Measures of Proficiency

Reading/Critical Thinking  Proficiency Level I
Students who are proficient can:
• Recognize factual material explicitly presented in a reading passage
• Understand the meaning of particular words or phrases in the context of a reading passage

Reading/Critical Thinking  Proficiency Level II
Students who are proficient can:
• Synthesize material from different sections of a passage
• Recognize valid inferences derived from material in the passage
• Identify accurate summaries of a passage or of significant sections of the passage
• Understand and interpret figurative language
• Discern the main idea, purpose or focus of a passage or a significant portion of the passage

Reading/Critical Thinking  Proficiency Level III
Students who are proficient can:
• Evaluate competing causal explanations
• Evaluate hypotheses for consistency with known facts
• Determine the relevance of information for evaluating an argument or conclusion
• Determine whether an artistic interpretation is supported by evidence contained in a work
• Recognize the salient features or themes in a work of art
• Evaluate the appropriateness of procedures for investigating a question of causation
• Evaluate data for consistency with known facts, hypotheses or methods
• Recognize flaws and inconsistencies in an argument

Writing Skills  Proficiency Level I
Students who are proficient can:
• Recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions)
• Recognize appropriate transition words
• Recognize incorrect word choice
• Order sentences in a paragraph
• Order elements in an outline

Writing Skills  Proficiency Level II
Students who are proficient can:
• Incorporate new material into a passage
• Recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions) when these elements are complicated by intervening words or phrases
• Combine simple clauses into single, more complex combinations
• Recast existing sentences into new syntactic combinations

Writing Skills  Proficiency Level III
Students who are proficient can:
• Discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate use of parallelism
• Discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate use of idiomatic language
• Recognize redundancy
• Discriminate between correct and incorrect constructions
• Recognize the most effective revision of a sentence
Mathematics  Proficiency Level I

Students who are proficient can:
• Solve word problems that would most likely be solved by arithmetic and do not involve conversion of units or proportionality. These problems can be multi-step if the steps are repeated rather than embedded.
• Solve problems involving the informal properties of numbers and operations, often involving the Number Line, including positive and negative numbers, whole numbers and fractions (including conversions of common fractions to percent, such as converting "1/4" to 25%)
• Solve problems requiring a general understanding of square roots and the squares of numbers
• Solve a simple equation or substitute numbers into an algebraic expression
• Find information from a graph. This task may involve finding a specified piece of information in a graph that also contains other information.

Mathematics  Proficiency Level II

Students who are proficient can:
• Solve arithmetic problems with some complications, such as complex wording, maximizing or minimizing, and embedded ratios. These problems include algebra problems that can be solved by arithmetic (the answer choices are numeric).
• Simplify algebraic expressions, perform basic translations, and draw conclusions from algebraic equations and inequalities. These tasks are more complicated than solving a simple equation, though they may be approached arithmetically by substituting numbers.
• Interpret a trend represented in a graph, or choose a graph that reflects a trend
• Solve problems involving sets; problems have numeric answer choices

Mathematics  Proficiency Level III

Students who are proficient can:
• Solve word problems that would be unlikely to be solved by arithmetic; the answer choices are either algebraic expressions or numbers that do not lend themselves to back-solving
• Solve problems involving difficult arithmetic concepts such as exponents and roots other than squares and square roots and percent of increase or decrease
• Generalize about numbers, (e.g., identify the values of (x) for which an expression increases as (x) increases)
• Solve problems requiring an understanding of the properties of integers, rational numbers, etc.
• Interpret a graph in which the trends are to be expressed algebraically or one of the following is involved: exponents and roots other than squares and square roots, percent of increase or decrease
• Solve problems requiring insight or logical reasoning

Resources for Improving Academic Skills

Source: Department Academic Enrichment’s Student Success Center
James C. Kirkpatrick Library 3160       660-543-8972

Directions to Use the Online Resources/Databases
Go to the library’s homepage - http://library.ucmo.edu/
In a gray line near the top of the page – Select: “Online Resources/Databases”

From this drop down list, choose Databases A to Z.
Click on L and scroll down to find the Learning Express Library.

Required:  create a log in
For example, use your name for both username and password.

Using the Online Resources/Databases
Tutorials and Practice Tests
Math and Reasoning Skills Improvement
Reading Comprehension Skills Improvement
Writing and Grammar Skills Improvement
Review the GED Preparation in the appropriate subject area