

2/23/10 - SAT/ACT: Why You Don't Need Them for College

Q&A Transcript

Q: During High School, do they do courses for HS and also study for the tests, or do they only study for the CLEPs?

A: They do both since CLEPs can count for high school credit if there are state requirements for what a student needs to have studied to graduate.

Q: Is it possible to get a link or a copy of the article (that was just shown) that has the full list of schools that do not require the SAT/ACT?

A: Yes, we will try to get that link out with our follow up email with the link to the webinar recording.

Q: what type of student does NOT do well with College Plus/ credit by exam programs?

A: Students need to be highly motivated to succeed in CollegePlus! Even students with learning disabilities succeed in CollegePlus! if they are motivated to complete their studies.

Q: what is psu?

A: PSEO is a program for high school students in Minnesota to take college courses or CLEP for free. This only applies to Minnesotans. Sorry!

Q: I'd like to hear more about why a student would NOT want to take the SAT/ACT. Is there any harm to it besides the stress that some place on it?

A: No, there's no harm in taking it. It just may not be as worthwhile as spending the same amount of time taking CLEP exams and earning college credits.

Q: No, we have PSEO in Iowa as well, most states do, but it sounded like she said PSU.

A: Okay, great!

Q: So a student could earn any type of degree through Thomas Edison or the College Plus program? My son is interested in History.

A: A BA in History is an excellent degree to earn via CollegePlus! distance learning through Thomas Edison State College. The entire degree can be completed from home, and for a very low cost as compared to other degrees.

Q: Would you say that taking the CLEP will give you the same amount of knowledge as taking the same course at a brick and mortar college?

A: Yes, exactly!

Q: What about scholarships? Isn't the SAT/ACT necessary for most if not all scholarships?

A: Not necessarily. Some scholarships are merit-based, while some are need-based, while still others have other requirements or specifications. You should check with the source about the basis of awarding scholarship money. Many scholarships are available for reasons that do not involve the SAT or ACT.

Q: As a homeschooling parent I am under the impression that a good ACT and/or SAT score will reflect that my students have had a good education.

A: It can be a metric that is helpful but as Jonathan is saying, it is more of a metric for the college and less for the student.

Q: My daughter aspires to be a missionary doctor. Her science teacher has cautioned her against CLEP for her science courses, because these are so important to her major. How do you advise?

A: Avoiding CLEP for these may be wise but taking them for early 101 courses may be negligible to the medical school later on since many graduate programs only consider the upper 60 credits on the student's transcript.

Q: What would you recommend for a missionary doctor?

A: Some of our students are interested in medicine and have been assured by talking with the med school admissions officer that their degree will not affect their ability to enter the school later on.

Q: Why would a homeschooler need a GED? Can't the parent issue a diploma?

A: Some states, colleges and universities require an accredited high school diploma or equivalent before enrolling in a college or university.

Q: my 15 yr old is currently in your Prep program. Does he need to take the CLEPs right after finishing the Prep program, or can he wait a bit to study more?

A: I believe that he can wait but it would probably be best for him to take the exam soon after his studies for it through Prep.

Q: When taking a CLEP, do you attend a brick & mortar school for the labs?

A: Labs are only required for students who want to complete a degree that has a lab requirement. Otherwise, labs are not required to earn science credit.

Q: For high school students earning college credit by exams (CLEP, DANES) after general ed. credits, do they then move to college credit by distance learning? Do they then get into their major?

A: Yes, they would study for their major after enrolling at a distance learning college like Thomas Edison.

Q: What are the internships that people are referring to?

A: An internship is a time when a student can go and obtain work experience by working for a company as a volunteer or low-paid worker, often while a student is working on their degree. This work experience is a huge asset in learning skills and procuring a job upon graduation.

Q: I had asked about the internships that some of the speakers referred to. What were they talking about and how did the students get those internships? Do you have a pool of companies who hire interns around the country? If so, how does a company become one of your companies? Thanks.

