

## COLLEGE CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

Standardized tests are the best known method of receiving college credit without taking the actual courses. These exams are often taken by high school students seeking advanced placement for college. Such testing programs offer exams in a number of subjects. Students might already know of some of the existing national testing programs by their acronyms or initials: IB, CLEP, ACT PEP and AP. It is always important to contact each institution to make sure that credit will be awarded by the college or university one plans to attend. The following options are usually the most popular:

### **The IB Diploma**

In many cases, IB courses are considered college-level courses and may result in college level credit if students do well on the IB exams and the accepting college grants credit.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Tests**

AP courses are considered college-level courses and may result in college credit if students do well on the AP exams and the accepting college grants credit.

### **Proficiency Exam Program (PEP)**

A test program developed by the ACT

### **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)**

A test program developed by College Board

### **Colleges or Universities**

Many postsecondary institutions give their own proficiency exams; students can request them if they feel qualified.

It is important to understand that receiving a passing score on these exams does not mean you get college credit automatically. Each school determines which test results it will accept, minimum scores required, how scores are converted for credit, and the amount of credit, if any, to be assigned. Most colleges and universities accept the American Council on Education credit recommendations, published every other year in the 250-page Guide to Educational Credit by Examination. For more information, contact The American Council on Education:

Credit by Examination Program  
One Dupont Circle, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20036-1193  
(202) 939-9434.

The CLEP (College-Level Examination Program), administered by the College Board, is the most widely accepted of the national testing programs; more than 2,800 accredited schools award credit for passing exam scores. Each test takes 90 minutes and covers materials taught in basic undergraduate courses. There are 5 general exams- English composition, humanities, college mathematics, natural sciences, and social sciences and history-and 29 subject exams. Most exams are entirely multiple choice, but English composition exams may include an essay section. For more information, contact

CLEP  
P.O. Box 6600  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6600  
(609) 771-7865.

ACT PEP; RCE (American College Testing Proficiency Exam Program: Regents College Examinations) tests are given in 38 subjects within arts and sciences, business, education, and nursing. Exams are 3 hours long, contain either objective or extended response questions, and

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are graded according to a standard score, letter grade, or pass/fail. Fees vary, depending on the subject and type of exam. For more information or to request free study guides, contact

ACT PEP: Regents College Examinations  
P.O. Box 4014  
Iowa City, IA 52243  
(319) 337-1387.

The International Baccalaureate® was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. A group of talented, forward thinking teachers at the International School of Geneva, with assistance from several other international schools, created the IB Diploma Programme. The Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year programme of international education for students aged 16 to 19, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities.

New York  
475 Riverside Drive,  
Suite 240,  
New York, NY  
US-10115  
USA

The AP (Advanced Placement) Program is a cooperative effort between secondary schools and colleges and universities. AP exams are developed each year by committees of college and high school faculty appointed by the College Board and assisted by consultants from the Educational Testing Service. Subjects include arts and languages, natural sciences, computer science, social sciences, history, and mathematics. Most tests are 2 to 3 hours long and include both multiple choice and essay questions. AP courses are available to help students prepare for the exams, which are usually offered in the May of each year. For more information about the Advanced Placement Program, contact

Advanced Placement Services  
P.O. Box 6671  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6671  
(609) 771-7300.

Many colleges and universities also have credit-by-exam or proficiency exam programs, through which students earn credit by passing a comprehensive exam for a course offered by the institution.