

## **REA 100, Reading and Thinking in the Disciplines, Frequently Asked Questions**

### **REA 100 FAQs**

#### **What is REA 100?**

REA 100 is a three-credit, general elective reading course. The catalog description is below:

This course is designed specifically to meet the reading and thinking needs in a particular discipline. Learning strategies will focus on skills necessary for success in the content course, such as note-taking, graphic or visual materials, and/or laboratory preparation and application. Likewise, critical and active reading performance will focus on the needs of the discipline: understanding and evaluating scholarly research, discipline-based vocabulary, textbook management, reading flexibility, and other higher-level thinking appropriate to the discipline.

This course is intended to be taken in conjunction with another course in a different discipline. Please see master schedule for offerings. May not be repeated for credit. Three credits.

\*Accuplacer Reading score between 71-80.9.

#### **Why all this emphasis on reading?**

Reading is the foundation of college success. Professors from all areas stress the importance of reading to their disciplines, and data from Institutional Research show that students with lower reading test scores have a decreased chance of successfully passing their 100-level college courses. Academic reading is challenging and different from the reading you do for pleasure. That's why MCC offers a variety of reading classes: so students can succeed and persist in their studies and achieve their personal and academic goals.

#### **Do I have to take a reading course?**

Yes. Effective Fall 2015 REA 100 is a pre- or co-requisite for students who place into it. This requirement was put in place by the ENG/PHL and ESOL/TRS Departments to ensure student success. Faculty across the College fully support this decision.

#### **Which reading course should I take?**

If you receive an Accuplacer reading comprehension score of 81 or higher, you may choose to take REA 101, Critical Reading, a 3-credit Humanities elective designed to enhance your critical thinking skills. It is an excellent complement to courses requiring research papers because you'll be locating sources and evaluating them for appropriateness, relevancy, and bias.

**If you receive a reading comprehension score below 81, you will need to enroll in the course(s) indicated below:**

Scores of 71-80.9 place you into REA 100, Reading and Thinking in the Disciplines. You must take this course with or before enrolling in ENG 101 or TRS 105. REA 100 is a 3-credit general elective intended to be taken in with another course in the content areas.

Scores of 57-70.9 place you into TRS 200, Integrated Reading and Writing II. You must take this course before you can enroll in ENG 101, but you do not have to take any other reading course. TRS 200 carries 5 imputed credits, which means it counts toward your full-time status and toward financial aid. You will earn a grade that appears on your official transcript, but you will not earn any degree credit for this course since it prepares you for ENG 101 and other gateway courses.

Scores below 57 place you into TRS 100, Integrated Reading and Writing I. You must take this course followed by TRS 200 before enrolling in ENG 101. You do not have to take another reading course after those two. Like TRS 200, TRS 100 carries 5 imputed credits.

**What if I don't see an REA 100 course specifically for my major?**

Offerings of REA 100 continue to change and grow. Right now you can take it with a Psychology, History, Mathematics, ENG 101 (or TRS 105), Criminal Justice class or with any course in the STEM or Social Science/Global Studies areas. There will be more options in the future. It's okay if you don't see one for your exact major because studies show that you'll be better able to learn, practice, and transfer the skills and mindsets taught in a reading course if they're immediately applied to another class you are taking. Just sign up for the one that matches best with one of your other classes. REA 100 will help you pass your discipline courses with higher grades and greater understanding of the key content and concepts.

**What if I change my major? Will I have to take a different REA 100?**

No. You may only take the course once for a passing grade. The skills will still apply.

**What will I learn in REA 100?**

Students who complete REA 100 will be able to:

- Apply the reading process to texts in the content course.
- Articulate comprehension of college texts.
- Formulate appropriate inferences while reading college-level text.
- Apply vocabulary strategies in the content course.
- Employ reading strategies, such as note-taking, annotating, paraphrasing, and other skills, appropriate to content course.
- Connect texts to broader themes of the discipline.
- Apply various read-study systems, such as SQ3R, in the content area.
- Illustrate ability to transfer reading skills to other disciplines.
- Employ metacognitive strategies.

**Enroll today!**