A: We highly encourage students to pursue real life learning in their local community related to their field of interest. While CollegePlus! does not have connections across the entire country for every kind of field, we do encourage and counsel our students on how to pursue an internship (where to find them, how to ask if they can intern, etc.). We typically advise this near the middle to later stage of the degree process as the student by then has a firm grasp of the learning process and is at the prime position to get hands on training in the field that they have studied. Direct application of knowledge takes place in these internships.

Q: How does your program apply to a piloting college?

A: We have students who are completing their aviation degrees through a mix of onsite work (like flying lessons and pilot's licenses) and online learning from schools like Embry Riddle.

Q: Can this work for Purdue University Calumet extension in engineering?

A: I'm not familiar with their policies exactly but we could research that school for you. Check out www.collegeplus.org/collegeofyourchoice for my details.

Q: How is a GED diploma looked at by colleges if the student has been homeschooled and has done clep exams.

A: It depends on the college. Thomas Edison State College, which is the university we direct students to with our distance learning coaching program, does not discriminate on this issue and allows students with a GED equal admission opportunity.

Q: What happens to your GPA if you do not pass a CLEP test?

A: CLEPs do not affect GPA and failed CLEPs do not need to be reported to a college or university.

Q: Can a student earn a technical degree through CollegePlus such as A&P license for aircraft that is approved by FAA or as an auto technician?

A: No, hands on certificates like that require onsite training.

Q: If a student does college through CollegePlus would he/she be considered a full time college student, specifically for health insurance coverage?

A: Yes 99% of CollegePlus! students are considered full time students by their or their parents health insurance provider.

Q: How do prospective employers view a degree from Thomas Edison State College?

A: They view them favorably because they are degree from a regionally accredited state college.

Q: Do you have students in Canada that have been able to transfer their CLEP credits as those in the US?

A: Yes, we do have Canadian students but they are transferring these to colleges in the US. However, there is a university in Canada that accepts CLEPs called Thompson Rivers University.

Q: If a high school student acquires an AA through Thomas Edison, would that degree basically prepare a student for the SAT test for transfer and scholarship purposes?

A: Yes, this is true. However, not all schools will accept a partial degree (i.e. an associates degree) and some much prefer transferring a student into their graduate program after the entire bachelor's degree is completed. This is why here at CollegePlus!, we typically discourage AA degrees and tend to favor completing the entire bachelor's degree which normally takes students 2 years from start to finish to complete.

Q: If College Plus is used for an AA degree only, before transferring to a brick and mortar college, then aren't SAT and ACT scores helpful for scholarship purposes?

A: For the CollegePlus! method, college degrees cost 63% less than the traditional method. So, for most students, they only need Pell and other grants and don't need to compete for scholarships.

Q: Can you take a CLEP test any time of the year?

A: Yes, you can schedule a CLEP test at anytime throughout the year.

Q: My daughter is interested in civil law - what degree would she pursue and through what school?

A: Please give us a call tomorrow about this at (866) 989-5432, anytime between 10AM - 4PM (CST). You can discuss your daughter's situation and the possibilities with an academic advisor at that time. Thanks!

Q: how many CLEP exams can u take a month?? or is there a limit?

A: There is no limit.

Q: what age is the minimum for enrolling in the college plus dual program??

A: Students over the age of 15 are usually most successful in CollegePlus!

Q: Is there a cost for using the resources of CollegePlus?

A: Yes, CollegePlus! tuition is \$2699 but our techniques help the student save over 60% on their entire degree costs.

Q: If I CLEP out of subjects, and am considered a transfer student, do I still have to take the SAT/ACT?

A: Typically, CLEP credits do not categorize you as a transfer student because you are not required to be enrolled in any college or university to take them.

Q: what does regionally accredited state college mean? How does this differ from a nationally accredited college?

A: Nationally accredited colleges can give good education opportunities to students. However, many graduates from nationally accredited colleges are unable to enroll in the graduate programs of their choice or be eligible for officer's candidacy school in the military.

Q: I understand it may be detrimental to enter college as a sophomore, since they wouldn't be able to apply for the freshman scholarships.

