

Frequently Asked Questions about CLEP®

What is CLEP?

CLEP is a credit-by-examination program that offers students the opportunity to receive college credit by earning qualifying scores on exams. Students can earn from 3 to 12 college credits toward a college degree, depending on the exam subject and the policy of the college or university.

Quick Facts about CLEP

- Exams are available in 34 introductory college-level subjects.
- Approximately 2,900 colleges grant undergraduate credit for CLEP.
- Over 1,500 colleges administer the exams in the United States and abroad.
- CLEP is administered via computer and testing occurs year-round.
- Score reports are available immediately upon completion of the exam. Students know right away how they performed (with the exception of English Composition with Essay).
- Each test is approximately 90 minutes long.
- With the exception of English Composition with Essay, exams are composed primarily of multiple-choice questions. Some exams include fill-in type questions. Students can download the CLEP Sampler, a tutorial designed to familiarize students with the CLEP computer-based testing software and the question types, at www.collegeboard.com/clep.
- All exams are scored on a scale of 20 to 80. The American Council on Education (ACE) recommends a credit-granting score of 50 for all exams, a score representative of a grade of C.
- More than six million CLEP exams have been administered since the program's inception in 1967.

Who is eligible to take CLEP exams?

All students are eligible to take CLEP exams. There is no minimum age.

How much do CLEP exams cost?

The cost of a CLEP exam is \$72. Most colleges charge a nonrefundable administration fee directly payable to the institution, which is typically \$15-25.

Where do students go to take a CLEP exam?

CLEP examinations are administered year-round at college test centers. Reference the "CLEP: Test Center Locations" document at the MOE Website for a list of test centers in Minnesota and bordering states or visit: www.collegeboard.com/CLEPtestcenters, to search for Minnesota test centers. Students must contact the test center directly to schedule the exam and to discuss registration procedures. Students are required to pay a test administration fee, typically \$15-25, for each CLEP exam they take.

Who should consider taking CLEP exams?

- Students enrolled in rigorous courses at high schools where other acceleration options are not already available
- Students planning to pursue a two- or four-year degree
- Students performing well in math courses, such as precalculus or advanced algebra, who want to either "place out" of a college-level math requirement or enroll in a more advanced math course when they arrive at college
- Students who are willing to study independently to prepare for CLEP exams

Which CLEP exams should students consider taking?

Students should consider CLEP exams in subject areas for which other college credit options are not already available (for example, Advanced Placement) and in the subject areas they have studied in high school, such as precalculus, college algebra, sociology, natural sciences, social sciences and history, humanities or business. High-achieving students with a strong interest or ability in an exam topic may be able to study independently for that CLEP exam.

How can counselors and teachers assist students in the decision to take a CLEP exam?

Counselors and teachers are in the best position to help students decide which CLEP exams to take. Factors they may consider when advising about CLEP include students' current courses of study, study habits, motivation and academic or career goals. Two- and four-year degree programs often require general education courses; frequently, CLEP exams may be used to meet these and other degree requirements. Diploma or certificate programs, such as trade and medical technology programs, may not apply CLEP credit toward a particular requirement.

Can a teacher schedule an entire class to take an exam at a college test center?

Most test centers are not able to accommodate large groups of students. Teachers should contact the test center directly to discuss scheduling.

How should students prepare for CLEP exams?

CLEP does not include a curriculum component. Students may visit www.collegeboard.com/clep to read descriptions of the exams. Teachers can help students review using the syllabus and textbook for an introductory college-level course in a comparable subject. Rigorous preparation through an advanced high school course and/or independent study is highly recommended. Students can supplement high-school learning by reviewing the *CLEP Official Study Guide*, which includes a description of exam content as well as sample questions with answer keys.

What resources are available to Minnesota high schools to assist students in preparing for CLEP exams and to help explain the program to teachers and parents?

Schools can order free copies of CLEP brochures and publications on the CLEP Ordering Resources page (www.collegeboard.com/CLEPresources).

How do students get their scores? Do high schools receive copies of students' scores?

Students receive informal score reports immediately following completion of their CLEP exams. Because CLEP is a college-administered program, high schools do not receive official score reports, although they may require students to submit their informal score reports. The CLEP exam performance of all students at each Minnesota high school is provided annually to MDE.

Which colleges will grant academic credit based on performance on CLEP exams? How will this credit be applied toward a degree?

Minnesota legislation requires institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and University (MnSCU) system to accept credit for CLEP exams resulting in a score of 50 or higher; many CLEP exams are accepted by the University of Minnesota campuses and at private Minnesota colleges as well. Across the country, CLEP exams are accepted for credit at approximately 2,900 colleges. These colleges determine the score they will accept, the number of credits they will award, the maximum number of credit that will be granted for CLEP exams, and which courses the credit will be applied toward. Students should review the credit-granting policies of the schools they plan to attend before taking CLEP exams. This information can be found by searching on "CLEP" at colleges' Websites, and by referencing the "CLEP Credit Policy Manual" for Minnesota colleges on the MDE Website.

How do students send scores to colleges?

Students may select one college as a score recipient at the time of testing. This single score report will be sent to the designated college at no charge. Transcripts may be sent to additional colleges for a fee of \$20 each. Transcripts are kept on file for 20 years. For more information about requesting a transcript, visit www.collegeboard.com/clep.

Can students repeat a CLEP exam if they don't pass the first time?

Test takers must wait six months before repeating an exam of the same title. Repeating an exam earlier will result in a voided score. Students must arrange for a new exam appointment and pay the test administration fee for that new appointment. Note: if a student does not pass a particular exam, Precalculus, for example, he or she may consider taking an alternate examination, like College Algebra, instead of waiting the six-month period-provided that his or her college will grant credit for the alternate exam.

Can accommodations be made for students with disabilities?

Only students with documented hearing, learning, physical or visual disabilities are eligible to receive testing accommodations. Students must contact CLEP test centers directly prior to registration to ensure that the necessary accommodation is available. Many accommodations can be made to the test software during an exam administration such as screen magnification, modifiable screen colors, extended time, untimed rest breaks, and use of a reader.

Visit www.collegeboard.com/clep for more information.