

READING

ESL-Reading – Grades 9,10, 11, 12

Full Year – Level E Credit 1

This program is for *English as Second Language* students in need of developing or improving reading skills such as word recognition, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. The ESL teacher in conjunction with the guidance counselor refers students to this program. Students receive small group and individualized diagnostic instruction three (3) times per cycle. The student's reading program is documented in the student's Individualized Reading Plan (IRP). A pass/fail grade is given. The reading consultant will assess student progress at the end of each semester to determine when a student no longer needs intensive reading instruction in this program.

Essential Benchmarks – Students will:

- Utilize word recognition strategies, including contextual clues, picture clues, phonics and structural analysis to develop and/or increase reading vocabulary
- Develop reading comprehension skills.

Study Skills – Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Half Year - Level E Credits 2.5

Students at Amity are faced with a challenging curriculum in all subject areas. The objective of this course is to assist students in developing skills and strategies to enable them to learn more effectively. The strategies taught will be applicable to studies in all content subjects. The course will assist students in developing strategies in time management, use of texts, memory and concentration, notetaking, comprehension, reading strategies, and test taking. An awareness of learning styles and attitudes will be emphasized.

Essential Benchmarks – Students will:

- Identify and understand personal learning styles
- Evaluate personal study skills and habits
- Select, refine, and adapt practical study skills and strategies to maximize opportunity for learning.

Reading Advantage – Grades 10, 11, 12

Half Year - Level E Credits 2.5

This reading course is designed for students who score below the 50th percentile** (see below) on the *Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test* and for students who experience anxiety in content area reading. The focus of the course is to assist students in developing strategies to improve vocabulary and written expression of comprehension. Students will read and discuss narrative, informational, and persuasive materials and will respond in the oral and written form. This reading and writing will relate to the content area reading as well as to the *Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)*.

Essential Benchmarks – Students will:

- Construct meaning, interpret, and respond critically to fiction and non-fiction materials
- Take a clear stand on an issue and support the position with accurate and relevant information
- Develop, substantiate, and defend ideas in the written form.

Reading Success – Grades 10, 11, 12**

Full Year – Level E Credits 2.5

Students who score below the 28th percentile will be enrolled in this course. It is a yearlong elective course that meets three (3) times per cycle. Reading Success has the same goals and objectives/benchmarks as the Reading Advantage course.

Test Skills: SAT I Verbal Prep – Grades 10, 11, 12

One Marking Period - Level E Credit 1

This course is designed to help students prepare for the verbal sections of the SAT I. The program will include instruction on general and specific test taking strategies. The general strategies include helping students follow directions and avoid errors, using time efficiently, using guessing strategy, and handling test anxiety. The specific test-taking strategies include helping students understand and respond efficiently to the various types of SAT I verbal questions: analogies, sentence completion, and critical reading. This course is graded as pass/fail.

Essential Benchmarks – Students will:

- Solve analogy and sentence completion questions and justify reasoning for an answer choice
- Plan an approach to comprehend the critical reading passages and to answer the critical reading questions

Additional information on programs offered by the Reading Department can be found under Student Support Programs/Services.