A: That may be the case but students engaging in distance learning via CollegePlus! don't need scholarships because their entire degrees cost 63% less than the traditional system.

Q: is this only for high school students... what about continuing ed with transfer credits from traditional colleges, can cleps help there too?

A: Adults can take CLEP exams as well and can transfer them.

Q: my son wants to pursue politics/ advocacy and my husband wants to transfer credits to complete BA in Computer science where would we begin as far as courses?

A: That would be a great question to discuss with a program advisor after both of them have applied to CollegePlus! You can view this at www.collegeplus.org/apply

Q: is there specific study material for clep tests?

A: Yes, there are many study materials for CLEP exams. Check out <http://store.collegeplus.org/category.sc;jsessionid=55FF5F6AAB4D76A7EE51743FD96E05FE.qscstrfrnt01?categoryId=6>

Q: What's PSU?

A: Very good question. I think you are referring to the portfolio TESC offers which they call the PLA. I'm not certain what the PSU is that you heard.

Q: How are CLEP credits looked upon by Medical School admissions offices?

A: After speaking with med school admissions officers, the ones we've spoken with view them exactly like courses. The student just needs to make sure they take all required courses and do well on the MCAT.

Q: If a student takes ACT or SAT multiple times, is it detrimental to the admission process?

A: This varies by school. I would check with the admissions department of the school that you are considering.

Q: When you say that CLEP exams count for between 3 and 12 exams, do you mean per test or you are only allowed to CLEP out of that many credits total?

A: That is per exam. Students can CLEP out of as many credits as their college will allow. CollegePlus! students typically CLEP out of 75% of their degree.

Q: What is the benefit of College plus over taking the clep exams on our own?

A: Great question. CollegePlus! coaching offers students personalized coaching, which provides students with degree research and an entire degree template (start to finish), and accountability and advisement on resources and strategies for efficient completion of their degree. This saves you a lot of time, money, and frustration! :-)

Q: Is it possible for students with reading speed problems to get extra time to take the CLEP like they can for the ACT?

A: Yes, if they have a documented learning disability.

Q: Do parents ever just forget graduating from high school and just go on and do the College Plus thing?

A: Yes, many students opt to have their students do CollegePlus! instead of focusing on graduating from high school since many of the CLEPs taken can count toward high school credits.

Q: Do you offer a major in Nursing such as the BSN?

A: No, nursing is too hands on for our distance learning programs.

Q: If my children don't take an ACT or SAT, and later go for their Masters or Doctorate, will the scores be requested of them at that time?

A: No. For entrance into graduate school, scores for the respective graduate level entrance exam (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.) will be required in conjunction with an undergraduate diploma, along with any other specific program requirements specified.

Q: If CLEP is pass/fail, are colleges able to see the scores?

A: Yes, students can request a CLEP transcript from the College Board for a \$20 fee. The transcript can be sent to any college or university.

Q: Can CLEP's etc really replace the ACT part of entrance in a college?

A: CLEPs not only replace the ACT but actually count for college credit. This depends on the individual college your student wants to attend but CLEPs are accepted at over 2900 colleges nationwide.

Q: That will have to do, but I will stay and read the questions and watch the slides so if I have a question I can ask it now. I will watch this again to get more of the information in a better audio situation.

A: Okay, great. Sorry about that.

Q: Did you say that the CLEP exams are only a pass/fail scoring so the highest score is a C?

A: They are pass fail but the scores can be scaled to reflected the higher education GPA system. However, most CLEPs don't apply to the student's GPA.

Q: I saw the question about high school credits when taking the CLEP, but our state does require a GPA, how is the scoring done for these test other than Pass/Fail?

A: CLEP exams would probably not factor into the student's high school GPA. You should check with your state homeschool organization to see how and if CLEP exams can count towards this in your state.

Q: We homeschool and my son will need to go to a tech school. We qualify for the Pell grant as I have already had 3 other children qualify before him, but he doesn't do well with tests and is really only a hands on person. He is not wantng to take the ACT/SAT tests and I don't know anything about tech schools. Will they require him to test out with their own tests or take the ACT/SAT tests.

