The College Level Examination Program (CLEP)  
Targeted Approaches That Work!

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Questions?

- What contributes to your institution's CLEP success?
- How does your institution award credit for the prior learning of mid-career changers?
- Is CLEP integrated into orientation and transfer events, financial aid conversations, and electronic messaging to students?
- Is your institution considered by the SOC as veteran friendly? Do qualifying CLEP scores transfer as general education or elective credit?
- Does your state system need information on systemwide credit-by-exam articulation?
CLEP-Targeted Approaches That Work!

1. Provide an overview of The College Level Examination Program
   - exam development and correlation with college curriculum
   - promising practices to support higher education goals
   - “New!” CLEP exam information
   - findings of current reach on subsequent performance
   - a snapshot of CLEP in FL and AZ Community Colleges

2. Identify CLEP’s role serving nontraditional students-
   - Credit transfer and articulation
   - Prior learning assessment
   - Recruitment and retention
   - Support of veterans programs
   - Opportunities for 50+ learners
   - Options for distance learning environments
   - Significant benefits for high-growth Hispanic/Latino student population
What is CLEP?

The College Level Examination Program is a credit-by-examination program, celebrating 42 years serving students and colleges.

- Computer-based exams measure knowledge and independent learning acquired from prior learning experiences, not necessarily associated with “seat time”.

- Exam fee is $70 plus test center administration fee.
  - Effective July 1, 2009- CLEP exam fee increase to $72.

- More than 200,000+ exams administered a year.

- 72,000 funded exams administered in 0708 to active military and veterans.

- 2,900 colleges grant credit; 1,400+ colleges administer CLEP.
CLEP Exams

Composition and Literature
- American Literature
- Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
- English Composition
- English Composition with Essay
- English Literature
- Freshman College Composition
- Humanities

Science and Mathematics
- Calculus
- College Algebra
- Precalculus
- College Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Natural Sciences

Foreign Languages
- French Language
- German Language
- Spanish Language

History and Social Sciences
- American Government
- Human Growth and Development
- Introduction to Educational Psychology
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Principles of Microeconomics
- Introductory Psychology
- Introductory Sociology
- Social Sciences and History
- U.S. History I: Early Colonization to 1877
- U.S. History II: 1865 to the Present
- Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648
- Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present

Business
- Information Systems and Computer Applications
- Principles of Management
- Financial Accounting
- Introductory Business Law
- Principles of Marketing
What’s new?

- New exams-effective July 1, 2010-College Composition
  1. College Composition with two computer-based essays (argumentative and source-based)
     - 2 week grading turnaround-CLEP faculty/OSN
     - Expanded test time- from 90 minutes to 120 minutes
  2. College Composition Modular-
     - Multiple choice with optional essays
     - Institutionally administered and graded essays
- Replaces-Freshman College Composition, English Composition, and English Composition Without Essay
- Retired CLEP exam scores available for twenty years
- Individual Study Guide available “FREE” for limited time
- Test Information Guide available for policy review
- ACE recommended score of 50 for two semesters credit
• For students:  
  www.collegeboard.com/clep

• For education professionals:  
  professionals.collegeboard.com/clep

• **CLEP Resource Center** - For test center administrators, faculty, and professionals
About CLEP
Shorten your path to a college degree — with CLEP!

The College-Level Examination Program® or CLEP provides students of any age with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses. There are 2,900 colleges that grant credit and/or advanced standing for CLEP exams.

Why take CLEP exams?
By taking one or more CLEP exams in your strong subjects, you’ll...

- **Save time.** Get college credit for what you already know. Be rewarded for what you’ve learned through independent study, advanced high school courses, noncredit adult courses, or professional development.

- **Save money.** Compare the cost of a CLEP exam, just $65, to hundreds — even thousands — of dollars in tuition. CLEP exams are free to military service members.

- **Make college more interesting.** Move right into advanced courses.

- **Graduate on time.** CLEP can help you to the finish line if you’re a few credits shy of graduating.

- **Satisfy a proficiency requirement.** Demonstrate you’ve already mastered the content of, for example, a basic math or language course. Great for dual-degree candidates or students just a few credits shy of graduation.

**Financial Accounting Is Here!**
The new CLEP Financial Accounting exam is now available at 1,400 test centers.

Read the exam description or download the Financial Accounting exam guide for $10 from our online store.

**For Military Personnel and Veterans**
Save time and money while earning college credit.

CLEP Options for Military Personnel
CLEP for Veterans

**Feedback**
How did you advance your education or career with CLEP? Please share your story with us. We’d like to hear from you.

