<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Is Reading Competency?</th>
<th>At American River College you must demonstrate Reading Competency as a graduation requirement for an A.A./A.S. degree.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| How Can I Satisfy Reading Competency? | There are several ways to complete the reading competency graduation requirement.  
PASS one (1) of the following:  
✓ Reading Competency Exam OR  
✓ ENGRD 310: Critical Reading as Critical Thinking OR  
✓ ENGRD 312: Academic Textbook Reading OR  
✓ ESLR 340: Advanced Reading Skills Through Literature  
Note: You must receive a “C” or better in these courses to pass. |
| Not Sure Which Choice? | Consult your counselor to discuss which option best meets your academic needs and goals. |
| Reading Competency Exam | At American River College, the reading competency exam is the COMPASS exam and is available at the Assessment Center in the Student Services Building.  
Check the testing schedule online at ARC website: Quick Links, Assessment Center, Testing Calendar. |
| How Long Is The Test? | The COMPASS exam is not timed. You will have as long as you need. The average time students take to complete the exam is about one (1) hour. |
| How Many Times Can I Take The Exam? | You are entitled to two (2) attempts at the Reading Competency Exam, “COMPASS.”  
If you take the Reading Competency exam at another campus within the Los Rios Community College District, it will count toward your two (2) attempts. |
| How Do I Prepare For The Exam? | Your best preparation is a passing grade in ENGRD 116: Proficient Reading, ESLR 320: Advanced Reading, or an equivalent reading course at another college.  
See a sample test question online at ARC website: Quick Links, Assessment Center, Graduation Competency Testing. |
### What Are My Options After Two (2) Attempts?

If you do not pass the Reading Competency Test after two attempts, and you have already passed or placed out of ENGRD 116 or ESLR 320, you will need to take and pass with a “C” or better any one (1) of the following courses to receive an A.A./A.S. degree:

- ENGRD 310: Critical Reading as Critical Thinking OR
- ENGRD 312: Academic Textbook Reading OR
- ESLR 340: Advanced Reading Skills Through Literature

### Course Descriptions

The following sections provide details about the course content.

#### ENGRD 310

&

#### ENGRD 314

**Speed Reading**

**Critical Reading As Critical Thinking (3 Units)**

This course covers the theory and practice of critical and speed reading skills needed for successful academic performance with an emphasis on the following: critical and analytical evaluation of college-level expository and argumentative essays, (2) development of flexible reading rate and speed, (3) critical analysis and evaluation of independent research, (4) vocabulary development, and (5) application of these skills to multicultural essays, journals, fiction, and nonfiction reading.  *Corequisite: ENGRD 314 Speed Reading (.5 units)*

*General Education: AA/AS Area II(b), Transferable to CSU*  
*Meets the CSU G.E. Area A3: Critical Thinking requirement*

#### ENGRD 312

&

#### ENGRD 314

**Speed Reading**

**Academic Textbook Reading (3 Units)**

This course concentrates on the refinement of the ability to read, understand, and respond to transfer-level textbooks across the curriculum. Emphasis is on critical and analytical reading, thinking and writing; graphics and other visual materials; discipline-based vocabulary; and reading rates as they relate to academic success.  *Corequisite: ENGRD 314 Speed Reading (.5 units)*

*General Education: AA/AS Area II(b), Transferable to CSU*

#### ESLR 340

**Advanced Reading Skills Through Literature (4 units)**

This course, intended for advanced non-native speakers of English, is designed to improve vocabulary and reading skills. Readings include various forms of literature from a variety of cultures, including essays, poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. This course focuses on further development of critical thinking and reading skills needed for academic performance: (1) analysis and comprehension skills, (2) research and synthesizing skills, (3) vocabulary development, and (4) flexibility of reading rate. It also emphasizes the comparison and contrast of universal and metaphorical themes, as applied in various cultures, and includes extensive writing based on critical analysis of readings.

*Transferable to CSU*