A: Tracie, this may be a little bit more involved of an answer. I would encourage you to call and talk with an Advisor. Our number is 866.989.5432. If you son has applied, a Program Advisor would be the best person to talk with. Then again, you're welcome to talk with one of our Jr. Academic Advisors as well. We'll do everything we can to help.

Q: Can you earn college credits using the CLEP exams if you are already enrolled in a community college?

A: Absolutely. You can take them at any time. You should check with the school to see how much CLEP credit they will accept as transfer credit.

Q: What are the schools that we work with?

A: Thomas Edison State College (www.tesc.edu) and Excelsior College (www.excelsior.edu), to name a few that are entirely distance learning. And we have helped students at a number of brick and mortar colleges and unversities as well.

Q: Do you offer any courses in integrated medicine?

A: We can help students obtain a BA degree with pre-med requirements, which can be customized to suit the prerequisites to a given medical school program.

Q: A student in Running start is being told she has to take the SAT/ACT in order to go on to get her RN. Is this true?

A: It depends on the school she wants to get her RN from. Many schools still require the SAT/ACT but many do not, which is what we'll be sharing tonight.

Q: I believe in the teaching profession for instance, college transcripts will be required. There will be others and I do believe this should be considered.

A: Transcripts can be furnished for students taking CLEPs and distance learning courses. Additionally, students entering the field of education need to go through a licensure program in their state, which CollegePlus! graduates are free to participate in.

Q: Does College Plus work with the University of Phoenix?

A: We can through our College of Your Choice program: www.collegeplus.org/collegeofyourchoice

Q: Does College Plus work with the University of Phoenix?

A: We don't recommend the University of Phoenix because of its exorbitant tuition and credit costs. Plus, it is a for-profit university, which can be looked down on by some employers.

Q: Are taking phone calls now from attendees?

A: You can give us a call tomorrow from 10AM - 4PM (CST) at (866) 989-5432. Thanks!

Q: How are CLEP results received by prospective employers? After all part of the reason for a college transcript is to be marketable.

A: These days, most employers don't require a college graduate to furnish a transcript with their resume. They are more interested in the major and relevant experience than the student's GPA.

Q: Does my child have to have a foreign language such as suggested for college enrollment to be able to get his degree through College Plus?

A: No, a foreign language is not a requirement. Students can earn their humanities credits through other exams than those related to foreign languages.

Q: Does CollegePlus provide the transcript for the student?

A: No, the university the student obtains his/her degree through issues this transcript. CollegePlus! is a college coaching service.

Q: Does college Plus have a pathway to nursing degree, like a RN?

A: A hands on degree like nursing isn't conducive to CollegePlus! at this point.

Q: What about a slow process learner?

A: CollegePlus! encourages students to engage in study skills courses that increase reading speed and information retention. If they have a documented learning disability, they can get extra time to take their exams.

Q: What do students majorly apply for? (A.k.a. The most picked degree.) My daughter is interested in writing and art?

A: Our most popular degrees are listed at www.collegeplus.org/majors

Q: If I homeschool my math-hater up to Algebra II, can she immediately schedule a CLEP test on College Algebra without ordering CLEP textbook or is it wise to study the 'textbook before taking the CLEP test?

A: It is wise to use a study guide.

Q: My son will go to a tech school. If he takes CollegePlusPrep including clepping out the 2 English classes, will he need to take the SAT/ACT?

A: Many schools do require the SAT/ACT so you will have to check with them. We will be sharing you information on the schools that don't require the SAT/ACT for admission.

Q: Is a study guide a CLEP textbook that you study from before taking the CLEP text?

A: Yes, you can see some examples at this link:

<http://store.collegeplus.org/category.sc;jsessionid=55FF5F6AAB4D76A7EE51743FD96E05FE.qscstrfrnt01?categoryId=6>

Q: How would you prepare a slow process learner for CollegePlus Prep?

