



CollegeBoard

connect to college success

*The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)[®]
and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)*

*Pamela Kerouac
Senior Assessment Manager
850-521-4916
pkerouac@collegeboard.org*

CLEP Overview

- Credit-by-examination program serving diverse groups, including adult students, non-traditional learners, and military service members
- More than seven million exams administered since 1967
- 1,600+ colleges administer CLEP
- 200,000 CLEP exams administered in 2008-09
- 73,000+ exams administered to military service members in 2008–09
- Exam fee =\$77- Effective July 1, 2010
- American Council on Education (ACE)-recommended credit-granting score for all exams is 50 (equivalent to a grade of C)

The CLEP Examinations (eCBT)

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
- U.S. History II
- Western Civilization I
- Western Civilization II

Business

- Information Systems and Computer Applications
- Principles of Management
- Financial Accounting
- Introductory Business Law
- Principles of Marketing

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

About the CLEP Exams

Structure

- 33 computer-based
- Mostly multiple-choice, some fill-in, listening sections for foreign languages
- Approximately 90 minutes in length

Scoring

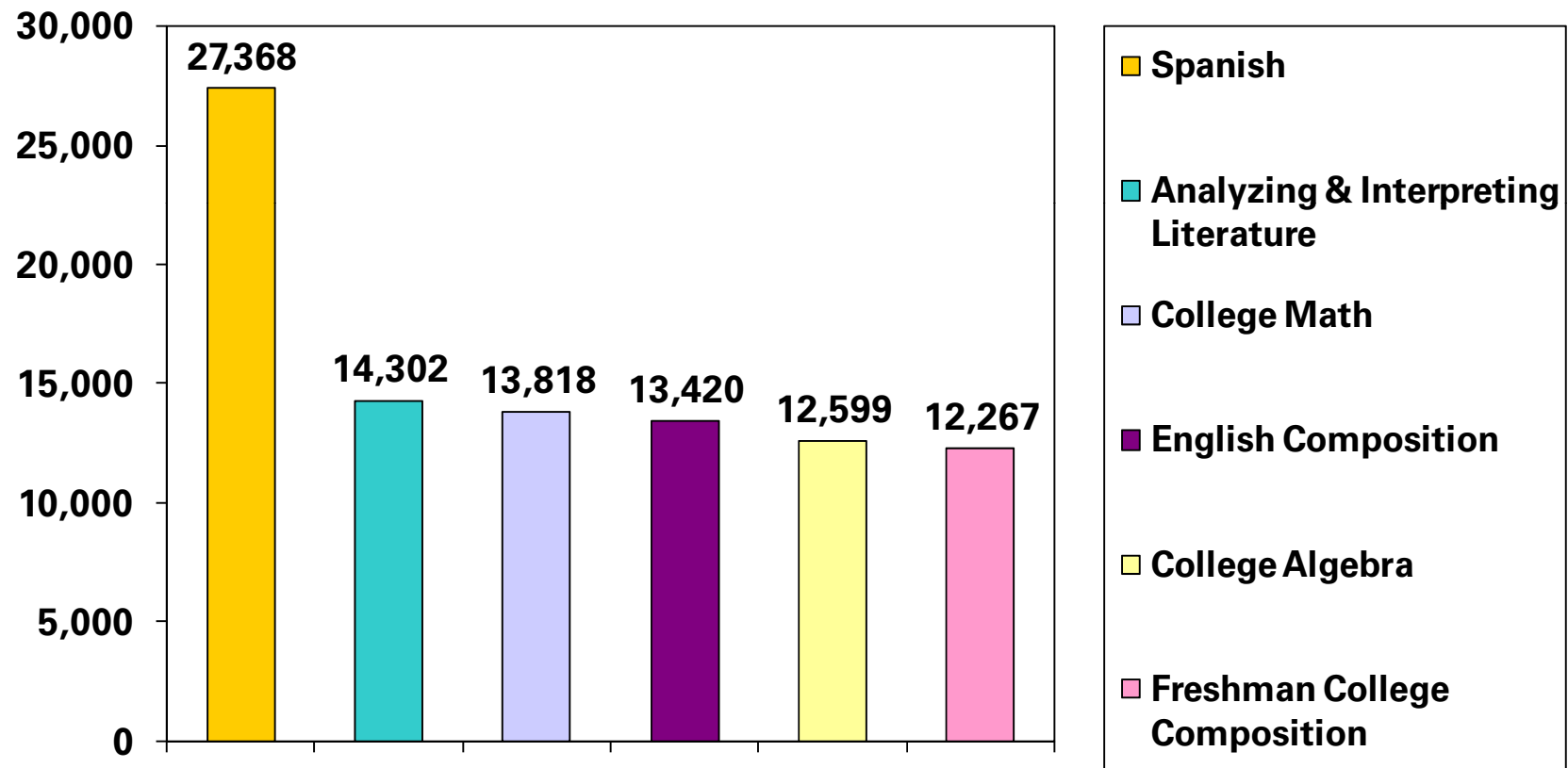
- “Rights-only” scoring (no penalty for wrong answers)
- Immediate score reports (except exams with essays)
- American Council of Education (ACE) recommends qualifying scores for credit
 - http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/CLEP_scores.pdf

