

Questions Asked by Webinar Attendees – 8/28/08

Q: When you talk about getting credits in 14 months, are you including the summer or just during the school year?

A: That includes year-round study but if students need to take off for the summer, that's workable with CollegePlus! It will just lengthen their studies a bit.

Q: Can CollegePlus! be started during the year or only at the beginning of the school year?

A: Students can begin CollegePlus! any time of the year. It takes about a month to begin the program from the day that the student fills out the application and submits it over the web.

Q: Are the required resources priced separately from the \$2,699?

A: Yes, they are priced separately but Life Purpose Planning is included in the \$2699. The other resources cost about \$250.

Q: Have you ever had a student experience burnout?

A: This happens every once in a while. In these cases, the student usually takes a coaching hold which essentially freezes their coaching for the time they request and then picks back up once they return. However, since students set their own study schedule, burnout rarely occurs.

Q: How long does the life purpose planning take to complete?

A: 5 weeks, yet it is designed to be used over a lifetime. See <http://www.collegeplus.org/howitworks/lifepurposeplanning> for more information.

Q: What percentage of students who begin this program carry it to full completion?

A: CollegePlus! has an 87% completion rate (compared with the national average of 54%).

Q: How can I be sure that the credits my son earns will transfer to the local state university when he is ready to pursue his major?

A: You need to check with the local university that you want the credits to transfer into. CollegePlus! students, however, are funneled into a distance learning state college that is considerably easier to work with in transferring credits.

Q: How can I be sure that your program will still be operating over the years that my son spends in your program?

A: Great question! Just to let you know, CollegePlus! is growing by leaps and bounds so we anticipate walking students through their distance learning degree for many years to come.

Q: Will the mentor that is matched with my son stay with your program until he is finished?

A: CollegePlus! coaches have great longevity with the program. While we don't guarantee that the student will have the same coach over the entire length of enrollment, this has been true for most students in the past.

Q: Do you think that the university systems will eventually "crack down" on students testing out of class experiences for college credit? After all, as this grows, they will be missing out on large amounts of cash.

A: We don't think so. You're right in the sense that college administration isn't very open to credit by exam because it diverts tuition and fees from their universities. However, the colleges that we funnel our students into are pioneers in helping professionals and students earn college credit through unconventional means. So, there is nothing to worry about as far as credit by exam being "cracked down" on.

Furthermore, university professors tell us that college officials around the country are focusing more on developing their graduate programs than the undergrad programs. So, since CollegePlus! students take ownership of their education and graduate years ahead of their peers, they are specially poised to take advantage of grad school. This is a big plus considering the reality that more and more employers are requiring a professional degree of their prospective employees.

Q: What percentage of your students have to take their CLEP tests multiple times before passing them?

A: I'm not aware of that statistic specifically; however this varies depending on the student's age and motivation level. All the exams are passable and since all CollegePlus! students go through a memory course and a speed reading course before they begin studying for CLEP exams, the likelihood of them failing an exam is minimal if their motivation level remains high. If a student fails a CLEP test, he/she can retake it once every 6+ months until the exam is passed.

Q: Do most students learn speed reading techniques well?

A: Most, if not all students have reported an increase in reading speed and comprehension after going through the speed reading course.

Q: Are all the fees paid at the beginning of the process or in stages?

A: CollegePlus! tuition can be paid up front or over time. Our payment terms option allows families to pay half of their tuition at the outset and then make payments of \$150 per month until the balance of the tuition is paid. The payment terms option does include a one time \$100 fee, but is an option that many families take advantage of.

Q: Are the coaches well-practiced at encouraging students when they get discouraged?

A: Yes, we are. We know that students hold the key to their own motivation and encouragement so we walk them through their frustrations or the things that have them down so that they can find the solution to their discouragement themselves.

Q: How many Canadians do you have registered with CollegePlus!?

A: We have a number of Canadians in the program. As long as they are comfortable with earning a bachelor's degree from a US college, CollegePlus! is very compatible with Canadian students.

Q: I haven't looked at the CLEP website yet, but what score/percentage do you have to get to pass a CLEP test?

A: A passing score is a 50 (on a scale of 20-80). This 50 equates to a "C" grade equivalent.

Q: Are the mentors Christians?

A: Yes. Our coaches are chosen based on three criteria. They must:

- * Be a dedicated Christian and proven teacher of others.
- * Be thoroughly familiar with the accelerated distance learning process through personal experience.
- * Possess strong verbal and written communication skills.

See <http://www.collegeplus.org/howeare/meetourteam/coaches> for more information on our coaches/mentors

Q: Do you have a specific amount of time that you are enrolled in? It states about 2 years...what if it takes you longer?

A: Students can remain enrolled in CollegePlus! as long as they need coaching from us. The average length of enrollment is 2 years but some need more than that and some need less.

Q: How does this program work if my son is interested in going into law school?