CLEP Feedback Form
What do CLEP candidates say?

2008 Results of Survey...

- More than 45% of CLEP candidates have taken an online course.
- Nearly 45% are employed full time and more than 45% are first generation students.
- 90%+ rated CLEP extremely important for saving time and earning credit for content they already know.
- 85% rated CLEP extremely important for saving money on tuition.
- 70% reported that academic advising was important in their decision to take CLEP.
Recent Studies of the CLEP Program
http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/cb/clep

- Students who earn credit via CLEP perform as well or better in subsequent courses than students who completed the equivalent course.

- CLEP students earn one-half grade point higher than students in the equivalent course.

- CLEP students have a higher cumulative GPA than students who did not take CLEP.

- Data show that students earning credit through CLEP are more likely to be retained semester-to-semester.

- CLEP students had a higher-than-average number of hours per semester than students taking the equivalent course.
Education Level Distribution

- College senior: 29%
- College junior: 12%
- College grad: 12%
- HS grad: 8%
- HS student: 9%
- College freshman: 14%
- College sophomore: 16%
"Tools in Toolbox Revisited"
Research by Clifford Adelman,

- **Research findings on the importance of persistence, continuous enrollment and hours to degree.**
- **Academic momentum—what contributes to it.**
- **Students earning 20 or more credits within the first year are much more likely to persist and graduate.**
- “Academic Advisors and counselors have to target every first-time student for at least 20 credits by the end of the first calendar year of enrollment.”

*CLEP impact-Consider advising students (P/T and nontraditional students) about the advantage of earning credit through CLEP to maintain academic momentum, save money, and expedite progress toward degree completion.*
Who can benefit from CLEP?

- Adults and nontraditional students
  - enrolled in online or blended degree programs
  - enrolled in high-demand programs (Nursing and Education)
- Language proficient students
- Juniors and seniors in need of graduation requirements
- Active military and veterans
- Students at risk of dropping out due to time or financial constraints
- Students transferring from institutions with unrecognized credits
Results

- Students enroll in course at most appropriate level
- Cultivates student engagement
- Provides academic flexibility and allows students to:
  - accelerate progress toward degree completion
  - further explore minors or second majors
- Helps students save money and time
- Creates flexibility in use of time for study abroad, internships, and co-op experiences
Supporting Hispanic Student Success

Based on national CLEP candidate data for 2007/08

- More than 27,000 Hispanic students took more than 31,000 (CLEP) exams.
- 65% heritage-speaking Hispanic students took nearly 22,000 Spanish Language CLEP exams.

Please consider CLEP as an approach to building academic momentum....
CLEP for Military and Veterans

- CLEP exams are free for eligible military service members!

- Military veterans can seek reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for exam and fees

- Nearly 72,000 funded CLEP exams were administered to military personnel in 2007-08

www.collegeboard.com/clep
With the passage of the Veterans Assistance Act of 2008 (GI Bill), opportunities exist for active military and veterans to earn college credit through funded CLEP exams, making efficient use of tuition benefits.

- Because the bill provides tuition for up to 36 months, it is important for institutions to honor the transfer of CLEP for credit; supporting veterans’ expeditious progress and degree completion within the funded timeframe.

- The CLEP website has military and veteran information, [http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/veterans](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/veterans)
Highest Volume CLEP Exams
Military Candidates, 2007/08

- English Composition: 9,302
- College Mathematics: 7,828
- Freshman College Comp: 6,034
- College Algebra: 4,944
- Principles of Mgmt: 4,566
- Humanities: 4,364
More now than ever, community colleges need to call upon all of our resources and creativity to maintain access, quality, and affordability. It’s not a matter of ‘if”—it’s a matter of “how”...

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The Florida College System

Current Issues-

The 2008 Legislature established the Florida College System

- To maximize open access for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education, and provide associate and baccalaureate degrees to best meet the state’s employment needs.

28 community colleges-

- public postsecondary educational institutions that grant two-year and four-year academic degrees as provided by law.
- Fourteen of twenty-eight colleges are approved to offer a total of 87 baccalaureate degree programs in Teaching, Nursing and Applied Science.
The Florida College System

- Open door admissions policy allows any person with a FL HS diploma or GED to enroll in lower division.
- Traditional age and nontraditional students include adults, working students of all ages, online and distance learners, and military veterans.
- In 2007, approximately 282,344 full-time students were enrolled in college related programs (not including adult, workforce education, and GED preparation).
- In 2008/09, an expected 860,000 students served:
  - 7% increase from previous year-about 56,000 students.
  - 2009/10 projections estimate additional 8% enrollment increase.
A key component of seamless statewide articulation-
- Guaranteed credit for qualifying scores (50)
- List of credit-by-exam course and credit equivalencies- available from FLDOE, Office of Articulation website and wwwFACTS.org
- No direct course equivalent for CLEP exams-Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, Freshman Composition, Natural Science, Social Science and History
CLEP® Exam Volume
Florida Test Takers, 2004-08

