

# DESCRIPTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING BETWEEN APPLIED, ACADEMIC & ESSENTIAL COURSES

	APPLIED	ACADEMIC	ESSENTIAL
<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reads competently to find information or complete assignments</li> <li>-views reading as a tool for learning</li> <li>-deals effectively with clearly presented, factual information</li> <li>-capably writes work based on fact or opinion without developed explanation</li> <li>-benefits from more structure in assignments and lessons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reads competently for both information and pleasure</li> <li>-views reading as a tool for learning and as a pleasurable hobby</li> <li>-deals effectively with complex and abstract concepts</li> <li>-capably writes with detailed arguments and developed explanation</li> <li>-benefits from more independence in assignments and lessons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-experiences some difficulty with reading</li> <li>-often does not enjoy reading</li> <li>-struggles with decoding and/or comprehending information</li> <li>-struggles with writing</li> <li>-needs more structure in assignments and lessons</li> </ul>
<b>TEACHING/ LEARNING STRATEGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-practical and concrete content</li> <li>-structured and teacher-directed lessons</li> <li>-focus on report and business writing in Plain Language</li> <li>-thinking skills focus on processing and organization of information</li> <li>-provides repeated opportunities to practice and refine skills</li> <li>-somewhat slower pace demands good organizational and self-regulation skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-more abstract and theoretical content</li> <li>-structured and self-directed lessons</li> <li>-focus on analytical and argumentative writing using academic language</li> <li>-thinking skills focus on drawing conclusions and making predictions</li> <li>-provides opportunities to refine and develop skills in new context</li> <li>-faster pace demands excellent organizational and self-regulation skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-practical, concrete content; often related to daily experiences</li> <li>-structured and teacher-directed lessons</li> <li>-focus on writing for daily living</li> <li>-thinking skills focus on problem-solving</li> <li>-provides repeated opportunities to practice and improve skills</li> <li>-slower pace focuses on development of organizational and self-regulation skills</li> </ul>