English Academic Refresher FAQs

The English Academic Refresher MOOC is designed to refresh and build your knowledge on the reading, writing, and grammar skills you need to excel in Freshman Composition and beyond. You will access this MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) via Blackboard.

How do I register for the English Academic Refreshers?

In order to complete the academic refresher modules, you'll need to sign up for and enroll in the modules. Instructions are available on the Communications Center website, our Blackboard course, and in print form, in the Communications Center.

I've enrolled and logged in. Now what?

Any time you are asked to complete an Academic Refresher, you should visit the MOOC on Blackboard and complete the refresher. Each refresher will include a **pre-test, lessons, practice exercises, and a post-test.**

Before beginning each refresher, you will have a chance to take a pre-test. If you earn a 90% or higher on that pre-test, you will earn an achievement badge for that refresher. If you do not earn a 90% or higher, you will gain access to a series of lessons and practice exercises that will build your knowledge on a particular skill.

After studying the lesson and completing the exercises, you will be given the chance to take a post-test. Earn a 90% on the post-test, and you earn the achievement badge. The achievement badge is the proof that you completed the lesson. You can show proof that you completed the refresher by taking a screenshot of the page and either printing that screenshot, emailing it, or messaging it via Blackboard.

How do I take a screenshot?

Click your operating system for instructions on how to take a screenshot:

Windows OS

Mac OS

But if I don't earn a 90% or higher on the pre-test, I'll have more work to do!

Yes, this does mean a bit more work. As a college student who chose to enroll in a college-level writing class, you take on the responsibility of developing your writing skills (and seeking out the help you need to develop those skills). The work you do in the refreshers will help you excel in this class and in other writing-intensive courses in the future.

I earned a 90% or higher on the pre-test. That means that my skills are on point. No extra work for me, right?

Earning a 90% on a 10-question pre-test will give you a general sense of your skills in a particular area of grammar or writing. If you exhibit consistent errors in that particular skill on your first graded essay, however, you will be required to complete further work in that skill. You will be asked to complete the

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refresher lessons and exercises, even if you earned the badge via the pre-test. If this is you, you will need to print or take a screenshot of the exercises you completed under "My Scores."

Can I complete exercises ahead of when they are listed on the course calendar?

Absolutely! Feel free to work ahead.

What if I have technical problems?

You should contact Technical Support help immediately by using the "Help" option in the English Academic Refreshers MOOC. You should also contact me immediately with a detailed explanation of the problem as well as a ticket number or other proof that you contacted Blackboard.