A: CollegePlus! Prep is designed to help students prepare and establish a solid foundation for the standard coaching program. The Prep program could be a great starter course for this student.

Q: If a child doesn't know what major to go into, what can he/she pursue?

A: We typically recommend a business degree or communications degree as both degrees are extremely versatile to students. Nearly every student will use business skills and all students communicate. The first 6 weeks of CollegePlus!, while the student is learning study skills such as Speed Reading and Memory, are dedicated to students working through our comprehensive Life Purpose Planning materials. This phase takes place between a student's coach who personally walks the student through better understand what they are called to pursue in life and what major best aligns with that calling. We find this program to be highly successful and often students say the CollegePlus! program was worth every penny just for the Life Purpose Planning first 6 week phase.

Q: How do they have a documented learning disability?

A: This would most likely come from a physician or learning specialist. I haven't looked into that myself but it would be good to speak with your doctor about.

Q: My plan for my son is to take College Plus Prep in his 12th grade year before he goes to a tech school the following year. Is this a good plan or should he take College Plus Prep earlier (10th grade) like you suggest on your website?

A: I would recommend he enroll in CollegePlus! Prep sooner than later. This allows the student to maximize their time in high school, as well as the input the Prep advisors can have on properly preparing him for the next step.

Q: Are there more jobs for writers than there are for other degrees?

A: That is a very good question. In our research and findings, students with a communications major who learn writing and speaking skills have a very high likelihood of finding a job. This is due in part to the fact that nearly every company needs communicators.

Q: CLEP keep records for 10 years. What about DANTES?

A: CLEP and DSST both bank a student's credits for 20 years.

Q: If my daughter wants to take communications minor to her English Major through CollegePlus, how many more credits does she need to get her minor?

A: Minors typically consist of 18 credits in a particular area.

Q: What's AP?

A: AP stands for Advanced Placement: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/index.html>

Q: what about a 21 yr old who was going to pursue tech courses and now wants to go to college for nursing or medical?

A: We can help students obtain a BA degree with pre-med requirements met. Check out www.collegeplus.org/majors for more details, and don't hesitate to fill out a no-obligation application to get in-depth questions answered.

Q: If a student is dual enrollment at the Community college, do they have to take the SAT?

A: It depends on the individual college. The colleges we are referring to do not require the SAT but many colleges still make it mandatory. However, students have options if they don't want to have their students take the time to study for it.

Q: Can adults who have never gone to college use this method to get a degree?

A: Absolutely! We have teens to adults enrolled in the CollegePlus! program.

Q: Where are the tests taken?

A: Here is the link to the CLEP's list of testing centers around the world:
http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp

Q: The speaker mentioned her son learned how to take a test... How did they do that?

A: There are many resources available for students to prepare for tests. A great online test-prep resource is www.speedyprep.com.

Q: My 19 year old son would like to attend the Culinary Institute of America, which while it did not require SAT, has asked for scores...so we did the test...not pleased with scores, it seems to be a deterrent to completing admissions process...because he was homeschooled all his life. they even said taking the GED and SAT again would be the thing to do... finding your information for College Plus seems to be a great thing, but the associates and bachelors degree that he would get at the Culinary is industry specific for hospitality, food, culinary arts... I am hoping the CLEPs and College Plus would provide a foundation for him then?

A: In this case with your student you should be able to go through an appeal process with the culinary school to bypass the SAT. Plus, if you show the school that your student has completed college level coursework, that will often times trump the SAT exam and SAT score.

Q: For a dramatic, music arts degree, more courses are specifically required to be taken at the college, how would this be beneficial for that student?

A: Some degrees require onsite courses that are later transferred to a distance learning college.

Q: my son wants to go into video/film production directing, etc. Can he do such a program through distance learning?

A: I would recommend a communications degree. This is a great degree that can be completed totally through distance learning methods. We can help you aim the core credits towards the area of your interest, in your case, the video/film production directing type of courses.

