On successful completion of Level 1, students are beginning students who have had little or no English, or who have forgotten English they studied before. They can understand simple spoken English in everyday social settings. Their use of English is often inexact, and (simple, compound and complex sentences) and they are beginning to use auxiliaries. Their use of English is often more effective in social than in academic settings.

Reading for Academic Study
Students successfully completing Level 1 typically need three or more semesters (later terms in part-time study) of English before they are ready to study at KU.

On successful completion of Level 2, students are low-intermediate, and need general improvement in all areas of English, but may have one skill more highly-developed than the rest. They can typically talk with native speakers in most social settings, and are using contractions in speaking. They can take notes on short, simple academic talks. They can read paragraphs and texts on common topics and simple academic subjects. They can write paragraphs and simple academic essays. Grammar production and understanding is upper-elementary, and (simple, compound and complex sentences) and they are beginning to use auxiliaries. Their use of English is often more effective in social than in academic settings.

Reading for Academic Study
Students successfully completing Level 2 typically need two to three more semesters (later terms in part-time study) before they are ready to begin an academic program

On successful completion of Level 3, students are high-intermediate, and typically are approaching readiness for academic study but still have significant weaknesses in using their English skills. They can converse with native speakers, starting and ending conversations, asking questions and expressing opinions and differing points of view. They can take notes in different organizational styles on short academic presentations from a variety of disciplines. In reading, they can identify thesis statements, main ideas and supporting points, and understand the relationships among them. They can write in a variety of academic formats and use a wide variety of grammatical structures to summarize, synthesize and paraphrase. They can write an academic essay as research sources.

Reading for Academic Study
Students successfully completing Level 3 typically need one or two more semesters (often part-time study) before they are ready to begin an academic program

On successful completion of Level 4, students are low-advanced, and are nearly ready for academic study. They have a high overall level of general proficiency but may have noticeable weaknesses in one or more areas. They can participate easily in conversations and discussions on general or academic topics and ask questions for clarification. They speak at appropriate levels for their audience, and can self-correct errors in speaking. They can take effective notes on academic talks and lectures, and identify important and unimportant information. In reading, they can work with academic texts, and identify the organizational pattern of long texts and frequently guess meaning of words from context. They can write papers up to 3 pages in academic format with research support in a variety of styles (e.g., evaluation, summary, explanation). They can express the same idea in a variety of grammatical ways.

Reading for Academic Study
Students successfully completing Level 4 are typically ready for at least part-time academic work, and many are ready for full-time academic work.

On successful completion of any Level 5 or Special Studies course, students are very advanced in English language study and typically are typically eligible to enroll in part-time academic work. They have a very high overall level of general proficiency. They can participate easily in conversations of both an academic and non-academic nature, and self-correct oral grammar and pronunciation errors, although some will still go undetected. They speak fluently and clearly. With normal preparation, they can listen and take notes on lectures in academic courses. In reading, they can read and manage the demands of academic textbooks. They can research and write academic papers of several pages, taking and defending a position with appropriate support. Written grammatical errors will still occur, but will not impede meaning, and they can understand and accurately produce grammatical structures expected of a college freshman.

Reading for Academic Study
Students successfully completing Level 5 are typically ready for full-time academic work.