

Webinar Questions and Answers

Dual Credit on Steroids: July 21, 2009

Q: My son is 17 and will be a senior next year. Would you recommend that he start with CollegePlus Prep? Do you test to see if that is a good starting point?

A: We would actually advise that he start with CollegePlus! Core. We would encourage you to [apply](#). This will put you in touch with a Program Advisor who can begin the process of discerning whether or not your son would be better served by Prep or Core.

Q: Did they say to start Prep at the Junior year?

A: No, you can start Prep anywhere between 13 and 16 years of age.

Q: Have there been students that succeeded with CollegePlus! that had reading difficulties? I have a high schooler that uses audio text whenever possible.

A: It depends on the type of reading difficulties.

Q: He has mild dyslexia.

A: In some cases we find that the advanced study skill of Speed Reading can help students with mild dyslexia to overcome it. These students often have very fast brains and it is their eye that is slowing up the process. Thus, the drills in speed reading in some cases have helped to speed up the eye and solve the problem. We focus on speed reading before starting any student in on CLEP testing.

Q: Do you accept financial aid for the CollegePlus! Core program?

A: CollegePlus! does not accept financial aid, but you are certainly free to apply any financial aid to Thomas Edison State College to cover that portion of the degree cost.

Q: Do you discount for multiple children?

A: We have a \$500 family member discount to CollegePlus! Core that applies to every child after the first enrolled.

Q: Does the core program also offer the Life Purpose Planning, the Study Skills, Speed Reading training? My son is 18 and in 12th grade this year so I'm not sure what would be best but I know that the study skills will be important and I'd really like him to have some guidance in figuring out what the Lord is calling him to do in life.

A: New students in the CollegePlus! Core program spend their first six weeks going through these three courses. After that point, if the student feels like they could use more training or practice, they can certainly do that without any issue at all.

Q: How do clep exams meet the upper level requirements for a BA degree 300 and 400 level classes?

A: When you start reaching these higher courses, there are other methods of earning credit such as DANTE tests (very similar to CLEP) and TECEPS (offered by Thomas Edison itself). We lump these together with CLEP with these explanations just to simplify things.

Q: How do you find this comparison for other states - ie: Michigan

A: CollegePlus! is available nationwide, and we have many students from Michigan.

Q: My daughter will be a senior this year. She basically has enough credits to graduate from high school. We were going to have her take classes at the local community college this year instead of coming up with high school credits. Would CollegePlus! still be applicable since you recommend beginning in the Junior year?

A: CollegePlus! is certainly applicable. We set a minimum age at the junior year, but anyone from that age and above is a prime candidate for CollegePlus!

Q: What if your child is not a good test taker?

A: In many cases, the student becomes a much better test taker after going through the study skills courses. However, since we do understand that CollegePlus! may not be for everyone, we would certainly take this concern of yours into account in the application process.

Q: How do you motivate your student to try again if they don't pass the first CLEP test the first time?

A: I think that it may depend on the type of motivation necessary for the individual student. If the student is nervous that they may fail again, then a good solution is to just make sure that they hit higher scores on the practice tests. It will take a bit more study, but the payout is worth it.

Q: How would I determine the appropriate grade to give my student on a high school transcript when the credit was earned by CLEP?

A: Each state has different requirements for applying CLEP to high school transcripts. You may need to talk to your local homeschooling legal expert or advisor to get accurate information for this. You could also consult our partners at the [Homescholar](#) to get more information about list CLEP as high school credit.

Q: How would this work with the ATI curriculum?

A: We may be able to integrate your current curriculum into the program, but we would have to talk with you more about specific books or resources.

Q: I have a hard time trying to convince others to CLEP-they talk about missing out on the "college experience that shaped their thinking". What do you say?

A: While colleges are influential in shaping a student's worldview, the version of truth they learn on campus is often perverted by humanistic thought patterns. Also, the life scenarios presented in college classrooms rarely parallel those in real life. From a practical standpoint, students learn much more about how the real world works after they exit the college campus not while they are on it.

Q: What are some examples of what you studied during the Life Purpose Planning?

A: We focus on gleaning inspiration and insight from mentor sources in the student's life (parents, God's Word, pastors, teachers, etc)

Q: FYI, many states do offer discounts for community college tuition if dual enrolled through the local public school.

A: You're absolutely right. Where possible, we make use of these discounts and help students maximize the savings opportunities available. This is something that our Degree Consultants walk students through in detail.

Q: When I contacted Thomas Edison State College, they were emphatic that they were only for "Adult Students." How do you get around this?

A: When students apply to their program with above 90 credits of college already earned, Thomas Edison State College notices that this is a low-maintenance student and doesn't have any issue admitting them.

Q: What is the level of accountability I can have with my coach from this program?

