

CTC Pre-Assessment Activities

Please take a few minutes to read over the Pre-Assessment Activities (PAA) that are offered to you through Central Texas College (CTC). These activities are for your benefit to help ensure your success at CTC.

Importance of Assessment:

The State of Texas now has a new TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment for students enrolling in college starting on August 26, 2013. The new TSI Assessment is the ONLY Texas placement assessment to be used for non-exempt students and will place students in the appropriate developmental education level. The placement assessment is not required for every Central Texas College student. Some students that have prior education experience or a military exemption do not have to take the TSI assessment test. The Developmental Studies Department recommends that every student takes the assessment as a placement tool. This assessment will determine if developmental courses are needed or recommended to complete prior to the credit bearing courses. To determine if you are TSI exempt or waived, review the "Testing and Placement" section of the Catalog and visit with an academic advisor.

Developmental courses at Central Texas College are built to help remediate students that have shown through the TSI (or other placement exam) that they are not ready to take college level courses. CTC offers developmental courses in the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills. CTC also offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. Developmental courses do not count towards a student's degree plan, but serve as pre-requisites for the credit bearing courses. (Please see Chart on the last page.) Developmental courses will not count on your cumulative graduation GPA or meet the 25% residency toward the degree.

Developmental courses are also pre-requisites for some science courses as well as entrance into the nursing program. Students must demonstrate knowledge of basic algebra knowledge to successfully pass the nursing entrance exam (HESI) by completing problems pertaining to dosage conversions/ratios. These skills are taught in Beginning Algebra. In Chemistry, you will be asked to complete problems that require you to implement the quadratic formula. The quadratic formula is introduced in the Intermediate Algebra course.

Testing Process and Sample Questions

The TSI Assessment is a computer adaptive placement examination. It is completed entirely online and includes multiple choice questions as well as an essay. The assessment is graded automatically and a report is printed out with your specific results. In the beginning of the assessment, there will be some demographic questions asked as well as an important question: Were you provided with information and/or an activity to help you understand the following: (1) the importance of this assessment, (2) sample questions, (3) course options, and (4) resources for students? This is a Yes or No question. After completely reading through these pages, you will have all the information and activity information to be able to answer Yes.

Adaptive examination means that the test will change as you answer each question. If you answer the first question correctly, the second question will be harder than the previous. If you get the following question incorrect, the system will lower the difficulty value on the next question. Each question is given a point value based on difficulty level and that is how your score is determined.

Here is an example of a shortened version of the TSI assessment. Take this examination, being honest with yourself, no calculators, no textbooks, no other resources. If you do not feel comfortable with any of the four sections, it is recommended that you complete at least one of the remediation options offered at CTC so you can score better on the actual assessment. Proper usage of the given remediation could potentially shorten the two year sequence necessary if tested into the lowest levels.

Development Course Sequences

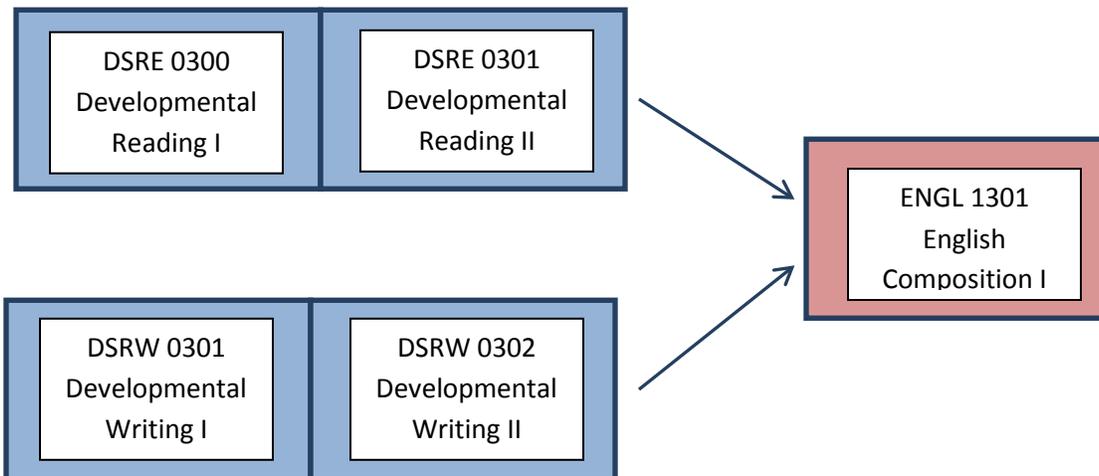
Developmental Mathematics Class Sequence

*This sequence may be slightly different based on site location.



Developmental Reading (DSRE) and Writing (DSWR) Class Sequence

*This sequence may be slightly different based on site location.



Both Reading and Writing MUST be completed prior to enrolling into ENGL 1301.