

## Choosing Your Reading & Writing Course

When choosing your first reading and writing course, it's important to **consider your current skills, the topics covered and course expectations**. If you have questions, talk with your advisor.

The courses on page 1 are developmental-level and the courses on page 2 are college-level.

Course	Your Skills & Readiness	Topics Covered & Course Expectations
<b>Foundations of Reading &amp; Writing</b>	<p><b>You would be a good candidate if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you would benefit from a slower pace, where you'd have the chance to develop skills you may have forgotten</li> <li>• you do not consider yourself a habitual reader, but you have the ability to read for 30-45 minutes at a time</li> <li>• you would benefit from practice writing short reflections and essays, before tackling longer and more complex assignments</li> <li>• you would like a refresher in the areas of grammar, punctuation and spelling</li> <li>• you are interested in basic instruction on using the library</li> </ul>	<p>In <b>Foundations of Reading &amp; Writing</b>, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have the chance to explore different types of readings in a variety of subjects</li> <li>• produce a number of short writing assignments</li> <li>• wrestle with big, thought-provoking questions in class and in your assignments</li> <li>• go at a slower pace to spend more time focusing on how to be an effective learner and transfer the knowledge and skills you learn in this class to other college courses</li> </ul> <p><b>A typical assignment might ask you to:</b> Write a three-paragraph essay about your progress as a writer and your goals as a college student (see sample paper).</p>
<b>Reading &amp; Writing for College*</b>  <small>*Intended for students who co-enroll in Dimensions of Freedom or Work</small>	<p><b>You would be a good candidate if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you want to take a college-level class, but would benefit from extra support and opportunities to practice different skills</li> <li>• you have the time and resources to take two classes focused on reading and writing</li> <li>• you are not entirely confident about your ability to handle complex text</li> <li>• you have the time and ability to read several shorts essays or literary works outside of class each week</li> <li>• you feel uncertain about your skills as a writer</li> <li>• you would benefit from some instruction on using the library</li> </ul>	<p>In <b>Reading &amp; Writing for College</b> you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-enroll in Dimensions (CCV's first-year seminar)</li> <li>• support your faster-paced Dimensions course by strengthening reading, writing, and communication skills through classwork, support strategies, and assignments</li> <li>• apply new skills in your Dimensions course</li> <li>• use your <i>Dimensions Reader</i> as your textbook in both classes</li> </ul> <p><b>A typical assignment might ask you to:</b> Complete a reading log that demonstrates active learning: ask questions, identify areas of confusion, gather definitions for words you don't know, make associations or connections from your prior experiences, etc. (see sample paper).</p>

Course	Your Skills & Readiness	Topics Covered & Course Expectations
<b>Dimensions of Freedom or Work</b>	<p><b>You would be a good candidate if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you want to move at a quicker pace, but would benefit from a class that provides some guidance on how to produce college-level work and be a successful student</li> <li>• you are ready to handle longer and more complex assignments</li> <li>• you are able to read for several hours at a time and feel comfortable reading 50-75 pages each week</li> <li>• you may need to polish some aspects of your writing, but you generally feel ready to complete written assignments of 3-5 typed pages per week</li> <li>• you feel confident that you can complete a final project that integrates some research skills</li> </ul>	<p>In <b>Dimensions</b> you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read and discuss ideas in either literature, philosophy and history (Dimensions of Freedom) or biography, history and the social sciences (Dimensions of Work)</li> <li>• complete a variety of writing assignments</li> <li>• learn how to use the resources in CCV's Hartness Library</li> <li>• explore challenging content and practice the kind of serious reading, writing, and thinking you'll need to be successful throughout college</li> <li>• <b>Dimensions is required for all degree and certificate students</b></li> </ul> <p><b>A typical assignment might ask you to:</b></p> <p>Write a 3-4 page double-spaced paper discussing a theme or idea that was explored in class over the past three weeks. Provide specific examples of where this theme came up as you reflect upon your learning and synthesize any new insights you have gained with the themes of this course. Be sure to explain how you arrived at this insight (see sample paper).</p>
<b>English Composition</b>	<p><b>You would be a good candidate if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you are ready for a quick and demanding pace</li> <li>• you can handle complex assignments with multiple steps on a regular basis</li> <li>• you are able to read for several hours at a time and feel more comfortable reading 50-75 pages each week</li> <li>• you would benefit from practice writing different kinds of formal essays, but you have solid writing skills and feel comfortable writing 3-5 typed pages per week</li> <li>• you start the course with some knowledge of citation and the research process and feel ready to deepen that knowledge throughout the semester</li> </ul>	<p>In <b>English Composition</b> you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learn how to write different types of essays, the kind of academic writing that's necessary for college but also important in the workplace</li> <li>• work with your teacher to develop more sophisticated reading and writing skills</li> <li>• understand how the work you've created in composition compares to the expectations CCV has for graduates</li> <li>• receive instruction from your faculty or a librarian, who can work with you on developing a strategy for searching and managing informational resources, preparing you for higher level research courses</li> <li>• <b>English Composition is required for all degree and certificate students</b></li> </ul> <p><b>A typical assignment might ask you to:</b></p> <p>Draft an argument essay. It must be at least 3 pages long and it must include at least 2 reliable sources, formatted according to MLA guidelines. The introduction must state your claim and include at least three reasons why you are taking this stand. The following paragraphs must support your first, second and third claim. You must acknowledge two points from the opposition, refute the opposition, and conclude by reaffirming your point (see sample paper).</p>