STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Under Texas Education Code, Section 51.307, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THEBC) is authorized to adopt rules to implement the provisions of Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062. The Texas Education Code, Section 51.403(e) authorizes the THECB to establish guidelines and reporting requirements. It is the policy of Panola College to implement the mandates of the Texas Education Code and the adopted rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Panola College shall assess the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student to determine the student’s readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework. The institution shall provide advising and educational support necessary for success in college and assist students who are not yet ready to enroll in that coursework. Assessment or the results of the assessment cannot be used to deny admission to the College. Admission to Panola College does not guarantee admission to specific programs of study or enrollment in all courses.

The Panola College Board of Trustees authorizes the Administration to establish local policies for implementation of the Texas Success Initiative Plan (TSIP). The TSIP will be reviewed annually as part of the Institutional Effectiveness Action Plan. The specific regulations are subject to change as the result of sessions of the Texas Legislature and meetings of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Any significant changes to this plan will be filed with the Coordinating Board.

EXEMPTIONS, EXCEPTIONS, & WAIVERS

A. State law provides for certain exemptions from the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) provisions. The following students shall be exempt from the requirements of this title, whereby exempt students shall not be required to provide any additional demonstration of college readiness and shall be allowed to enroll in any entry-level freshman course. Documentation must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office prior to enrollment. Exemptions/exceptions are associated with actual enrollment in college.

1. 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 that cannot be raised by institutions:
   a. ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on the English test shall be exempt for both the reading and writing sections of the TSI Assessment, and/or 19 on the mathematics test shall be exempt for the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment;
   b. SAT: a combined critical reading (formerly "verbal") and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the critical reading test shall be exempt for both reading and writing sections of the TSI Assessment, and/or 500 on the mathematics test shall be exempt for the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment; or

2. For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the 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 89 on the reading test.

3. 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 that cannot be raised by institutions:
   a. on the Eleventh grade exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section and/or a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English Language Arts section with a writing subsection score of at least 3, shall be exempt from the TSI Assessment required under this title for those corresponding sections; or
   b. STAAR end-of-course (EOC) with a minimum score of Level 2 on the English III shall be exempt from the TSI Assessment required under this title for both reading and writing, and a minimum score of Level 2 on the Algebra II EOC shall be exempt from the TSI Assessment required under this title for the mathematics section.
4. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education.

5. A student who transfers to an institution from a 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.

6. A student who has previously attended any institution and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.

7. 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) at a public junior college, a public technical institute, or a public state college.

8. 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 armed forces of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.

9. 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.

B. Exception - An institution may exempt a non-degree seeking or non-certificate seeking student.
   1. This student may defer testing and related TSI requirements until he/she:
      a. self-declares as a degree seeker (AA, AS, AAT, or AAS), or
      b. self-declares as a Level-Two certificate seeker, or
      c. enrolls in more than two courses in a semester, or
      d. attempts to enroll in a semester after the 12th college-level hour has been accumulated.

   2. This student must sign a request for exception each semester declaring that neither a degree nor a certificate is being sought.

   3. This student may not enroll in courses designated as “blocked” or courses with specific unmet prerequisites.

   4. The Vice-President of Student Services or the Vice-President of Instruction may make an exception to this stipulation. Such exceptions are allowed based on the specific courses taken and the pattern of enrollment, which would indicate that personal enrichment, personal health, or job skill upgrade is the desired outcome.

C. ESOL Waiver--An institution may grant a temporary waiver from the assessment required under this title for students with demonstrated limited English proficiency in order to provide appropriate ESOL/ESL coursework and interventions. The waiver must be removed prior to the student attempting 15 credit hours of developmental ESOL coursework or attempting entry-level freshman coursework, whichever comes first, at which time the student would be administered the TSI Assessment. Funding limits as defined in Texas Education Code, §51.3062(l)(1) and (2) for developmental education still apply.

D. Any student who has been determined to be exempt in mathematics, reading, and/or writing under section (A) or (B) of this section shall not be required to enroll in developmental coursework and/or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption.

E. A Panola College student designated as exempt will not be prevented from enrolling in a college level course unless he/she has not met the course prerequisite. (Ex: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302)
ASSESSMENT & PLACEMENT

A. Prior to the administration of the TSI Assessment, Panola College shall provide the student an online Querium pre-assessment activity that addresses at a minimum the following components in an effective and efficient manner:
   (1) Importance of assessment in students’ academic career;
   (2) Assessment process and components, including practice with feedback of sample test questions in all disciplinary areas;
   (3) Developmental education options including course-pairing, non-course-based, modular, and other non-conventional interventions;
   (4) Institutional and/or community student resources (e.g. tutoring, transportation, childcare, financial aid).