Q: where can i take a CLEP test

A: Here is the link to CLEP's list of testing centers around the world:
http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp

Q: can i take a clep test online or @ home

A: CLEPs are taken at a local college or school. For a full list of testing sites visit www.collegeboard.com. There are thousands of testing sites all across the US.

Q: Does your company attend the Home School Bookfair in Arlington, Texas?

A: Yes, we do!

Q: What can you offer or do to support a student with a learning disability?

A: Please give us a call tomorrow about this at (866) 989-5432, anytime between 10AM - 4PM (CST). Thanks!

Q: My son has dyslexia and dysgraphia. Where could I find out what helps or special allowances are given for the CLEP?

A: Here is a great link that addresses this issue, directly from College Board (the company that offers the CLEP exams): <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/clep/administer/disabilities>

Q: Can a person with severe dyslexia take a CLEP test?

A: Yes, there are various study materials available that help students with dyslexia. Also, the College Board makes special allowances for students with documented learning disabilities like dyslexia and dysgraphia.

Q: Would someone who has passed numerous CLEP tests be considered a transfer student? Thanks

A: The specific college will give the student the option of how they want their credits transferred in. Students who want to graduate from the college they are bringing the CLEP credits into will have advantages by not enrolling as a transfer student, but the college may not allow that.

Q: Is it better for a student to take AP classes or dual enrollment classes?

A: Colleges have their own particular view of both of these, whether AP or dual enrollment. Some colleges don't accept dual enrollment and while many accept AP, some do not. So, it will depend on the specific college the student wants to transfer these credits into. The colleges our students graduate from will accept either of these.

Q: What if a student is a very good test taker? If a parent sees that the student has gotten PHS scores in the Stanford achievements, is it worth having this test taken for scholarships?

A: Sure, there is nothing wrong with taking the test. However, the main idea here is just that you can get a real, accredited college degree without taking the ACT/SAT.

Q: What are the differences between CLEP and DANTES?

A: There isn't much difference between the two except that some testing centers don't offer both but many do.

Q: Could one form a a major in one's area of interest even if CollegePlus! doesn't 'offer the degree'? (e.g. nutrition, etc.)

A: Yes, but that would be on a case by case basis.

Q: So CLEPs can count for college and Highschool credit at the same time?

A: Yes, they can since they are college-level work, much like dual enrollment at a local community college.

Q: Can 529 College funds be used for College Plus?

A: It depends on the particular plan. Some allow funds to be applied but most do not.

Q: Is there a minimum number of CLEPS that a student must have to replace the ACT?

A: No, the CLEP exam itself does not replace the SAT/ACT, but many schools simply do not require ACT/SAT scores.

Q: If you get a general bachelors degree in say - communications - with Thomas Edison, can you then go on to a brick and mortar university and get a MBA in a degree like Computer Science?

A: Absolutely. You may have some additional levelling courses to take as entrants requirements for the MBA (as with a student with a BA Communications from any other accredited school), but this is definitely a viable option.

Q: How does a student who has a bent towards a more technical degree (i.e.: Physics or Engineering) take advantage of your program at Thomas Edison?

A: These students may not be able to graduate from Thomas Edison. However, students can take advantage of CLEP exams and save around \$7,000 on their degree even if it's in an area like Physics or Engineering.

Q: What about a music degree? How can that be done by distance learning?

A: There are many portfolio and distance learning options for music majors. Check out <http://www.collegeplus.org/majors>

Q: Can you explain a little more about CLEP Exams please?

A: Sure, you can find out more about CLEP at this link: <http://www.collegeplus.org/howitworks/creditbyexam>.

Q: At what age can kids begin taking CLEP tests?

A: There are no age restrictions on taking these college-level exams.

Q: What is the cost for CLEP for others?

A: CLEPs cost \$72 per exam and exams count for between 3 and 12 credits.

Q: If my daughters take CLEP exams and have some Community College credits, is it easier to transfer in to a university with or without SAT scores, or is it even an issue whether they have taken it or not?

A: As Jonathan said, students can navigate the admissions process without having taken the SAT/ACT.