

Reading Competency Criteria

The Los Rios Community College District is expected to ameliorate the declining literacy of incoming college students and to foster access to higher education. The Los Rios Community College District's Reading Program empowers underprepared students with cognitive skills and processes needed to achieve academic success. The perspective of reading as a means for logical reasoning and abstract thought enables students to be literate, critical thinkers. Reading courses enhance the skills necessary for comprehending texts of all courses. Students who complete Reading courses are able to achieve academic and vocational success as literate, critical thinkers.

The level of reading competency has been designated to be at the same level and rigor of a Reading 310/312 course. The Reading Competency Committee interprets this to mean that a student is competent in reading by demonstrating proficiency in vocabulary, fluency, literal and inferential comprehension, and critical thinking. We believe that reading competency is best accomplished by completing a course that is fundamentally a course in Reading and is taught by an educator with professional experience and education in the academic discipline of Reading. In order to meet competency, a course must meet the following stated criteria.

Criteria:

1. Vocabulary

- Deepen knowledge of general academic and discipline-specific vocabulary in a variety of academic disciplines
- Apply knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes as well as contextual analysis to unknown words

2. Fluency

- Demonstrate fluency in complex and extended texts appropriate to college reading level
- Assess proper strategies to regulate reading rate for reader-specified purpose and college reading level

3. Literal and Inferential Comprehension

- Differentiate among topics, stated/implied main ideas, major/minor details, and text structures in college level essays and articles
- Create detailed outlines and summaries for essays and articles
- Discern the meaning of analogies encountered, analyzing comparisons, relationships and inferences

4. Critical Thinking

- Appraise an author's purpose, tone, bias, and point of view in college level texts
- Evaluate the logic of the arguments in college level texts
- Select suitable metacognitive strategies to construct meaning and self-regulate comprehension and learning