



## ***Reading and Writing TSI-A Curriculum***

The information below describes each test and in what students must demonstrate mastery. Student deficiencies are provided to the student at the end of the test in a score report. The score report also tells the student what they should study to become proficient. The proficiency scale runs from 1-15. Scores between 10 and 15 are considered demonstrated proficiency. This information is available to students in their WebAdvisor as well.

The cut score or passing score for Reading is 351. For writing it is 340 on the multiple choice and a essay score of at least 4 on an 8 point scale. Students often say I only missed one question and failed but a point can actually mean they have missed mastery of a content area and consequently they may have missed a number of questions.

***TSI Assessment in Reading*** is a multiple-choice assessment that covers the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 24 items on the TSI placement test and 10 to 12 items in each section of the DE diagnostic test. If you score well enough on the placement test, you will not need to take the additional diagnostic test.

**Literary Analysis** measures your skill in identifying and analyzing ideas in and elements of literary texts.

**Main Idea and Supporting Details** measures your skill in identifying the main idea of a passage and in comprehending explicit textual information in a passage.

**Inferences in a Text or Texts** measures your skill in synthesizing ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages and in making an appropriate inference about single passages.

**Author's Use of Language** measures your skill in identifying an author's purpose, tone, organization or rhetorical strategies, and use of evidence in determining the meaning of words in context.



***TSI Assessment in Writing*** is an assessment that contains a multiple-choice section and an essay section:

### ***Multiple-Choice Section***

The multiple-choice section of the TSI Assessment in Writing measures your skills in the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 20 items on the TSI placement test and 10 to 12 items in each section of the DE diagnostic test. If you score well enough on the placement test, you will not need to take the additional diagnostic test.

**Essay Revision** measures your ability to provide coherence, organization, and good word choice and your ability to achieve rhetorical effectiveness and use evidence.

**Agreement** measures your ability to perform subject-verb agreement and pronoun agreement as well as your ability to determine verb tenses.

**Sentence Structure** measures your knowledge of topics like comma splices and run-on sentences; improper punctuation; fragments and parallelism; and subordination and coordination.

**Sentence Logic** measures your ability to correctly place modifying phrases and clauses and your ability to use logical transitions.

### ***Essay Section***

You may be asked to write a five-paragraph persuasive essay (approximately 300-600 words) on a controversial issue or one of current interest. You will be expected to clearly state a main idea and provide specific examples and details to back up your main idea, as well as follow conventions of standard English. You will not be allowed to use a dictionary or other outside resources, but you may use plain scratch paper (provided at the testing center) to plan your essay and write your rough draft(s).