A: This varies by student, but it can even mean creating daily study plans for the student to follow. The student will still have bimonthly calls with their coach, but they will have a much more structured system to follow in between calls.

Q: how does the Savannah College of Art and Design or New York University take the college credits earned by this curriculum? do all colleges accept these as transferrable credits?

A: CLEP credits are treated differently at each institution, so we cannot say definitively how they would treat them. However, if you fill out our [free application](#), this is something that we could help you figure out.

Q: My daughter wants to pursue a degree in Missions. I'm finding that there aren't as many options for CLEPs for this major. We'll probably have to do more on-line distance learning. Any thoughts?

A: For more specific majors such as Missions, there may still be an option that we can find with you. I would encourage you to [apply](#) and talk to one of our program advisors to see what options may be available. One example may be to get a broader degree that would serve the same purpose, but there are most likely other options as well.

Q: If a student finishes the CP! Prep course in a year at 14 years of age, can he/she start the core program the next year?

A: Yes. We are confident that CollegePlus! Prep graduates will be prime candidates for the CollegePlus! Core program.

Q: If I already have good study skills, would joining collegeplus be beneficial still or should I do the dual-enrollment/credit by exam process on my own and save a few thousand dollars?

A: Many students attempt to complete this process on their own, and it is certainly possible. However, CollegePlus! provides you with accountability and also a step-by-step degree plan that may get rid of many headaches down the road.

Q: What was the goal of leadership education?

A: Leadership Education is designed to teach students *how* to think.

Q: Is CollegePlus! cheaper than going to a community college and then transferring?

A: Community college courses tend to run at about \$150+ per credit (around \$400-500 total for a 3 credit course). CLEP tests cost \$90 plus study materials for each 3 credit test. Also, since the student doesn't have to spend an entire semester on a course, there is significant time savings as well.

Q: Does CollegePlus! recommend any other colleges besides Thomas Edison?

A: This is a very good question. The answer is that it totally depends on the major that the student seeks. We have a program called [College of Your Choice](#) for any student who knows what school and major they want to pursue. The benefits for Thomas Edison are that they are the most economical, time efficient, and have the greatest flexibility for transferring credits. I'd encourage you to fill out our [free/no obligation application](#). This will put you in touch with one of our experienced Program Advisors who will be able to personally walk you through your options and offer you a tailored solution.

Q: If Jonathan was already in 11th grade at age 14, he is not a model for the average home school student. This should be clarified

A: Thanks for your thoughts on this. I agree that this is the case if the homeschool family is following the typical system. What we are encouraging is for students to break out of that system and strive for something greater. In many ways, this will be a generational challenge to change this way of thinking. Nonetheless, we are committed to doing our best to move that direction.

Q: If we have already completed an application but not yet activated it, can we apply the BTS09 code for a discount?

A: Yes, absolutely! Give us a call tomorrow morning and we'll be glad to get that in play for you.

Q: If we have purchased the College in a Bag books, what would be the cost the CollegePlus! Prep courses with the advertised discount?

A: The additional materials cost \$100. I'd encourage you to at least apply to the Prep program soon. You'll then be able to talk with one of our experienced advisors about the program before you make your final decision to enroll.

Q: If we miss next week, will there be a way to get the information later?

A: Yes, we are recording the entire webinar, and it will be available within the next few days. You will receive email notification that the recordings are available.

Q: What do you mean by "start junior year?"

A: A student can begin CollegePlus! as soon as they have completed their sophomore level of high school study. At that point, they have enough background knowledge to move at a good pace through the program.

Q: Do you know if University of Florida accepts College Plus! credits?

A: We do not know this specifically, but we can help you find this out and more with our [College of Your Choice](#) program.

Q: Is the enrollment in CollegePlus! Core discounted if the student takes the Prep course?

A: No, there is no discount for Prep students.

Q: Is there a minimum age for a kid to take a CLEP exam at a local community college? I'm in Miami, FL and my child is 12 yrs. Thank you

A: As long as the student has some form of photo identification, they should allow the student to take CLEP tests.

Q: Is there a way for students using CollegePlus! to connect with other CollegePlus! students in order to replace the connections and relations they would have experienced at an actual college?

A: We do have a number of optional CP! sponsored missions trips, outings, and service projects that happen throughout the year. This has been at the forefront of our development efforts for some time, and we will be increasing these opportunities as quickly as we can.

Q: Is there an additional cost for CollegePlus! Prep materials?

A: The total additional cost of materials is \$250.

Q: Is there typically a discount in tuition when a high school student is taking a college course for dual enrollment?

A: We do not give a discount for students at CollegePlus! based on age.

Q: Does a high school student have to have taken the SAT or ACT to be enrolled in college courses as dual enrollment status?

A: No, the SAT or ACT is not necessary. Colleges only use that to gauge how a student will perform in college level courses.

Q: My daughter is 12 , how can I start preparing her for dual credit and College Plus?

