

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ESL 27      **Credits:** 5

**Course Title:** Introduction to Academic Reading

**Course Description:**

Provides instruction and practice in reading and vocabulary development at the low-intermediate level. Improves reading fluency and comprehension of short, simple texts. Introduces high-frequency vocabulary. Credits are not applicable toward graduation. Lecture 5 hours. Total 5 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:**

ESL 27 introduces academic skills to improve reading comprehension and develop vocabulary.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: Placement into ESL 27

**Course Objectives**

- Demonstrate the comprehension of at least 120 high-frequency (Oxford 3000) words (mostly CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, A1, A2, B1).
- Use basic reading strategies to understand short, simple texts.
- Demonstrate understanding of short, simple texts by identifying main ideas and supporting details within a set time.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- Vocabulary skills
  - word families (parts of speech)
  - common collocations
- Reading strategies
  - previewing
  - predicting
  - scanning
  - identifying main ideas and details
- Learning strategies
  - flash cards
  - extensive reading, e.g. graded readers (CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, A1 and A2)

**Date Created/Updated:** January 1, 2026