



## **Transitional English**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is Transitional English (TE)?**

Transitional English (TE) is a year-long course for high school seniors that prepares students for direct entry into college-level English, bypassing the need for additional placement measures. The reading, writing, and critical thinking skills taught in TE also benefit students entering the workforce, pursuing a certificate, or delaying their college enrollment (up to 3 years).

#### **Who Should Take Transitional English?**

- Students who plan to enroll in college after high school and need extra help developing college readiness skills
- Students who plan on pursuing a certificate or additional formal training in their chosen occupational field
- Students who plan on entering the workforce after graduation and want to enhance their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills for workforce success

#### **What is taught in Transitional English?**

- Writing, reading, and critical thinking skills applicable to both college and career settings
- Topics and assignments that build on student interests, previous experience, and existing academic knowledge
- Real-world applications and engagement with complex informational (nonfiction) texts

- Focus on growth throughout the course through scaffolding, gradual increase of depth and rigor, and multiple opportunities to receive feedback, reflect, and revise written work

### **Do students receive college credit for enrolling in Transitional English?**

No. Transitional English is not a college-level course or an Advanced Placement (AP)/Dual Credit course. It is a senior-year high school English course that allows direct placement into English 101 and related credit-bearing courses.

### **Does enrollment in Transitional English guarantee enrollment into English 101?**

No. Transitional English students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in both semesters of TE in order to receive “portability” and enroll directly into English 101.

### **What is Transitional English “portability”?**

Students who successfully pass Transitional English receive “portability” (i.e. placement into credit-bearing English courses at the postsecondary level) for up to three years after graduation.

### **Where is Transitional English portability accepted?**

TE portability is accepted at all Illinois community colleges, in addition to four-year schools that choose to participate. Students should check with individual four-year institutions in Illinois to determine their portability acceptance policies.

### **What college courses can students enroll in once they receive portability?**

TE portability guarantees students access into entry-level English courses at the postsecondary level. It also enables them to enroll in courses from other disciplines that require “English 101 placement” as a prerequisite.

### **Can TE students use portability before their TE class has officially ended?**

No. Students need to officially receive portability (i.e. pass both semesters of TE with a “C” or higher) before using it to register for credit-bearing classes. Until then, they will need to use

alternative placement measures (such as GPA, standardized test scores, and placement test scores) to determine proper placement in college-level English courses.

### **Does portability ever expire?**

Yes. TE portability is valid for up to three years after graduation.

### **Is Transitional English a semester course?**

No. Transitional English is a year-long course. Students must enroll in, and pass, both semesters of TE in order to earn portability.

### **What happens if a student does not earn a passing grade in Transitional English?**

Students who do not earn a “C” or higher in both semesters of TE are still able to use alternative placement measures (such as GPA, standardized test scores, and placement test scores) to place directly into credit-bearing courses at the postsecondary level.

### **What are the benefits of a Transitional English course?**

- Students earn direct entry into credit-bearing classes at the postsecondary level directly after high school graduation.
- Students save both time and money by bypassing the need for developmental reading and writing courses at the postsecondary level.
- Students bypass the need for alternative placement measures (i.e. GPA, standardized/placement test scores) for direct enrollment in credit-bearing classes.
- Students gain reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that prepare them for both college and career-readiness.

### **Where can I find out more information about Transitional English?**

Contact your student’s high school guidance department for more information about Transitional English. You can also find more information by visiting the JJC Transition website: <https://jic.edu/transition-programs>.