TESTING

Placement through Testing

Placement decisions for enrollment in a degree program are determined by scores on the ACT, SAT, TSI Assessment, or successful completion of specific courses taken at an approved college or university. Scores are used to determine appropriate courses or areas where additional preparation may be required and/or advised for the student. If a student’s diagnostic scores indicate a need for developmental courses, most courses in the curriculum are closed to that student; therefore, it is important that the diagnostic measures be taken seriously. Individuals with reading, writing and mathematical deficiencies must achieve basic skills by taking developmental courses continuously until all basic skill requirements are met.

Students transferring from a Texas state-supported institution into programs with TSI requirements must provide an official transcript indicating they have satisfied TSI requirements at a previously attended institution.

The TSI status of a student transferring from private or “out-of-state” institutions shall be determined by the student’s intent for continuous enrollment at COM and by courses completed at the private or out-of-state institution. The TSI may be required prior to enrolling at COM.

Responsibility rests with the student for ensuring that all necessary materials are submitted for admission.

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requires each public institution of higher education to assess basic skills of entering college students in reading, writing, and mathematics unless the student qualifies for an exemption. This initiative is designed to assess student readiness for college-level work in reading, writing and mathematics and to provide information used to identify appropriate interventions that will improve the skills of students who are not prepared for college-level course work. The TSI requires that all students provide evidence that success in college is predictable.

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment

Students entering COM must have appropriate assessment scores or be assessed on a state-approved test (TSI) in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. It is used for placement into both developmental and college-level courses. Placement tables for college-level courses are available in the Testing Center. The TSI includes multiple-choice questions that are aligned to the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. COM’s Testing Center administers the TSI Assessment for a fee. After completing the TSI, students may see an advisor for TSI Assessment score interpretation.

Testing Services

COM’s Testing Center offers the following testing services:

- High School Equivalency Exams: There are three high school equivalency tests in Texas including the GED test, the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). After successfully completing one of these tests, the test taker will be issued a Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency. COM only provides computer-based testing for the GED, High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) Registration and fee details are available on COM’s High School Equivalency webpage at www.com.edu/testing-center/ged.
- Pearson VUE Testing: COM is a certified Pearson VUE Testing Center. Pearson VUE delivers many tests, including the CompTIA, for clients in the licensure, certification, academic admissions, regulatory and government testing service markets. For a complete list of tests and to register, go to: http://pearsonvue.com/programs.
- Distance Education: Testing/proctoring services are provided for students enrolled in courses for which there are alternative delivery modes, such as Online. Students should refer to the course syllabus for testing procedures.
- Departmental Makeup Exams: Under agreement with some departments, the Testing Center proctors a variety of makeup exams.
- CLEP: The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) gives students the opportunity to receive college credit for prior learning experiences by earning qualifying scores on any of 34 examinations. For more information, see COM’s CLEP webpage at www.com.edu/testing-center/clep.
- TCEQ Certification Exams: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) strives to protect our state’s public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. COM offers TCEQ certification exams through Computer Based Testing. For more information, see the TCEQ website at www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/training/cbt_occ_lic.html.
- TExES: COM is an official testing center for the computerized TExES (CAT) exam. Contact Pearson Vue, http://www.tx.nesinc.com/ to register or for any questions concerning the TExES exam.

See the Testing Center website, http://www.com.edu/testing-center/, for business hours, testing schedule, and testing policies.