B. Panola College shall assess, by the TSI Assessment, the academic skills of each entering, non-exempt undergraduate student prior to enrollment of the student. Under exceptional circumstances, an institution 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.

C. Panola College offering collegiate-level credit to in-state students by distance learning delivery systems shall ensure that students are assessed as required by this section.

D. Panola College will accept the officially documented TSI Assessment results, which are valid for five years (5) from date of testing.

E. For holistic placement of non-exempt students not meeting standards, Panola College shall use for determination of appropriate courses and/or interventions, the TSI Assessment results and accompanying Diagnostic Profile, consideration of prior academic coursework, and other appropriate student support services.

F. Panola College may not use the assessment or the results of the assessment as a condition of admission to the institution or as a condition of admission to a specific program offered by the institution.

G. Students not designated in an exempt/exception/waiver category will be assessed for readiness to enroll in courses designated as “blocked.” Readiness may be demonstrated by providing an official transcript showing that a minimum grade of “C” has been earned in one of the blocked courses in each of the three skill areas. If coursework can be transferred for only one or two areas, the student must be assessed in any uncompleted area. The last grade for repeated courses will be used to determine readiness. A course with a grade of “D” may be used for credit but will not satisfy the “readiness” requirement.

H. Transfer students whose status has not been transcripted may demonstrate readiness by providing an official transcript showing that a minimum grade of “C” has been earned in one of the blocked courses in each of the three skill areas. If coursework can be transferred for only one or two areas, the student must be assessed in any uncompleted area. The last grade for repeated courses will be used to determine readiness. A course with a grade of “D” may be used for credit but will not satisfy the “readiness” requirement.

ADVISEMENT AND PLAN FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Beginning August 26, 2013, Panola College shall use the TSI Assessment offered by the College Board as the only Board-approved assessment instrument under this title. Any previously-employed assessments (ACCUPLACER, Compass, THEA, Asset, Compass ESL, and ACCUPLACER ESL) can no longer be used under this title for entering Panola College students who initially enroll in any course on or after August 26, 2013.

A. A student who meets the minimum passing standards on the TSI Assessment approved by the THECB has no other TSI requirements. (TSI Assessment Scores, Exhibit 2)

B. A student who fails one or more sections on the TSI Assessment may satisfy requirements by retesting and achieving a passing score or earning a grade of “C” or better in the developmental course designated as the highest level for reading, mathematics, or writing.
C. A student who completes the provisions outlined in an individualized plan “TSI Plan (TSIP) for Academic Success”, which was developed with the student, will have satisfied the requirements. (TSIP, Exhibit 1)

D. An Individualized TSIP for Academic Success will be determined which will include developmental education, reassessment option, review and give student access to an Academic Plan from the College Catalog or a Career and Technical brochure, and other appropriate support services. A copy of this plan will be available to the student, faculty advisor, and on file in the Student Success Center.

E. A student not successfully meeting the minimum passing standard in each skill area must begin developmental education upon enrollment and continue enrolling each semester in at least one developmental course considered necessary to ensure the readiness of that student to perform freshman-level academic coursework.

F. Panola College requires new students to see an advisor for evaluation of current status and developmental course selection through individual appointment. Even though returning students can register online each semester, the College requires students to see a Student Success Center Advisor until TSIP requirements are met. In addition, the faculty member in his /her field of study can advise students.

G. A grade of “C” or better indicates satisfactory developmental course progress for advancement either to the next level within the developmental course sequence or to perform freshman-level academic coursework.

Students are placed according to assessment scores. Students may be moved up or down a level in developmental coursework if an advisor and developmental instructor agree that the adjustment has merit. The student who has successfully completed the highest level in reading, math and/or writing will be considered to have completed the required readiness coursework in that area. Developmental course sequences: Reading 0301, 0302; Math 0301, 0302, MATH 0303; Writing 0301.

**NCBO (Non-Course Based Option)**

- To comply with new state regulations regarding remedial courses, we must offer non-course based remedial support for our “bubble students” (students whose placement tests scores are within 1-2 points of the cut-off score for college readiness).  Note: Definition of “bubble student” is determined by the institution based on the state recommendation of these students being within 1-2 points of the placement test score which determines college readiness.

- NCBO (Non-course based option) – Students are placed directly into the credit bearing courses with remedial support that is not considered a course.

