NEW TSI Assessment Passing Scores: Phase I (Fall 2013 – Summer 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>5 essay (or 4 essay with a 363 multiple choice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>350</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Passing at or above these levels gains entrance into college-level English and mathematics.

Additional math placement information based on these score levels:

- 345-349: MATH 1003
- 310-344: MATH 0003*

*Exception to be placed in MATH 1003, instead of 0003:
- 336-344 and at least one of the following:
  a. their score on the Elementary Algebra portion of the Diagnostic test is 9-15 (TMD1 code on SOATEST).
  b. their high school class rank is in the 90th percentile or above.

Non Course Based Options (NCBO): (see below for details)

May be eligible for an NCBO if score in this range:

- Reading: 348-350
- Writing: 4 essay and 360-362 on multiple choice
- Mathematics: 347-349

Note: All NCBO enrollments must be approved by the math or English departments and registration will be completed by the Registrar’s Office.

Mathematics Non-Course Based Option (NCBO) for TSI students

Effective Fall 2013, a student will be eligible for the Non-Course Based Option (NCBO) if the student’s score on the TSI-Assessment Mathematics is 347-349. The student choosing the NCBO option will enroll in an ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) online course where the student must demonstrate mastery of at least 80% of the topics within this ALEKS course. This ALEKS course will contain approximately 200 topics consistent with the topics included in Beginning and Intermediate Algebra at MSU. The student will then be required to take a proctored assessment in which the student must score at least 75% to successfully complete the NCBO and be considered TSI Complete. The proctored assessment may be taken a maximum of 2 times. The proctored assessment must be passed (requires a score of at least 75%) prior to the first day of any semester in which MATH 1003 is offered. Appointments must be made with the mathematics department to schedule the proctored assessment.

Any student attempting the NCBO ALEKS course that does not complete the proctored assessment with at least a 75% prior to the first day of any semester in which MATH 1003 is offered must register for MATH 1003 in order to be enrolled in any MSU course.

Note: Students must pay for an ALEKS subscription (currently $32) to enroll in the course. The subscription fee is paid directly to ALEKS and gives the student 6 weeks of unlimited online access to ALEKS. Therefore, once enrolled the student must pass the proctored assessment prior to the end of the student’s six week subscription to ALEKS.

The ALEKS Prep course assessment/learning cycle

- When you start an ALEKS course you will receive a brief tutorial on how to enter mathematical expressions in ALEKS. Then you will get an initial Assessment. ALEKS gives you a series of 15–25 math problems. ALEKS chooses questions based on how much ALEKS thinks you already understand.
- ALEKS assessments may take 30–45 minutes but could take 1–2 hours or even longer. When you start an assessment you should allow yourself at least one hour. If you have to stop you may, but you should log in and complete the assessment as soon as possible. Waiting for more than a day or so to complete an assessment may skew your results.
- After your assessment, ALEKS will move from “assessment mode” to “learning mode.”
- After the assessment you will see a pie chart showing your achievement in the 8 different topic areas within the ALEKS course.
• Within your ALEKS pie you will see a choice of topics you are ready to learn next.
• In “learning mode” you will have access to hints, examples, definitions, and explanations. Also, each time you submit a solution ALEKS immediately tells you if your answer is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, you can generally try to fix your answer and submit it again.
• After you have worked at least 5 hours and mastered at least 20 new topics ALEKS gives you a new assessment. (The 5 hours and 20 topics are approximate; it might take 5.2 hours and 21 topics or 4.9 hours and 19 topics.)
• This whole learning/assessment cycle could happen many times until you progress to an assessment indicating that you have mastered at least 80% of the topics within the ALEKS course. Note that ALEKS will give you estimated learning levels within learning mode. When ALEKS gives an assessment, sometimes students score higher than the predicted level, other times they assess lower.
• Before being eligible to take the proctored assessment that must be passed at a level of at least 75% you must have an ALEKS assessment score indicating that you have mastered at least 80% of the topics within the ALEKS course.