A: I encourage you to apply to CP! Prep. Speak with one of the advisors. I know that they have made exceptions on ages. They'll be able to give you some pointers and walk you through whether this is the best timing for your student. In addition, if you've requested information on CollegePlus!, there are two free resources there, one audio and a Combining High School and College eBook. Both are very helpful and practical.

Q: My daughter is considering a Communications degree, with a focus on Speech pathology. Would she "combine" classes from the Communications and Pre Med bachelor's degrees offered?

A: We would construct a specific degree plan for your daughter based on her goals. With something more specific like this, it would require additional research, but it can be done.

Q: My son is 15 and just beginning 9th grade, but he has taken some high school courses already. Does he still have to wait to start College Plus?

A: He would most likely have to wait to get more of a foundation established before he can really take off in the program, but CollegePlus! Prep may be just the thing for him.

Q: Our local college makes us pay for college credit when taking CLEPs, how can we find other testing centers that do not charge for college credit?

A: There is a list of [CLEP testing centers](#) on the College Board website that also categorizes them based on whether they are open to the public. You are probably closest to a Limited testing center, but there should be an open testing center as well.

Q: Shouldn't all students take the Prep program?

A: CollegePlus! Prep is designed to give students a foundation upon which they can then succeed in college. It would be great if everyone went through the Prep program, but that would slow down the CollegePlus! Core program more than necessary for the students who already have this foundation.

Q: Realistically, are there any issues/typical concerns that are faced by students who complete their BA in this method and who pursue graduate degrees afterward?

A: Graduate programs look for two main things (among a few others, of course, but these are two big measuring sticks): a regionally accredited degree and scores on entrance exams such as the GMAT or LSAT. We have had many graduates continue their education after CollegePlus! due to high entrance exam scores and the regional accreditation provided by Thomas Edison State College.

Q: You said in the beginning that this webinar is being recorded. Are we able to pass this recording on to friends who weren't able to listen in?

A: Sure, we would invite you to invite your friends to view this webinar recording and also to have the sign-up to join our coming webinar next Tuesday.

Q: If a student has already earned Dual Enrollment credit can this be applied and integrated once they join CollegePlus!?

A: Yes. Any credit from a regionally accredited institution (this includes CLEP tests) would be transferrable.

Q: So if you are doing CP! Prep with a 13 year old, what do they do next (since CP is mentioned as being for 16+)?

A: As a graduate of CP! Prep, once they achieve the minimum high school course requirements for the Core program, they are free to get started at any time.

Q: I have been told that my 11 yr.old daughter is too young for the prep program - that CP would prefer her to be at least 12 to enroll. I am preparing her to take the English Comp exam later this year (she wants to do it—she is very excited about it). Would it make sense to enroll her in the Prep program next year and if so, how would she benefit, seeing that she would already have taken one of the exams this program prepares the student for?

A: Dear Mrs. Sukhram: For future CLEP classes we hope to offer some flexibility in the exams that will be offered for students to take, thereby individualizing the process further than we have it right now. This reflects our focus on continual improvement and hope that it will present value to you when your daughter enrolls at a later date.

Q: Are there military discounts for the Prep course?

A: No, we do not offer any discounts other than the promotion mentioned earlier at this time.

Q: Can you make payments instead of paying all at once for the Prep course?

A: The CP Prep program does not have a payment program available for this enrollment class.

Q: We have used a Charlotte Mason "Living Books" curriculum up to this point (15yo). Am I going to have to give up my plans for his high school in order to do CollegePlus? Are they mainly studying textbooks and exam prep books? Are specific books recommended for each exam?

A: We do try to assimilate your current curriculum into the student's study plans, but we will also provide the student with a specific study module for each test. They are indeed going to be mainly studying textbooks and exam prep books, like you mentioned.

Q: For the twelve college credits for Prep: Are specific resources suggested to studying for these tests?

A: Students will receive a list of study resources as well as specific coaching for each exam.

Q: My son (now 15) used the study skills from the "College in a Bag" last school year. I can't say he took it too seriously or learned much. He took the entire year to study for US History 1 and passed it last week with only a 52. I'm wondering if he has the motivation for this program even though he says he wants to do it.

A: Great question. The Prep program will offer some motivation due to the fact that he will have to report in front of his peers on a regular basis on what he has learned. This may prove to be a plus towards helping him. If he already has the skills as you mentioned, then the Core program may help him due to the fact that he will have one of our trained professional coaches working with him. They are trained to help students take ownership of their studies....I would encourage you to [apply](#) and begin putting these questions to one of our program advisor who will help you to work through it.

Q: We invested in a prepaid college tuition fund with our state. Have you worked with any families with something like this?

A: We have not worked with pre-paid tuition plans, but we have worked with 529 plans. In some cases with the drop in the financial markets families have been able to successfully apply those funds to CollegePlus! without incurring tax liability. We would still advise that you check with your financial advisor or plan administrator in relation to this question.

