

Dual Credit on Steroids

Bottom Line

Who says you need to be in a classroom for an entire semester to earn college credit? With Credit by Exam, students can earn college credit in over 300 standardized subject exams, some of which are commonly known as CLEP and DSST exams. In this session, we introduced you to several exam-specific study tips for the five general CLEP exams, which represent the equivalent of the first year of college.

The Big Picture:

- What is Credit by Exam?
- Financial Benefits of Credit by Exam
- Review of Credit by Exam Programs
- Preparing for the 5 General CLEP

1. What is Credit by Exam?

Students have options for their first year of college. They can pursue the traditional, conveyor-belt approach of Community College and Online Courses or choose to bypass the system's timelines and financial requirements with the Credit by Exam method.

The Credit by Exam method harnesses what your student is already learning, high school textbooks and current interests so that they can pursue real-life learning, internships, and begin to crank through College requirements while the information is still fresh on their minds!

Credit by Exam (CbE)

- College Level Examination Program, CLEP | 33 exams that are accepted at 2,900 colleges within the USA.
- Advance Placement, AP | 34 courses and exams that are accepted at 90% of four year colleges.
- DSST, formerly known as DAN TES | 38 unique subjects accepted at over 1,900 institutions across the USA.
- Thomas Edison College Examination Program (TECEP) | Colleges (like this one) also have proctored exams that enable students to bypass the classroom timetable.

One of the worst ways to learn is sitting in a classroom where students are required to learn at the same level and pace.

2. **Financial Benefits of Credit-by-Exam for First Five Tests**

- At only \$100/credit in the traditional system, you would save \$2,300 on tuition.
- With cost of room and board (\$3,000) and book fees (\$1,000), total one year savings would be \$6,500.
- Consider the value of one extra year of earning income with a Bachelor's degree in hand. At \$8 per hour you would have \$16,000
- Total Savings: \$22,500
- One of the worst ways to learn is sitting in a classroom where students are required to learn at the same level and pace. Recently, Colleges spent an average of 2.9% of tuition income on actual classroom instruction. (USA Today)
- The United States spends more per student than any other industrialized nation, yet it ranks at the bottom in degree completion (54%), says a 2007 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The organization average is 71%; the high is 91% in Japan.

3. **Review of Credit by Exam Programs**

College Level Examination Program, CLEP

- Lower level credits (first two years).
- \$77-100 and are worth 3-6 hours of credit .
- Testing is available throughout the entire year.
- Tested at a local testing site on the computer.
- 1.5 hour test with immediate score
- Collegeboard.com

Advance Placement, AP

- \$53–\$83 (depending on subsidies) and are worth 1–6 hours of credit.
- Only available during the month of May.
- Frequently, Colleges only allows students to “advance place” and will not always give actual college credit. Proceed with caution.
- Contact local High School for scheduled tests and view Collegeboard.com.

Five General CLEP Exams: worth 30 college credits

DSST, formerly known as DANTES

- Upper and lower level credits.
- \$80–\$100 and are worth 3 hours credit.
- 1.5 hour test with immediate score.
- Same testing sites as CLEP .
- Getcollegedcredit.com

4. **How to Prepare for the Five General CLEP Exams:**

High School level courses worth 30 college credits.

English Composition

Part one: 50 multiple choice questions. Part two: two essays (70 minutes)

- Learn to write under pressure
- Familiarity with sentence structure
- The Elements of Style - Strunk and White
- Generic Writer's Handbook (Easy Grammar)
- Punctuation Guide (The Gregg Reference Manual)
- Essay Writing—Advanced Communication Series by Andrew Pudewa
- Typing program so that you're not hunting and pecking on a keyboard (50 wpm)

Humanities

Proceed this subject area with caution. Study for broad overview. Keep it general.

- Comex Study Guide (reference for percentage breakdown of test)
- The Gift of Music
- BJU English and American Lit.
- Humanities in Western Culture
- Encarta or other encyclopedia
- Guide to poetry
- sparknotes.com

Sociology and History

Rely heavily on study guides. Test is mainly based on student's prior knowledge and is a general overview.

- Comex Study Guide (reference for percentage breakdown of test)
- BJU/Abeka American Government and Economics
- BJU/Abeka US and World History
- Encarta or similar encyclopedia

Science

Develop a broad understanding of Earth Science, Physics, and Science History.

- Apologia Biology
- Apologia Chemistry
- Apologia Physics
- Comex

Math

Watch the time...it's your biggest enemy. Be able to estimate an answer before trying to solve. Take plenty of practice tests.

- Algebra I and II
- VideoText, MathUSee, Teaching Textbooks

5 **Keys to Effective Test Taking**

- Learn about the exam
- Study—utilize accelerated learning skills (mind maps, speed reading, memory tips)
- Thoroughly review your notes and reading materials
- Memorize a final summary sheet
- Take a mock exam

How to Increase Your Effectiveness with Credit-By-Exam

- Study subject areas with the exam in mind!
- Study for one exam at a time. Allow your brain to fully engage in each subject area with the modular approach to study time.
- First part of the day, study areas that require repetition
Math, Science, English
- Rest of the school day, target one subject at a time.

Study for similar exams in succession.

- Western Civ. (1&2), US History (1&2), Social Science and History, Sociology
- Analyzing and Interpreting Lit., English Lit, American Lit, Humanities
- Micro Economics, Macro Economics, Money and Banking

Credit limits/Transfer policies

- CLEP credit is good for 20 years
- CLEP can be taken at any age

2 forms of ID (one photo ID)

- Student ID card
- Passport
- Drivers license
- Birth Certificate
- Hunter Safety Card

In summary, this is only the beginning and only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Credit by Exam method! Many students are choosing to pursue this systematic approach for as much as 90% of their degree before transferring into a Regionally Accredited Distance Learning College. At which point, there is no need for SAT and ACT scores.

For More Information:

- The CollegePlus! Coaching Program, collegeplus.org
- Accelerated Distance Learning, Brad Voeller
- College Without Compromise, Scott and Kris Wightman
- The Princeton Review: Cracking the CLEP
- CLEP Official Study Guide, CollegeBoard
- COMEX Study Guides
- The Brain Matters, Patricia Wolfe
- Teaching with the Brain in Mind, Eric Jensen
- Where to Take Your Exam: Go to <http://clep.collegeboard.org/> students and click on the College Search link to find the CLEP testing center nearest you.

www.CollegePlus.org • Info@CollegePlus.org • 866.989.5432