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The American Council on Education Reviews CLEP, Extends Endorsement of Program

CLEP is among the examination programs that ACE CREDIT reviews and includes in its transcript service.

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The magazine lists the top 15 percent of schools that recruit veterans.

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Student retention and degree completion are among the most pressing issues encountered by military veterans.

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"Big Ideas" to Foster Economic Recovery Through Postsecondary Education

The Lumina Foundation's president outlines three "big ideas" to help workers prepare for the recovery. By accepting CLEP credit, institutions are directly participating.

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SAVE THE DATE

CLEP will exhibit and present at the 2010 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium in Nashville, Tenn., February 15–18, 2010.

CLEP will present at the Texas Academic Advising Network (TEXAAN) Annual Conference, San Marcos, Texas, February 17–19, 2010.

CLEP will present at the New England Transfer Association (NETA) 39th Annual Conference, Brewster, Mass., April 18–21, 2010.

Career College Association (CCA) 2010 Annual Convention and Exposition, Las Vegas, Nev, June 9–11, 2010

ACCUPLACER National Conference, Boston, Mass., June 24–26, 2010

Reminder: Update Your Policy for the New CLEP Composition Exams

Update your policy for two new exams: College Composition and College Composition Modular.

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ACE Reviews CLEP, Extends Endorsement of Program

The American Council on Education's [College Credit Recommendation Service \(ACE CREDIT\)](#) connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional college-degree programs. CLEP is among the examination programs that ACE CREDIT reviews and includes in its transcript service.

Every three years, ACE conducts a full program review of CLEP, ensuring that the methods and processes used to develop exams are rigorous and relevant to the corresponding college curriculum. In addition, ACE periodically reviews new exams or those that have undergone significant changes — most recently [College Composition and College Composition Modular](#), which will be available to students as of July 1, 2010.

On December 9, 2009, ACE CREDIT met with CLEP statisticians, test developers and program staff. The review team consisted of eight members, including a psychometrician who reviewed CLEP's statistical analysis and security procedures, six college faculty subject matter experts from colleges across the U.S., and the team leader, Larry Davis, who is a professor of economics and management at Texas A&M University. The team analyzed three CLEP exams in detail: [Principles of Management](#), [College Algebra](#) and [Human Growth and Development](#). These exams were chosen to be representative of the processes and test development practices of all 34 CLEP exams. All three had recently completed [standard-setting studies](#) and [curriculum surveys](#), which were included in the review.

Each exam was thoroughly reviewed by two subject matter experts, and the statistical processes, standard setting, scoring and scaling of the exams were evaluated by ACE's psychometrician, in consultation with research scientists from the College Board and ETS.

The result: once again, the ACE reviewers found that CLEP exams' reliability and validity are high, that the methods CLEP uses to determine recommended passing scores meet ACE's standards, and that CLEP test development preserves exam security. ACE renewed its recommendation that for all exams, a scaled score of 50 should be considered acceptable for the granting of college credit.

Learn more about [CLEP test development](#) and [review the ACE credit recommendations](#) for CLEP exams.

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G.I. Jobs Names the Top 100 Military-Friendly Schools

G.I. Jobs magazine polled more than 7,000 schools to create its list of the top 100 military-friendly schools for 2010. The list names the top 15 percent of schools that recruit veterans and includes public and private two- and four-year colleges, universities and trade schools. As the Department of Defense offers funding for CLEP exams, many service members arrive at college with CLEP credit. For this reason, whether or not a school accepted CLEP was included among the criteria for selection. In fact, 50 of the top 100 military-friendly schools are also among the top 100 CLEP schools.

You can search the complete list of military-friendly schools at www.militaryfriendlyschoools.com.

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From Soldier to Student: Addressing the Needs of Veterans

A recently released study (.pdf/1.75M, *Requires Adobe Reader; latest version recommended*) explores the challenges faced by service personnel as they transition from the military to higher education with the help of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The study is the result of a partnership between the American Council on Education, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), NASPA–Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA).

The report reveals that, since September 11, 2001, 60 percent of polled colleges and universities are making greater efforts to address the needs of students who serve or who have served in the military (p. 6). Among the efforts cited in the report are special scholarships and the granting of in-state tuition rates for service members and their spouses who are stationed in or assigned to that state (p. 19).

By granting CLEP credit, your school is further easing the challenges faced by military students. Taking CLEP exams allows veterans to make the most of their GI Bill funding by helping them save money on classes and graduate faster. As 73 percent of the institutions polled listed student retention and degree completion as among the most pressing issues encountered by military veterans (p. 10), CLEP exams are in a unique position to assist schools in retaining and graduating their military students.

Read more about how CLEP can help [military personnel](#) and [veterans](#).

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"Big Ideas" to Foster Economic Recovery Through Postsecondary Education

On December 16, 2009, Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation for Education, issued a statement titled "[Fostering Economic Recovery Through Postsecondary Education](#)," which addresses the challenges of putting people back to work in our knowledge-based economy. He proposes three "big ideas" to help workers prepare for the recovery, one of which is increasing acceptance of credit for prior learning assessment (PLA). CLEP is the most widely administered form of PLA used by adult students and the military. By establishing a CLEP policy, colleges and universities recognize that the knowledge students have already acquired can help them earn their degree faster and save money.

Merisotis focuses specifically on adult students and military service members in his statement. For laid-off workers and those looking to advance their careers through higher education, he notes that PLA can "reduce the costly and frustrating need to 'relearn' skills and knowledge already gained." Research ties CLEP to increased persistence and higher rates of graduation, making it an especially appealing option for those who have to balance a variety of responsibilities.

The Department of Defense funds CLEP exams for military service members; as a result, many carry CLEP credit into civilian life. By broadening their CLEP policies and making CLEP exams easily accessible to students, colleges can make themselves more attractive to service members looking to use their skills and knowledge to move ahead.

Merisotis includes suggestions for increasing the acceptance of PLA in his statement; visit the [Lumina Foundation website](#) to read the full text.

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Reminder: Update Your Policy for the New CLEP Composition Exams

Don't forget that on July 1, 2010, CLEP will launch two new exams: College Composition and College Composition Modular. If you have not already updated your CLEP policy, please use the online form on our [CLEP Composition page](#) to let us know which exam you plan to grant credit for and we'll include your information in our College Search for students to find.

If you don't currently have a CLEP composition credit-granting policy, visit the CLEP website to learn more about [setting a CLEP policy](#).

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You can find a CLEP Notes subscription page, and previous issues of the newsletter, at www.collegeboard.com/clepnotes