Q: How are students/families matched with the CP! advisor/mentor?

A: All of our coaches go through the same training program and are held to the same standards, but some coaches do excel in mentoring younger students while others do better working with independent students. Also, we do try to pair students and coaches based on the student's level of motivation in addition to other parameters.

Q: We'd rather start before Junior year. Are there downsides to starting during Freshman year?

A: The only downside to starting the CollegePlus! Core program earlier than the Junior year of high school is that the student would not have enough base knowledge to comfortably work through the early CLEP exams. This would unnecessarily lengthen the process and could potentially do damage to the student's motivation if the student did not see any progress being made. The CP! Prep program addresses these issues by working alongside your existing curriculum to add study skills and critical thinking training to prepare for earning college credit down the road.

Q: What college would I graduate from?

A: You would most likely graduate from Thomas Edison State College if you did the normal CollegePlus! program.

Q: What curriculum does this require?

A: For the CollegePlus! Core program, students receive a study module to accompany each test they take. For the CollegePlus! Prep program, you can find out more by [visiting our store](#) and viewing our curriculum bundles.

Q: We are using David Quine's worldview curriculum. Will we have to stop this?

A: This is something that we would have our curriculum advisor analyze further, but we do try to integrate your existing curriculum.

Q: Would any CLEP test already taken count if we join CP?

A: Yes. Any credit from a regionally accredited institution (this includes CLEP tests) would be transferrable.

Q: If biology has already been taken, can you CLEP out of this though the student is only going to be a sophomore?

A: You can take a CLEP test at any time as long as the student has a photo ID.

Q: What exactly do you mean by "target one subject at a time for the rest of the school day" after doing math, science and English?

A: At CollegePlus! we believe that it is easier for the brain to digest the information if it only has to focus on a few subjects at a time. So instead of taking 5 courses at a time, we approach learning modularly (one test at a time).

Q: What if I think the CLEP test is the wrong subject for my student to start with in College Prep? Can we choose another subject for the end of the year to CLEP with? Her writing skills still need to be improved.

A: Because CollegePlus! Prep does involve small groups (or pods) of students moving together, we do not have the ability to change the CLEP test that students will be taking.

Q: What if some classes have been taken/credits earned at a local community college, can those credits be combined with CLEP with your program?

A: Any credit that has been gotten from a regionally accredited institution (which includes the vast majority of community colleges) will transfer to Thomas Edison. We have no problem taking these credits into account.

Q: Can this be done from overseas, say if you are homeschooling your kids in the mission field?

A: As long as there is a CLEP testing center within traveling distance, you can complete the CollegePlus! program.

Q: What is the cost for a senior (16 years old) to do the Core program?

A: The CollegePlus! Core program costs \$2699 for most degrees.

Q: What were the titles and authors of the books?

A: The Underground History of American Education by John Gatto, and A Thomas Jefferson Education by Oliver Van DeMille

Q: Where can I find info about the core program?

A: If you [request information](#) on our website, we will send you an email information packet that should be able to answer many of your questions. You will also get a call from one of our academic advisors who can walk you through the details of CollegePlus! Core.

Q: Why is CLEP better than AP?

A: CLEP tests tend to be less expensive and do not involve ambiguous essay questions, but there is certainly nothing wrong with taking AP courses if these two points are not concerns.

Q: Will you start other programs throughout the year? In other words if we don't start this September will we need to wait until September 2010 to start?

A: The CollegePlus! Core program allows you to enroll at any time. At this point, CollegePlus! Prep will not be starting another class until Fall 2010, but stay tuned.

Q: Does this \$645 cover books as well? If I remember it was over \$900 earlier this year?

A: Visit [our CollegePlus! Prep page](#) for all the details about pricing.

Q: Would you recommend CollegePlus! for those now attending a public school?

A: Definitely. The student's schedule may become a bit taxed (we recommend at least 15 hours worth of study each week and hopefully more around 25-30), but if the student is motivated then we are here to help them.

Q: Is SAT test required to attend CollegePlus?

A: SATs are not required.

Q: Would you recommend finishing all 4 years worth of college credit? Or would it be better to just take 2 years worth of college credit through CollegePlus!, and take the other 2 in a university, simply in order to have a more prestigious and recognizable BA?

A: CollegePlus! specializes in providing the most affordable opportunity to earn a high quality degree. Thomas Edison State College is regionally accredited (the highest level of accreditation in America), so you would not lose any quality. However, if there is a certain college you are interested in, we could help you draft a cost-effective plan for that specific college using our program called [College of Your Choice](#).

Q: Could we augment accelerating completion of college by taking junior college courses?

A: You can certainly do this. CLEP tests tend to be less expensive, but junior college courses are a valid option as well.