Test Takers
Exams

2004-05 9,656 11,477
2005-06 10,059 11,861
2006-07 10,525 12,355
2007-08 10,807 12,681
Highest Volume CLEP Exams
Florida Test Takers, 2007–08

- Spanish Language: 4,902
- College Algebra: 1,199
- English Composition with Essay: 827
- College Math: 609
- Sociology: 541
- French Language: 535
CLEP Education Level
Florida Test Takers, 2007/08

- Freshman: 16%
- Sophomore: 24%
- Junior: 12%
- Senior: 26%
- Graduate: 7%
- High School Student: 8%
- High School Graduate: 7%
CLEP Age Level
Florida Test Takers, 2007 - 2008

- 18-22: 36%
- 23-29: 21%
- 30-35: 11%
- 36 and older: 18%
- Not reported: 4%
- Under 18: 5%
Promising Practices-AACC Plus 50

- AACC grant-funded Plus 50 Initiative
- Central Florida Community College (CFCC), FL
  - Teens, seniors, and computers-trains teens to volunteer teaching seniors basic computer operations
  - Workforce Education-short-term non-credit skills based training in customer service, keyboarding, office skills, and tax preparation (80% of participants were hired for 2009 tax season)
  - “Interested in programs for Baby Boomers?” Contact J. Gamble- gamblej@cf.edu
Promising Practices-AACC Plus 50

Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Florida

AACC Plus 50 Grant Initiative Goals:

- Expand the existing *Prime Time Program*-offering educational and enrichment activities for individuals over 60.
- Develop and market a Nursing Educator Preparation Program for clinical nurses over 50 to become adjunct faculty for SFC.
- Market SFC’s Educator Preparation Institute to our Plus 50 population.
- Develop and offer a series of workshops/seminars to introduce our Plus 50 population in the SFC service district to the educational/training opportunities in SFC’s over 80 Career and Technical Education programs.

Contact-Paul Hutchins, paul.hutchins@sfcc.edu
Highest Volume CLEP Exams
Arizona Test Takers, 2007–08

- Spanish Language: 1,509
- Analyzing & Interpreting Literature: 372
- English Composition with Essay: 252
- College Math: 130
- College Algebra: 125
- Human Growth & Development: 104
Promising Practices....

- **Luzerne Community College** - *LCCC WIRED grant-Project Success for GED completers*-project identifies prospective students with GED standard score - 2500 for funded CLEP exams- as a strategy to recruit and retain students in training for high growth industries.
  - **Contact**: Peter P. Balsamo, Ph.D., Chief GED Examiner and Director of Community Outreach; Director of Project Success Grant Wilkes-Barre, PA, (570) 822-3728

- **Lamar Community College** - HS funds GEARUP students to take CLEP Language exams for college credit. CC staff advise students how CLEP credits fit into an AA/AS degree plan for college. HS encourages students who pass CLEP exams to enroll in dual credit and (AP) courses to continue their progress. “Lamar CC tested 33 students and all passed...not one failure -to award 290 college credits for Hispanic students. The happy expressions of accomplishment on their faces tell me that I am on the right track.”
  - **Contact**: Kett V. Winsor, Director, Lamar, CO- Learning Support Services, (719) 336-1537
Promising Practices....

  - Contact: Waldo Alvarado, Reading, PA, [waldoalva@comcast.net](mailto:waldoalva@comcast.net)

- **Cape Cod Community College** -
  - Test Center Director provides encouragement to students earning high placement (ACCUPLACER) scores to consider CLEP exams-save money and accelerate academic progress.
    - Contact: Clare Niven-Blowers, Director of Assessment Ctr., Cape Cod, MA, [cnivenbl@capecod.edu](mailto:cnivenbl@capecod.edu)

- **Minnesota** - 2005 Legislation requires HS students be informed of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and other rigorous assessments for earning college credit. State funds up to 6 CLEP exams for high school public, private, and home-schooled students. More information available at CLEP website, [www.collegeboard.com/clep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep)

- **Kentucky** – State employees funded CLEP exams for continuing education
Want More Information?
Have a Success Story to Share?

Contact CLEP
(212) 713-8219
CLEP@collegeboard.org