NOTES:
The faculty responsible for the NCBO will be in contact with students enrolled in the course through email. The instructor of record will monitor students’ progress and offer support for students’ learning to whatever extent is possible through email. The instructor will help students troubleshoot technical issues or direct them to the ALEKS technical support team when she is unable to resolve whatever technical issue the student has. The instructor of record will also be the person responsible for proctoring or arranging the proctoring of the final assessment that must be passed in order to be TSI complete. The instructor of record will report to Registrar’s Office the names and Mustang ID numbers of all students that become TSI complete through this NCBO. The instructor of record may, at times, meet with students to provide a limited amount of direct one-on-one help with the online system as well as the course content. The instructor of record will be compensated for this work. Most of this work will take place during the six or seven weeks prior to the beginning of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester. Students enrolling in an NCBO will be charged an administrative fee of $150.

English Non-Course Based Option (NCBO) for TSI Students

Beginning December 9, 2013, a student will be eligible to take the Reading NCBO if he or she scores between 348 and 350 on the TSI Assessment. A student will be eligible to take the Writing NCBO if he or she scores a 4 on the writing portion and 360-362 on the multiple-choice portion.

Reading

A Reading NCBO eligible student will have 5 weeks to complete ENGL 0130. This online “non-course” guides the student through reading modules. Each module includes instruction, practice, and assessment. A student must score 80% or better on one module before moving to the next. Upon completion of ENGL 0130, the student will once again take the reading section of the TSI Assessment in an attempt to earn 351 or better in reading. A student must complete this retake of the reading section of the TSI Assessment prior to the first day of any semester in which ENGL 1014 is offered. Any student who attempts ENGL 0130 but has not earned a passing reading score on the TSI Assessment prior to the first day of class of any semester in which ENGL 1014 is offered must take ENGL 1014.

ENGL 0130 will help the student to “locate explicit textual information, draw complex inferences, and analyze and evaluate the information within and across texts of varying lengths. Use effective reading strategies to determine a written work’s purpose and intended audience.” (“Texas College and Career Readiness Standards”)
Writing

A Writing NCBO eligible student will have 5 weeks to complete ENGL 0030. This online “non-course” guides the student through writing modules. Each module includes instruction, practice, and assessment. A student must score 80% or better on one module before moving to the next. Upon completion of ENGL 0030, the student will once again take the writing section of the TSI Assessment in an attempt to earn 5 on the essay portion or 4 on the essay portion and 363 or better on the multiple choice portion of the writing section. A student must complete this retake of the writing section of the TSI Assessment prior to the first day of any semester in which ENGL 1014 is offered. Any student who attempts ENGL 0030 but has not earned a passing writing score on the TSI Assessment prior to the first day of class of any semester in which ENGL 1014 is offered must take ENGL 1014.

ENGL 0030 will help the student “compose a variety of texts that demonstrate clear focus, the logical development of ideas in well-organized paragraphs, and the use of appropriate language that advances the author’s purpose.” (“Texas College and Career Readiness Standards”)

Cost

Pearson Publishing is developing reading and writing NCBOs in answer to the Texas Success Initiative. The price of an NCBO is $11.25 per student, which will give him or her access to ENGL 0130 or ENGL 0030 for five weeks; therefore, once enrolled in one of these NCBOs, a student must pass his or her second attempt at the TSI Assessment prior to the end of the five weeks.

That $11.25 gives the student online access but does not pay the state-required instructor of record who, according to THECB, is “responsible for

- determining the best NCBO plan for the student
- assuring the student meets the curricular requirements of the NCBO
- regular monitoring of the progress of the student
- assuring that the student is appropriately assessed/evaluated upon NCBO completion
- assigning and reporting the student’s final grade based on IHE policy
- helping the student register for the next step (i.e., course or intervention).”

Students enrolling in an NCBO will be charged an administrative fee of $150.