the SAT administered March 2016 and later, is not allowable.
- HiSET will no longer administer tests after 8/31/2021 in Texas. Therefore, any tests taken after the 8/31/2021 test date will not be useable for the TSIA exemption.

Pre-Assessment Activity

All students are required to participate in a Pre-Assessment Activity before attempting the TSI Assessment. This activity will address the following topics: the importance of assessment, the testing process and sample questions with feedback, remediation option, and institutional and community resources.

The pre-assessment activity is at the following URL:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/free-TSIAa2-pre-assessment-and-practice-resources>

TSI Assessment Placement Scores

Approved college ready cut-scores are as follows:

- Mathematics - 950 or higher, or 949 or lower with a diagnostic score of 6
- ELAR - 945 or higher with an essay score of 5, or 944 or lower with a diagnostic score of 5 and an essay score of 5

State Approved Minimum Scores to be TSIA Complete, effective January 11, 2021

Assessment	English, Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)	Math
TSIA	945 and an Essay of 5 or more or Less than 945 and a Diagnostic Level of 5 or more and an Essay of 5 or more	950 or Less than 950 and Diagnostic Level of 6

State-Approved Minimum Scores to be TSIA complete for assessment taken prior to January 11, 2021 (good for 5 years from date of exam, if presented for placement and enrollment at any college or university within 5 years of the test date.)

Assessment	Reading	Writing	Math
TSIA	351	*5 or 4/340	350

Note* Essay score of 4 and multiple choice of 340 or higher; OR multiple choice of less than 340, and ABE diagnostic level of at least 4, and essay of at least 5.

Differentiated Placement

Students who do not meet the college readiness scores above will receive remediation as follows:

- Math - Students with a 949 or lower with a diagnostic score of 4 or 5 will be advised to take the paired course option that is appropriate for their major's pathway. Pathways with non-algebraic courses, MATH 1332, or MATH 1342, will be paired with MATH 0220, and pathways with College Algebra, MATH 1314, will be paired with a MATH 0240 lab course. Students with a 949 or lower with a diagnostic score of 3 will use multiple measures to determine if they should be mainstreamed with the remediation described above or referred to the AEL Program. Students with a 949 or lower with a diagnostic score of 1 or 2 will be referred to the AEL Program for remediation. Students must successfully pass the paired corequisite courses with a grade of C or better to be TSIA complete.
- English - Students with a score of 944 or lower with a diagnostic score of 4 and an essay score of 4 or 5 will be advised to take the paired course option, where ENGL 1301 is paired with the INRW 0210 lab course. Students with a score of 944 or lower with a diagnostic score of 1 or 2 and an essay score of 3 or lower will be advised to seek remediation from our AEL Program. Students must successfully pass one of the paired corequisite courses with a grade of C or better to be considered TSIA complete.

Grayson College Adult Education and Literacy (AEL)

AEL provides instruction to students on the Grayson College campuses and in other convenient locations in Grayson, Fannin, Hunt, and Cooke counties. In addition to providing GED preparation and English language training, the Transitions program provides instruction and guidance to help students pursue their workforce and academic goals. This free service can help prepare students to pass the TSI Assessment or to improve their scores enough to qualify for the college's Developmental Education courses (see TSIA Placement Scores above). Please call 903-463- 8784 for more information.

English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL)

Grayson College provides English language training in two methods described below:

- Grayson College's English Language / Civics (EL/C) courses are offered by our AEL program. These free courses are designed to help students with limited English proficiency develop workplace literacy, academic literacy, and U.S. citizenship literacy that meets the goals of the individual student.
- Grayson College's INRW courses provide individualized ESOL instruction as needed. Additionally, a 15-hour waiver for well-qualified ESOL students allows qualified students to take college-level courses while concurrently receiving remediation in ESOL. (Students who are not TSI complete by the end of the waiver period may be restricted to enrollment options that support becoming college-ready in reading and writing.)

Academic Success Plan

Attendance

Attendance in developmental lab classes that accompany corequisite courses is required. Students who are out of compliance with their Academic Success Plan will be required to enroll in appropriate self-paced developmental classes to regain compliance that semester. Failure to do so will result in being barred from future enrollment in academic coursework until the TSI requirements are met in appropriate skill areas (or, under special situations, permission is granted by the appropriate Dean.) Students who fail to attend classes by the census date will automatically be dropped as a no-show.

Students who do not meet one of the TSI exemptions or waivers must demonstrate course readiness for reading, writing, and math intensive courses in one of the following ways:

- Passing scores on the reading, writing, and math TSI Assessment 2.0;
- Successful completion of an approved college preparatory class (HB5) in reading, writing and/or math
- Successful completion of a corequisite course in reading, writing, and/or math; or
- After unsuccessfully attempting the TSIA2, having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and completing appropriate high school coursework.

Upon meeting the standards in readiness for reading, writing, and mathematics intensive courses, students will not be required to register for corequisite/developmental courses.

Math Pathways:

College-level math courses are designed to serve the curriculum needs of unique degrees however, many science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees will require the completion of MATH 1314 - College Algebra. Review the degree plan and/or speak with a Success Coach for more guidance. Corequisites (Math) Students who have been placed in a corequisite course will enroll in an appropriate developmental lab course (MATH 0220 for non-STEM pathway or MATH 0240 for STEM pathway) in addition to the college-level course. Attendance is required in both the college-level course and the lab for credit. Upon successful completion of the college-level course, the student will be considered TSI complete in math and may continue without further developmental math courses in that pathway. Students wishing to retake the TSIA2 may do so at any time; however, it is recommended that students work closely with developmental instructors to determine whether they are prepared to pass the test. Passing the TSIA2 does not excuse the student from the college-level course.

