

Questions Asked by Webinar Attendees – 04/21/09

Q: If a student is enrolled in CollegePlus!, is he considered a full time student for purposes of qualifying for health insurance under his parent's plan?

A: Yes, he is absolutely a full time student and shouldn't have problems qualifying for health insurance under a parent's plan.

Q: If I wanted to do my degree through this program, would I need a coach?

A: We assign a coach to all students in the program, which is a major feature to CollegePlus! You could opt to talk to the coach less but they have a lot of good info on preparing for the exams that you won't necessarily know on your own.

Q: How long are the college credits you get from doing the CLEP tests good for? Looking at the English composition description my younger student (younger than 15) would be able to pass that one exam!

A: They're good for 20 years. The English comp is pretty easy, as long as the student knows basic grammar and can write a 300 word essay in 45 minutes. Sounds great!

Q: I am a homeschool parent. If I wanted to do my college degree through CollegePlus! would I need a coach? Also, I missed the last few minutes of Sarah's interview (couldn't hear it) and i saw some links to the CLEP website. Can you post those again?

A: As a CollegePlus! student, you would be assigned a coach but you could talk with her on a more limited basis, if that fit your needs better. We'll send you an email with the links to access the webinar recording and Q/A transcripts. To find out more about CLEP either search for CLEP or go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/clep> and choose CLEP from the options on the homepage.

Q: Is this only for students who are currently in high school, or can adults who want to get their degrees cheaper do this also?

A: Anyone can start this process, whether in high school, college, or those who are already adults with families of their own!

Q: What is the role of the coach - to guide the student in what courses to take according to their degree plans, or are there other roles he/she fulfills?

A: In addition to the responsibilities you listed above, each of our coaches are also certified Life Purpose Planning Consultants. This means that we guide each student through the process of better understanding their God given purpose and life coach through how to pursue internships and apprenticeships related to the student's area of interest. Scheduling and accountability also comprise a major role of the coach. Customization is at the heart of what we do here at CollegePlus! Academic guidance and life coaching would be the two main areas where we excel. With CollegePlus!, we take care of all of the technical details (research, coaching, study material guidance, etc) leaving only the actual study to the student.

Q: Can lifetime experience be used to speed up getting a BA+Masters using DL?

A: It definitely can be used for the BA level, which is called "portfolio assessment."

Q: Does the CollegePlus! coach suggest whether the student should clep or do a portfolio assessment, etc?

A: Yes. Whenever there's a testing option, we encourage them to take advantage of it for the time and cost savings.

Q: Is Thomas Edison the only college you work with?

A: We work with a number of colleges. Thomas Edison has just been the easiest to work with up to this point. Thomas Edison is the best school for students who want to do a majority of their degree through distance learning. If they want to do part through distance learning and most onsite, there are an infinite number of local universities students can attend.

Q: How can a student receive financial aid through this program?

A: The coaching and testing portion of the program can't be funded with federal grants but the Thomas Edison portion of the studies may be funded with grants.

Q: So is most of the CollegePlus! curriculum exams?

A: It is exam heavy, but only as much as the student wants it to be. If they want to take coursework, it will cost more but that's definitely an option.

Q: Is it possible to get an internship while attending CollegePlus?

A: Absolutely! Many students are interning in fields related to their major. Now, some internships require a student to be enrolled in a college so these wouldn't be available to the student until the tail end of their degree but these are definitely options as well for the student to take advantage of during their degree or just after it.

Q: Is any on-campus time required for any of the degrees?

A: Yes, there is some required for hands on degrees like music and biology. For most degrees, there is no onsite time required.

Q: What is the definition of HEAV?

A: HEAV is the Home Educators Association of Virginia (www.heav.org).

Q: Does CollegePlus! use state PSEO funds for juniors and seniors?

A: PSEO credits can be applied towards the CollegePlus! process. However, we would suggest pursuing more advanced subject areas, using the funding for the subject areas which will end up saving you the most money. For the basic subjects, students should pursue credits through exam. Our experienced staff can guide you through how to maximize these opportunities.

Q: Do the coaches act as the teacher somewhat in the typical college class?

A: Not really. The coaches give detailed info on how to prepare for the exam but not on, say, functions for the precalculus exam. A student would need a tutor for anything subject they haven't taken or can't pick up on their own, which is typically limited to just a few subjects (like higher math and science).

Q: What about getting in law school?

A: The most important things for law school acceptance is GPA, personal statement of purpose, and the LSAT score. With a degree from Thomas Edison, students have had no problem getting into law school, as long as they have a strong personal statement of purpose and an adequate LSAT result.

Q: What is the greatest differences between clepping the tests ourselves and joining CollegePlus?

A: CollegePlus! provides the student with a complete degree template so they know all courses and exams to take for their entire degree. We also provide the student with a coach for outside accountability and tell them all the resources they need for each exam.