A: CollegePlus! students have already been accepted into law school. Law schools these days want a high GPA, a strong personal essay, and a good LSAT score. CollegePlus! students can score big on all of these.

Q: Can this program work if you're enrolled in a private online HS?

A: Yes, however you would need to devote additional time to college studies.

Q: How do you help the students know when they are sufficiently ready to take a CLEP test on a specific subject?

A: There are study guides for just about all the exams they'll take to complete their degree. Those study guides have practice exams. Through these exams and other resources, the students can gauge their readiness to take the exam based on their scores and the amount questions they answer correctly. We typically tell students that if they can get a certain percentage correct on the practice exams, then they're ready to take the exam.

Q: Are these study guides included in the cost of CP?

A: Yes. Study guides that tell you what to study and what things to pay attention to are included in the costs. However, the books to be studied are not included in the costs. These books can be purchased from us (<http://shop.globallearningstrategies.org>), Amazon.com, college textbook resellers, and other CollegePlus! students, to name a few.

Q: Have younger students that have gotten their BS degree found any problems from employers because of their age?

A: There have been some issues that extremely young students do not go directly into full time work upon completing their degree. These students, however, have found work in internships or in a ministry environment that is more open to encouraging healthy work habits among young people. Or they start their own businesses, as in Sam's case.

Q: Do you deny enrollment to your program based on religion?

A: No, we don't. As long as students acknowledge the fact that we are a Christian company and will not undermine this in any way, we are happy to help them pursue their degree through accelerated distance learning.

Q: What resources are there for internships?

A: There are books that list available internships, like *Peterson's Guide to Internships*. There are also websites like <http://www.fastweb.com> that list applicable internships based on the student's interest.

Q: Can we enroll w/ you and then wait a month to start the program regularly (more full time?)

A: The enrollment process usually takes a month to complete from the time the student applies. So, the student can really start at any time after enrolling.

Q: Are masters degree programs available regardless of age? Or is enrollment at most based on age?

A: CollegePlus! does not offer masters programs. As long as a student has their bachelor's degree and receives a high score on a graduate level entrance examination, such as the GMAT, GRE, etc, age doesn't make that much of a difference when enrolling in a masters program.

Q: How necessary do you feel a HS degree is? Can you just "skip" it and get a bachelors degree? How does that affect your future?

A: Short answer, yes, you can skip a high school degree. Since a college degree carries a lot more weight than a HS education, a lack of a "HS degree" shouldn't affect your future.

Q: How involved were their parents in this process? w/ the CLEP testing process?

A: Parents can be involved in their student's CollegePlus! students as much as they want to, even joining in on coaching calls if they want to. Parental involvement among the students on the call varied but all parents were definitely encouraging them in their studies.

Q: I am a missionary in the Dominican Republic, and I would like to know how I could take my tests for CollegPlus in the Dominican Republic.

A: Unfortunately, there are no testing centers in the Dominican Republic. However, you can put a request in to your local college/educational institution and ask them to offer CLEP and DANTES tests. See http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp for locations of CLEP testing centers.

Q: highschool?

A: CollegePlus! can replace or be combined with the last two years of high school. See <http://www.collegeplus.org/infopacket/highschool> and <http://www.collegeplus.org/highschoolstudents> for more information.

Q: Would a C average, 10th grade student be able to do this?

A: Yes, your student would definitely be a candidate for CollegePlus! It really depends on the student's motivation level. A little bit of coaching goes a long way to helping students get their degrees through CollegePlus! so your child's coach would work with him/her to tailor the study for the degree based on their natural study strengths.

Q: Do you have to take a college entrance exam before beginning CollegePlus!?

A: No. However, it does give us a better picture of how the student will perform on standardized tests such as CLEPs and DANTES.

Q: What if my 10th grade student is unsure of what he wants to do as a career?

A: The thing he should keep in mind is that the average college grad holds 10.5 jobs in the course of his career. So, just because he completes a business degree doesn't necessarily mean that he'll work his entire career in business. These days, it's better to get the degree regardless of its concentration because most employers aren't concerned with the specialization of the degree, just if the student has experience in that particular career field. This is why we encourage all students to finish their degree while they are living at home so that they can participate in internships that will give them a good idea of whether they will like a particular job or should focus on a different one.

Q: I thought colleges only accept a certain amount of CLEP credits per year, is it unlimited?

A: It is limited by college or university. However, the colleges that we funnel our students into accept any amount of CLEP credits as long as the credits fit within the student's degree track.

Q: What age/school yr. can/should a student start this program?

A: Typically, students can start in their junior year of high school (age 16) with no problem at all. We have students as young as 13; however, this is an exception.

Q: Will this webinar be available for later listening? My wife wasn't able to be here for the beginning.

A: Yes, we're recording it. You'll receive an email with a link to the recording in a few days.