Corequisites (Reading/Writing)

Students who have been placed in a corequisite course will enroll in an appropriate developmental lab course (INRW) in addition to the college-ready course. Attendance is required in both the college-ready course and the lab for credit. Upon successful completion of the highest college-ready course, the student will be considered TSI complete in reading and writing and may continue without further developmental English courses. Students wishing to retake the TSIA2 may do so at any time; however, it is recommended that students work closely with developmental instructors to determine whether they are prepared to pass the test.

College Prep Course and Dual Credit Students

High school juniors and seniors who take but do not pass the TSIA2 may be enrolled in a college preparatory class if their high school has agreed to the terms set forth by the memorandum of understanding between Grayson College and participating districts ISD's. Students who earn an A, B, or C in an English or math college preparatory class will be considered TSI complete in that subject area for two years

Retesting

Students are encouraged to quickly demonstrate their college readiness in TSIA skill areas so that their continued progress will not be delayed. Students may retake the TSI Assessment at any time. Students who pass their TSI Assessment during a semester should notify their related developmental instructor immediately, as this may improve their grade and/or excuse them from selected assignments.

Available Accelerated Options

The following strategies are used to accelerate a student's skill acquisition in reading, writing, and math to better ensure his or her success in college-level courses.

- Integration of Developmental Education Reading and Writing -- Rather than dividing these skill areas into different courses that take longer to complete, the two complementary skill areas are combined into a single course curriculum.
- Mainstreaming/Course-pairing -- Students who are assessed and whose scores indicated that they are almost ready for college-level coursework may be given the opportunity to pair their college-level course(s) with an appropriate developmental course or NCBO, which will provide additional support in targeted skill areas while the student concurrently makes good progress in their college-level courses.
- Non-Course Competency-Based Options (NCBOs) -- These instructional options resemble normal courses in that they require students to attend class and complete required assignments; however, the assignments will be highly individualized to meet the unique needs of each student, building on strengths and addressing weaknesses. The instructional activities will be informed by the TSI Assessment diagnostic report and classroom performance.
- Modular/Emporium-style Delivery -- This instructional approach is primarily used for developmental math studies and involves a student working through modules of instruction in a self-paced manner while remaining under the supervision of a math instructor. Students can move more quickly than a normal course over familiar modular content and move more slowly over unfamiliar module content without being left behind by peer students.

Instructional Services

Writing Center

The Grayson Writing Center provides consultation for academic and professional writing for any course offered at Grayson College. Trained consultants act as an attentive and responsive audience to provide feedback at any stage of the writing process for any discipline and include support for resumes, cover letters, and financial aid appeal letters. Online support is available through the center's website. The center also offers a computer lab space and printing for students.

Math Hub

The Math Hub provides a suitably quiet space for students to work on homework or lab work and have questions answered upon request. Our goal is to lead students to do the work. The Math Hub is also equipped with computers for students to use for their math classes, whether it be checking Canvas for an assignment, working online homework, completing a data spreadsheet project for Statistics, or watching a math video. Students seeking one-on-one tutoring should visit the Math Hub to sign up for a weekly, one-hour timeslot.

Advising

Grayson College strongly encourages all students, regardless of academic skill level, to seek individual success coaching prior to scheduling classes in MyViking. The Advising office is open daily Monday through Friday to students with questions about course transfer, degree planning, transcript evaluation, college catalogs and other facets of college life. Students

receiving veteran benefits should consult with the Veterans Services Office. The following students are required to receive academic advising:

- Degree-seeking students who are entering GC for the first time. New students should contact the Advising Office for degree requirements and planning;
- Students required to meet TSI requirements and who have not met assessment requirements;
- Students who are required to be enrolled in developmental courses;
- Students who are on academic probation and/or students who are returning from academic suspension;
- Students who desire to change an academic major, update degree audit, or transfer institution; and
- Students who are military veterans eligible for veteran's educational benefits should consult with the Veterans Services Office.

Success Coaches and Faculty are assigned to all students based on major. Success Coaches assist students with academic requirements, transcript evaluation, and campus and community support services. Advising activities are designed to assist students in the successful completion of their needs and goals. Students who need career assistance should seek assistance from the located in the Student Affairs Building.

Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Student progress from developmental instruction through college-level coursework is reported routinely to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Additionally, it is evaluated by Grayson College as part of our annual planning process designed to promote continuous improvement in our instructional approaches.

College Orientation and MyMajors Career Assessment

Grayson College Orientation is required for all first-time-in-college (FTIC), transfer, and former dual credit students prior to registration. The purpose of orientation is to provide a comprehensive overview of available campus services, resources, and opportunities designed to help students succeed. It provides information regarding student support services and helps students become familiar with college lingo, tutoring, college policies/procedures, payment and financial aid options, and advising. Orientation is offered online and can be accessed in MyViking.

After Orientation, students are directed to complete the online MyMajors Career Assessment. The career assessment is a thirty-question assessment to give students insight on potential academic pathways and career options. It is also located in MyViking.