Q: What is a personal statement of purpose?

A: This is an essay usually about 500 words long that the student uses to detail their goals for going on to a particular grad program (like law school).

Q: Any issues about getting into law school?

A: I was able to answer this above. Look for the answer that talks about the personal statement of purpose, LSAT score, and GPA.

Q: Lord willing, I will be starting with you all this fall, and am considering majoring in Music...but how does this work? As it is a music degree, is that an easy thing to do over distance learning, since it isn't very hands on, or am I wrong there?

A: Most of the degree credits can be earned through distance learning. Students will go onsite for the classes directly related to their majors (Science, Music, etc.) I'd suggest applying to CollegePlus! (free/no obligation) and talking through the particulars of your specific situation with one of our experienced Program Advisors.

Q: How soon after enrolling is the program actually started? I would like to start in September, should I wait until then to sign up?

A: You should probably sign up in the summer since September is the most popular time to begin. There's usually a waiting list by the time the beginning of September rolls around. I would enroll the middle of July or in early August since enrollment normally takes place a month before your first coaching call.

Q: Where does one look for scholarships, grants that would be available to a student who is pursuing this type of degree to offset the 15,000 dollar amount ?

A: The FAFSA is a great resource for this as well as <http://www.fastweb.com>.

Q: Are there downsides to ADL?

A: There are only downsides if the student isn't motivated enough to put the time in that is required to be successful in their distance learning studies. Students using these methods have easily entered the workforce and gone on to grad school.

Q: We live in an area where students can enroll in a local college for the last two years of their high school (for very little money). Would we be able to do this and THEN start CollegePlus?

A: We would suggest using this local option for areas that you can't earn credit by exam for. More advanced subjects where your time and money will be better leveraged and put to use. I'd suggest filling out our free/no obligation application to speak with one of our experienced Program Advisors who can walk you through a customized plan to best make use of this funding.

Q: Will you explain what "Qualifies" a person to enroll?

A: The qualifications are minimal. We encourage students to have completed biology, some chemistry and math through algebra 2.

Q: If a student needs to complete some of their degree at a college (ie: Biology) will all of the credits earned through this type of program be accepted?

A: As long as the credits come from regionally accredited sources, they should transfer into CollegePlus! assuming that they match the particular requirements of the degree being sought. In other words, each degree requires a set number of math, science and english credits. We will ensure that you meet the required credits in each field.

Q: Do employers look upon either degree more favorably?

A: Some older employers look askance at an online degree but most employers can't really tell the difference on a resume between a distance learning degree and one obtained at a brick and mortar institution. So, these days there really isn't much of a difference.

Q: Can CollegePlus! be started at any time during the year?

A: Yes, anytime will work. From enrollment to the first coaching call takes about a month for you to receive all the material to begin the program so allow 30 days from when you submit the application to when you want the first coaching call to take place.

Q: If a student is going to major in science, do they need to do the biology & chemistry in HS first?

A: We recommend that the student covers up to at least a Junior level of biology and chemistry before starting CollegePlus!

Q: Do you allow a 15 year old to start this program?

A: Certainly! A 15 year old that is qualified is definitely allowed to enroll in CollegePlus!

Q: I understand your degree is through Thom. Ed. College - what is the difference of accreditation through a college verses a university?

A: The accreditation is the same between a regionally accredited college, like Thomas Edison, and a state university that is regionally accredited.

Q: Once a degree is earned through Thom. Ed, how easy/hard is it to get into a Masters program at a university? Do you have any stats on this?

A: It isn't any more difficult to get into grad school afterward. These degrees are looked upon just like those from brick and mortar universities. Our stats right now are minimal but we haven't had any students be rejected by the program of their choice at this point.

Q: Do the credits earned through the exams transfer to any state college? (i.e. Kansas State University) if for some reasons a person wanted to attend there for a portion of their studies?

A: These credits are regionally accredited which means that 95% of schools across America will accept them. However, most colleges like Kansas State University typically limit the amount of credit a student can transfer in to about 30-45 hours. This means that you will only save about 1 year of tuition and time. We do have other options to introduce to you like a program we call College of Your Choice. Talk with a Program Advisor by applying to find out more.

Q: Are the credits from Thomas Edison “online courses?”

A: Thomas Edison credits are from both online courses and credit by exam since they administer a number of exams as well.

Q: Is the fee for CollegePlus based on time (i.e. yearly) or number of college credits, or some other way.

A: Yes, the fee is based on time. The cost is \$2699 for the first year and \$995 for each additional year.

Q: Would the student concentrate on the college classes as opposed to high school classes, or do they overlap? In other words, do the college classes give the student the credits they need to graduate?

A: In normal college, the first year is a review of many high school classes. For this reason, CollegePlus! allows students to combine high school and college by taking those classes that overlap.