

CLEP: Supporting Academic Success in Higher Education

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®) lets students earn college credit for what they already know, increasing the likelihood of degree persistence and completion.

Credit for Prior Learning

CLEP has been the most widely trusted credit-by-exam program for more than 50 years. Developed by the College Board, this rigorous program lets students demonstrate their mastery of introductory college-level material and earn college credit in any of 34 CLEP subjects.

Developed by Faculty

Regular college curricula surveys for each subject ensure that CLEP exams cover the content and skills taught in corresponding college courses. Faculty drive every aspect of the design and development process, and more than 600 college faculty participate in curriculum surveys, test design, question development, question review, standard setting, and exam scoring annually.

Used by More Than 2,900 Colleges

CLEP is administered in over 2,000 test centers. More than 2,900 colleges and universities award credit for qualifying scores. CLEP lets institutions provide more opportunities for students and ensure prior learning credit is awarded based on objective national standards.

Setting a CLEP Credit Policy

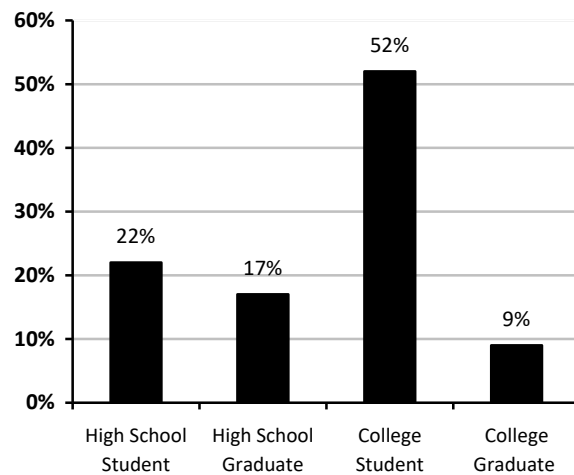
A strong CLEP policy benefits students and their institutions. The American Council on Education (ACE) reviews CLEP exams and recommends credit for all subjects. Most colleges and universities use these recommendations to set their own policies. Additionally, many states—including California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, and Minnesota—have state- or systemwide CLEP credit policies, which help states meet their educated workforce goals.

A Diverse Group of Students

CLEP allows students of different ages and backgrounds to demonstrate mastery of college-level material.

Education Level

More than 50% of CLEP exams taken in 2018-19 were taken by current college students. However, CLEP participants include high school students, college students, and students returning to college as adults.



Service Members and Veterans

For more than 50 years, CLEP has partnered with the Department of Defense to offer CLEP testing to military service members for free. The flexibility CLEP offers is particularly important to military personnel, who account for nearly 25% of all CLEP participants.

Improved Academic Outcomes

Studies have found that students who earn credit through CLEP have better academic outcomes than their non-CLEP counterparts. Earning credit through CLEP has even been shown to have a positive causal impact on college degree completion.

Greater Success in Subsequent Courses

Students earning CLEP credit score as well as or better than their peers in sequent and subsequent courses and are much more likely to earn an A or B in subsequent courses than students who complete the introductory course.

Higher Overall GPA

In addition to earning higher scores in subsequent courses in their CLEP exam disciplines, CLEP students have significantly higher cumulative GPAs than non-CLEP students, when controlling for demographics and prior achievement.

Increased Likelihood of Degree Completion

Multiple studies have found that students who earn credit through CLEP are more likely to complete their degrees and complete them on time. One study found that CLEP has a positive causal impact on degree completion.

- Among students enrolled at two-year colleges, earning just one credit-granting CLEP score increases the probability of completing an associate degree by 5.7 percentage points, or 17%.
- Among students enrolled at four-year colleges, earning a credit-granting CLEP score increases the probability of completing a bachelor's degree by 1.2 percentage points, or 2.6%.
- As a group, students affiliated with the U.S. military services experience uniquely large completion effects—2.6 percentage point (11%) and 8.6 percentage point (18%) increases in the probability of earning a bachelor's and associate degree, respectively.

Learn more about CLEP at clep.org.

CLEP Exam Title	ACE Credit Score	ACE Semester Hours
Business		
Financial Accounting	50	3
Information Systems	50	3
Introductory Business Law	50	3
Principles of Management	50	3
Principles of Marketing	50	3
Composition and Literature		
American Literature	50	3
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	50	3
College Composition	50	6
College Composition Modular	50	3
English Literature	50	3
Humanities	50	3
History and Social Sciences		
American Government	50	3
History of the United States I	50	3
History of the United States II	50	3
Human Growth and Development	50	3
Introduction to Educational Psychology	50	3
Introduction to Psychology	50	3
Introduction to Sociology	50	3
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	3
Principles of Microeconomics	50	3
Social Sciences and History	50	6
Western Civilization I	50	3
Western Civilization II	50	3
Science and Mathematics		
Biology	50	6
Calculus	50	4
Chemistry	50	6
College Algebra	50	3
College Mathematics	50	6
Natural Sciences	50	6
Precalculus	50	3
World Languages		
French Language Level I (Level II)	50 (59)	6 (9)
German Language Level I (Level II)	50 (60)	6 (9)
Spanish Language Level I (Level II)	50 (63)	6 (9)
Spanish with Writing Level I (Level II)	50 (65)	6 (12)