Reading and Composition Requirement

Guidelines for Reading and Composition Courses

In order to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing and critical thinking for work in the major, the College requires two semesters of lower division work in composition—Reading and Composition (R&C), Parts A and B, in sequential order.

- All undergraduates must complete the Reading and Composition (R&C) requirement by the end of their fourth semester, or their enrollment will be blocked for the following semester.
- All courses used to satisfy Part A or B of Reading and Composition must be completed with a letter grade of C- or better.
- Students who have been admitted to Berkeley and have not completed Entry Level Writing (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/letters-science/entry-level-writing-requirement), must enroll in College Writing R1A which satisfies both Entry Level Writing and the first half of R&C. Please note: A minimum grade of C is required in COLWRIT R1A in order to satisfy Entry Level Writing.
- CLASSIC R44 (completed with a C- or higher) may be used to satisfy either Part A or Part B of R&C. This course may also be used to satisfy Arts and Literature, Historical Studies, or Social & Behavioral Sciences breadth.
- With the exception of CLASSIC R44, courses fulfilling the Reading and Composition requirement may not be applied to Seven-Course Breadth (https://ls.berkeley.edu/seven-course-breadth-requirement).

Satisfying Reading and Composition with an Exam

- Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition - Minimum Score of 4 satisfies Part A
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition - Minimum Score of 5 satisfies Parts A & B
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition - Score of 4 or 5 satisfies Part A
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) English A: Literature* - Score of 5, 6, or 7 satisfies Parts A & B
- Beginning with students admitted in fall 2018 - International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) English A: Language and Literature* - Score of 5, 6, or 7 satisfies Parts A & B
- GCE A-Level English Literature exam for students entering Berkeley fall 2017 and PRIOR - Score of A, B, or C Parts A & B
- GCE A-Level English Literature exam for students entering Berkeley fall 2018 and BEYOND - No longer accepted for this requirement

* The IB ‘Literature and Performance’ exam, as well as the Standard Level (SL) exams in English A: Literature and English A: Language and Literature are NOT eligible for satisfaction of Reading and Composition.

Satisfying Reading and Composition with Berkeley Courses

- Successful completion with a C- grade or better of two designated Reading and Composition courses in sequence order. Review all approved below.

Satisfying Reading and Composition Requirement with Transfer Courses

- Transfer courses must be taken on a letter-graded basis and be completed with a grade of C- or better.
- For courses from California community colleges, review ASSIST (http://www.assist.org). Note: IGETC certification (http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/general-education-igetc) from a California community college or a letter of reciprocity from a UC campus satisfies the Reading and Composition requirement (and all other L&S breadth requirements).

Note: Transfer students may satisfy the Reading and Composition requirement with IGETC or UC Reciprocity.

Satisfies Part A of the Reading and Composition Requirement

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Reading and Composition Requirement

NE STUD R1A  Reading and Composition in Near Eastern Studies
RHETOR R1A  The Craft of Writing
SASIAN R5A  Great Books of India
SCANDIN R5A  Reading and Composition
SEASIAN R5A  Self, Representation, and Nation
SLAVIC R5A  Reading and Composition
SPANISH R1A  Reading and Composition Through Readings from the Spanish-Speaking World
THEATER R1A  Performance: Writing and Research
XCOLWRI R1A  Accelerated Reading and Composition
XCOMLIT R1A  English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature
XENGLIS R1A  Reading and Composition
XFILM R1A  The Craft of Writing - Film Focus
XRHETOR R1A  The Craft of Writing

Satisfies Part B of the Reading and Composition Requirement

Please scroll down to see complete list of courses.

AFRICAM R1B  Freshman Composition
ANTHRO R5B  Reading and Composition in Anthropology
ASAMST R2B  Reading and Composition
CELTIC R1B  Voices of the Celtic World
CHICANO R1B  Reading and Composition
COLWRIT R4B  Reading, Composition, and Research
COM LIT H1B  English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature
COM LIT N1B  English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature
COM LIT R1B  English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature
COM LIT R2B  English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and French Literature
COM LIT R3B  English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and Hispanic Literature
EA LANG R1B  Reading and Composition on topics in East Asian Humanities
ENGLISH R1B  Reading and Composition
ENV DES R3B  Reading and Composition in Energy, Society, and Environmental Design
FILM R1B  The Craft of Writing - Film Focus
FRAMES R1B  English Composition in Connection with the Reading of Literature
GERMAN R5B  Reading and Composition
GWS N1B  Reading and Composition
GWS R1B  Reading and Composition
HISTART R1B  Reading and Writing about Visual Experience
HISTORY R1B  Reading and Composition in History
ITALIAN R5B  Reading and Composition
LEGALST R1B  Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution
LINGUIS R2B  Language and Linguistics in Science Fiction
MUSIC R1B  Reading and Writing about Music
NATAMST R1B  Native American Studies Reading and Composition
NE STUD R1B  Reading and Composition in Near Eastern Studies
NWMEDIA R1B  New Media Reading and Composition
PHILOS R1B  Reading and Composition Through Philosophy
RHETOR R1B  The Craft of Writing
SASIAN R5B  India in the Writer’s Eye
SCANDIN R5B  Reading and Composition
SEASIAN R5B  Under Western Eyes
SLAVIC R5B  Reading and Composition
SOCIOL R1B  Sociological Reading & Composition
SPANISH R1B  Reading and Composition Through Readings from the Spanish-Speaking World
THEATER R1B  Performance: Writing and Research
XENGLIS R1B  Reading and Composition
XLEGALS R1B  Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution

Satisfies Either Part A or B of the Reading and Composition Requirement

CLASSIC R44  Roots of Western Civilization