



College Level Entrance Skills

Writing Skills - These are the writing skills that we expect a student to possess in order to take the English 101 course, and to enter other 100 level courses that have college level writing requirements. A student prepared with these skills has competency in the following:

- Able to organize an essay. (5 paragraph with intro/conclusion, basic thesis statement.) Student does not yet need to know all the rhetorical forms, these are taught in ENGL 101.
- Has a good understanding of audience when writing. (Knows when it is appropriate to use standard written English – the difference between writing a narrative vs. a note to your friend or an email.)
- Has a sense of development when organizing their writing. (Again, a basic understanding of this, more instruction on how to develop a piece is given in ENGL 101)
- Basic grammar and mechanics. For example:
 - Rules of syntax (order of subject, verb, adjectives, etc. in a sentence)
 - Subject/verb agreement
 - Appropriate use of modifiers (adjectives, adverbs, articles, pronouns and modifying phrases)
- Critical thinking skills
- High school reading level or above (see reading requirements)

Reading Skills - These are the reading skills we expect a student to possess in order to take any 100 level course at the college level. These skills are doubly important for online college courses, as all material will require the student to read and comprehend. All competencies listed below assume that students are reading at or above the high school level.

A student prepared with these skills has competency in the following:

- Effective use of note-taking strategies while reading
- Able to recognize stated and implied main ideas in college level reading selections and class material
- Able to discriminate between primary and secondary details in college-level reading and class material
- Able to discern methods of development, patterns of organization, and logical relationships between ideas, both written and spoken
- Able to make accurate and reasonable inferences from academic reading and class material
- Able to distinguish between statements of fact and opinion in academic reading material
- Able to understand and interpret figurative language
- Able to determine the issue, reasons and conclusion in material positing an argument or theory
- Able to determine audience, writer credibility, tone and level of detail in academic reading material

Arithmetic - These basic level math skills are required for all college level courses, not just math classes. Think of this as “math literacy”. Mastery of these skills does not determine a student’s placement into a *math* course (which requires transcript review), but determines their literacy with basic math that might come up in something like a psychology course. For example, a course may use percents or fractions, i.e. “25% of people will experience a period of depression in their lifetime”, the student should be prepared with this concept.

A student prepared with these skills has competency in the following:

- Basic arithmetic (+, -, /, *) with whole numbers
- Basic arithmetic with fractions, including operations with negative numbers
- Basic arithmetic with decimals
- Computing an average
- Square root (basic level)
- Word problems using the other skills mentioned here
- Prime factorization of given number
- Absolute value – *example:* $|-5|$
- Exponents (basic-level)
- Scientific notation (being able to interpret this notation and basic computation with numbers written this way) – *example:* $2,000,000 = 2 \times 10^6$