- NCBM 0201 is a support lab that the bubble students will be required to attend concurrently with their freshman level math class.  This course will require 2 hours per week. One hour will be spent reinforcing background skills that are needed for the math class and one hour per week will be spent in the math lab to provide assistance with assignments from their math course.  Attendance will be monitored and a grade will be assigned.  This requirement will be in place beginning with spring semester 2013.

- NCBR 0201 is a Reading support lab that bubble students will be required to attend concurrently with their freshman level classes. This course will require 2 hours per week. One hour will be spent reinforcing background skills that are needed to improve reading skills and one hour per week will be spent working on the reading assignments from their courses.  Attendance will be monitored and a grade will be assigned.  This requirement will be in place beginning with fall semester 2013.

- NCBW 0201 is a Writing support lab that bubble students will be required to attend concurrently with their freshman level classes. This course will require 2 hours per week. One hour will be spent reinforcing background skills that are needed to improve writing skills and one hour per week will be spent working on the writing assignments from their courses.  Attendance will be monitored and a grade will be assigned.  This requirement will be in place beginning with fall semester 2013.
TESTING/RETESTING

A. THECB approved Instruments
   1. TSI Assessment
      a. Initial Testing: All three sections must be attempted unless an exemption has been met.
      b. Retesting: Each section stands individually. A section must be attempted before that section can be considered as a retest possibility.

B. A student may retest the TSI Assessment at any time; subject to availability on a daily basis. However a student cannot receive a grade for their developmental course(s), currently enrolled in, if the exam is taken during finals week or in between the first class day and census date.

C. Retesting and Passing During the Semester.
   1. Immediately after passing the TSI Assessment, a student will take the TSI test score document and TSI Assessment Pass Form from the Admissions/Records Office to the instructor; the student and instructor must select and sign an option below and immediately return the form to the Admissions/Records Office.

      Options:
      a. The student can elect to take the grade earned in the course, as of today, and will not be required to attend the course for the remainder of the semester; if a grade has not been recorded, the student must select another option.
      b. The student can elect to take an automatic "C" in the course and will not be required to attend the course for the remainder of the semester.
      c. The student can elect to remain in the course and earn a grade.
      d. During the designated period, the student may withdraw from the class and receive a “W”.

EVALUATION OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES

A. Coursework completed at Panola College. Time limit: 2 years
   1. A student who has been enrolled at any time during the past 2 years may enter the developmental sequence at the level indicated by the most recent test scores or continue the sequence in progress during the last enrollment. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all developmental coursework.

B. Students transferring from an accredited institution who have not completed all of the TSI requirements. Time limit: 2 years
   1. At least 30 days prior to registration, a student must provide an official transcript of previous coursework and request an evaluation of any completed developmental courses. If needed, the student must provide a catalog or statement from the previous registrar describing the sequence of developmental courses.

   2. Students who do not provide official transcripts at least 30 days prior to registration may not have their developmental work evaluated in time and will be placed in developmental courses based on the results of their TSI Assessment.

   3. A student who has been enrolled at any time during the past 2 years may enter the developmental sequence at the level indicated by the most recent test scores or continue the sequence in progress during the last enrollment. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all developmental coursework.

C. The Vice-President of Instruction or the Vice-President of Student Services can, upon receipt of proper documentation of extenuating circumstances, review and give approval for student coursework exceeding the 2 year time limit and in the sequencing of developmental coursework.

COURSE RESTRICTIONS

The student may not attempt a restricted course prior to presenting a passing score on the TSI Assessment, transferring an equivalent course with a “C” or better, or successfully completing the highest level developmental course unless exempt. Any additional course prerequisites must be met.
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
The high school student who is not exempt and who seeks to enroll must be assessed for TSI purposes prior to enrolling. The high school student who fails to achieve the minimum passing standard set by THECB may not enroll in college level classes related to sections of the test not passed. Enrolling in a developmental course each semester is not required.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Federal laws pertaining to individuals with disabilities shall be considered when assessing and advising students. Under the coordination of the Career/Technical Counselor, requests and accompanying documentation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

STUDENT OUTCOME
The student will successfully complete freshman-level academic coursework.

EVALUATION
The THECB shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Texas Success Initiative on a statewide basis and with respect to each institution. This evaluation will be based on specific data and timelines as required.

COMMENTS
1. Panola College shall make every effort to apply the rules in a fair and equitable manner.

2. For a shortened semester, such as summer, flex, or intersession, a student may take one or two courses which he/she is not blocked by TSI requirements. Under this waiver, students must have the waiver form signed by the Vice-President of Student Services or the Vice-President of Instruction in order to enroll under this policy.

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