Q: Would a degree in IT be able to be completed through CollegePlus!, or would it require time on a campus? And if so approx. how much?

A: An IT degree such as Computer Information Systems or Computer Science can be completed through CollegePlus!, and requires 5-8 online courses that comprise up to 20% of the credits to be earned. See <http://www.collegeplus.org/infopacket/majorsdegreecosts> for more information.

Q: Is there a list of degrees that are available?

A: Yes! Check out this webpage on our site: <http://www.collegeplus.org/majors>.

Q: How can a student pursue a somewhat technical degree such as audio engineering technology (recording) for music?

A: Some of the more hands on degrees are difficult or impossible to complete through distance learning. It may be advisable for a student with this bent to complete bachelor's in communications or business and then take specific courses from a local college or university. That way, they get the training they're interested in and they complete a marketable bachelor's degree.

Q: What if the degree you want is a degree that Thomas Edison doesn't offer (like Hebrew)?

A: In this situation, we advise students to still complete a degree they can get through Thomas Edison and then go on to a master's degree in the specific field they're interested in. For instance, I was able to complete a bachelor's degree and am now considering graduate programs in Middle Eastern Studies.

Q: How many credits are required to complete most degrees?

A: Usually 120.

Q: Linnea, Why did you not pursue a degree in music?

A: Answered by Linnea.

Q: Given the home school climate in America, is a degree in education available in case a teaching credential is some day required to home school our children?

A: Yes, this is available. The process is a little different than the traditional course of study. Western Governors University (<http://www.wgu.edu>) offers a post-baccalaureate teaching certificate that any student in the country can complete through distance learning and their local school district.

Q: When applying for a masters do schools see just the BA or a BA with a lot of clep work?

A: It depends on the masters program. Most will look at the whole GPA, of which only online/onsite courses count towards. For distance learning MA/MBA programs, it can be beneficial to see a lot of testing/online experience.

Q: Do you have any statistics for the average finish-times for single students who work 40+ hours per week?

A: We don't have those statistics yet. However, if you can spend 4-6 hours of study a day, the degree will take about 2 years. However, if you are a motivated adult who has background knowledge, you may be able to study less time to get the same results compared to a 15 or 16 year old.

Q: I see that the enrollment process is estimated to take about a month. Just to clarify, does this process include the Life Purpose Planning, Memory Enhancement, and/or speed reading?

A: Life Purpose Planning takes place after enrollment. The study skills courses usually do as well but they are available to purchase beforehand and students are perfectly welcome to begin before they have their first coaching call.

Q: So, if we apply, then go thru the Life Purpose Planning, then my son decides he doesn't want to pursue a college degree, have we incurred any cost that we cannot get back?

A: There is a scaled refund schedule. At the end of life purpose planning, depending on how long it's taken the student to complete, you could be eligible for a refund of 75% to 25% of the total cost of the yearly tuition.

Q: What is the cost to begin all this process?

A: In a nutshell, the first 12 months of coaching costs \$2699 and the required resources cost about \$250 (like the speed reading and memory courses).

Q: Is there financial aid available that is not a student loan program?

A: Short answer, yes. Please see <http://www.collegeplus.org/whatitcosts/scholarshipsfinancialaid> for a more detailed answer.

Q: Can college credit from a non-credited college, like Pensacola Christian College, be transferred to Thomas Edison?

A: This credit cannot be transferred directly into Thomas Edison. However, for such courses there is usually a corresponding CLEP exam. You could then take the CLEP using your background knowledge in that subject area with minimal study.

Q: Can one earn a Master's degree through CollegePlus!?

A: CollegePlus! does not offer masters programs. However, since CollegePlus! students earn degrees from regionally accredited colleges, they have the opportunity to attend any graduate school in the country.

Q: Question for Miss Caswell: Joseph was wondering what a liberal studies program is (consists of)?

A: Answered by Linnea.

Q: At the seminary where I teach, we have not only a regional accrediting agency, but also a national one (Assoc. of Theological Schools). I've only heard about "regional" accreditation with TESC. Are there also national accrediting agencies with colleges and universities? In other words, I'm wondering if there is something beyond regional accreditation that we should know about or be concerned about when considering a school like TESC.

A: Yes. The main issue is the transferability of credits from one institution to another. While nationally accredited institutions will usually accept credit from regionally or nationally accredited institutions, regionally accredited schools often do not accept credit from nationally accredited institutions. See <http://www.collegeplus.org/howitworks/distancelearningcollege> for more information.

Q: What does regionally accredited mean and how do employers and traditional colleges view those credits if seeking to transfer?

A: Regional accreditation is the highest form of accreditation in the country--any state college or university is regionally accredited as well as most private colleges. Employers usually require a regionally accredited degree of their job applicants. CLEP credits will transfer into a college based on that institution's individual limits. We mainly funnel students into Thomas Edison because they accept as much transfer credit as fits into the student's degree track.