

## MEMO

To: SWTJC Dual Credit/ECHS High School Partners

From: SWTJC

Cc: Dr. Mark Underwood, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: Monday, April 5, 2021

Subject: Extension of two waivers by Higher Education Commissioner

---

### **Do Dual Credit Students need to have a TSIA/TSIA2 or other Qualifying Score to enroll for Summer and Fall 2021 courses at SWTJC?**

**The short answer is “no.” But there’s more.....**

Typically, all high school students need to have achieved a Qualifying Score on a state-approved assessment in order to enroll in Southwest Texas Junior College courses offered for Dual Credit. Examples of approved assessment instruments are:

- Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA); **TSIA2 as of January 2021**
  - Readiness standards or “cut scores” are provided in Texas Education Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Rule 4.57
- STAAR End of Course Tests
- ACT
- SAT
- All approved assessments other than TSIA, TSIA2, and their qualifying scores, are described in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, Rule 4.54. This information is also available in TAC Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule 4.85.

If a student has taken the TSIA/TSIA2 or another qualifying assessment, SWTJC must advise and enroll the student on the basis of those scores. The waivers described below apply to students **WHO HAVE NOT TESTED**; the waivers do not over-ride advising determinations made with available test scores.

As we know, testing opportunities for nearly a year have been reduced because of COVID-19 quarantines and social distancing rules. Therefore, SWTJC is extending the enrollment waivers described below for the 2021-2022 academic year for students who have not had the opportunity to take the TSIA2 or another qualifying assessment.

## Early College High School Freshmen – Fall 2021

These students may be enrolled under the waiver provided in [Rule 4.55\(a\)](#) (Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 4, subchapter C). This “exceptional circumstances” provision applies to an individual who has no access to TSIA2 or other qualifying assessments. Under the “exceptional circumstances” provision, 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 entry-level freshman coursework.**

SWTJC additionally requires that students enrolled under this waiver have:  
**At least “B” grade for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English**; and

**Enrollment restricted to EDUC 1300 in Fall 2021**

The SWTJC Testing Center has been in operation for some months, and access to the Center is expected to continue. Therefore, students should have ample time to attempt the TSIA2 by the end of the Fall 2021 term. SWTJC will continue to make face-to-face and virtually-proctored opportunities available for students to attempt the TSIA2.

### Other Available Courses

In addition to EDUC 1300, SWTJC has TEMPORARILY approved the following courses for students with no TSIA/TSIA2 Reading score or another qualifying score. Those students may register for:

SPCH 1311	Introduction to Speech Communication
MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation
ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation
BUSI 1301	Business Principles
BUSI 1307	Personal Finance

## New Dual Credit Students – Non-ECHS – TYPICALLY 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS – FALL 2021

These students may be enrolled under the waiver provided in [Rule 4.54\(b\)](#) (Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 4, subchapter C), which allows a college to enroll a student as “non-degree seeking.”

The student will be admitted as a non-degree seeking student temporarily until assessments become available and will be evaluated based on a combination of the following:

- Score of at least 4000 on the English I STAAR EOC test PLUS
  - Grade of “A” or “B” for High School English II
  - High School Counselor recommendation

## Returning Dual Credit Students

Continuing or returning Dual Credit students became eligible in academic year 2020-2021 to enroll for college courses via established scores or exemptions. Students have had ample opportunity to attempt the TSIA/TSIA2 at an SWTJC campus or an ISD site. We anticipate, therefore, that returning students can be advised and enrolled according to those scores.

However, a student who was admitted during the 2020-2021 academic year under a waiver described above may continue to enroll under a waiver if exceptional circumstances have prohibited the student from attempting a qualifying assessment. This applies also to SWTJC summer 2021 courses, provided that the sponsoring School District has approved the course(s) credit for inclusion in the student’s high school requirements.

SWTJC will continue to make face-to-face and virtually-proctored opportunities available for all students to attempt the TSIA2.

## Concurrently Enrolled Students – Summer 2021

A Concurrent Student is defined as one who has not graduated from high school and elects to enroll for a college course with the knowledge that the course credit will NOT apply to the student’s high school requirements. Therefore, such a student must have met the minimum mastery score FOR ALL SECTIONS of the TSIA/TSIA2 in order to enroll for a Summer SWTJC college course.