Development

- More than 600 faculty contribute to the development and standard setting for ongoing test development.
- **Opportunities to participate in College Board ACES Placement Validity studies:**
 - <https://apps.collegeboard.com/aces/prequest.html>

Highest Volume CLEP Exams

National and DANTES 2008-09



July 1, 2010
Changes to CLEP Composition Exams

Releasing:

College Composition
College Composition Modular

Retiring:

English Composition
English Composition with Essay
Freshman College Composition
www.collegeboard.com/clepcomposition

CLEP Composition Exams

Comparison of Examination Content:

New in
2010

Exam Component	Freshman College Comp	English Composition	English Composition With Essay	College Composition	College Composition Modular
Ability to Recognize and Use Standard Written English	X	X	X	X	X
Analyzing Writing	X	X		X	X
Rhetorical Analysis				X	X
Revision Skills	X	X	X	X	X
Use of Source Materials	X			X	X
Argumentative Essay	option		X	X	3 options
Source-Based Essay				X	3 options
	90 min MC	90 min MC	45 min MC	50 min MC	90 min MC
	+90 min essays		+45 min essay	+70 min essays	+70 min essays

Faculty Involvement

Higher education faculty serve on CLEP exam development committees-

- Represent public and private universities and community colleges nationwide.
- CLEP Test Information Guides (TIG)-information on exam content, standards setting, and scoring-
- The URL for the CLEP Professional Resource Center appears below:
 - URL: <http://www.collegeboard.com/clepresourcecenter>

Prior Learning Assessment as a Degree Completion Solution

The evaluation of knowledge and skills gained from learning independent of classroom seat time.

Alternative sources for learning:

employment

travel

hobbies

civic activities

volunteer service

internships

military service

previous coursework and interdisciplinary study

Credit for learning, not just experience!

CLEP'S History with PLA

- CLEP'S beginnings- 1967
- A few key universities offered CLEP to help students with varied enrollment and military learning experiences demonstrate knowledge and skills for college credit.
- For 40 years, CLEP examinations have tested the knowledge students may have acquired outside the college classroom.
- Learning through independent study, an advanced high school or college course, on-the-job training, professional development, military service, cultural pursuits or internships.
- More than 200,000 exams administered in 2008-09

CLEP: A nationally recognized tool for PLA

- **Design a flexible** academic plan to get the most out of the college experience, by exempting from general introductory courses and moving on to more advanced and available courses.
- **Save time** by enrolling only in courses needed to satisfy degree requirements; accelerating academic momentum with exams that can earn 3-12 college credits.
- **Save money** by spending less on tuition and textbook costs.
- **Satisfy foreign language requirements** by demonstrating native language proficiency.
- **Earn transfer credit** for unrecognized coursework or international experiences.
- **Complement portfolio assessment** with exams that validate knowledge from prior learning.

Who Takes CLEP?

- Adults returning to college
- Military service members and veterans
- Students who are fluent in Spanish, French, or German
- Students at risk for stopping out
- Students with high SAT or ACT scores
- Juniors or seniors who have not met lower-division requirements
- Transfer students**
- Home-schooled students
- International students needing to translate their overseas credit

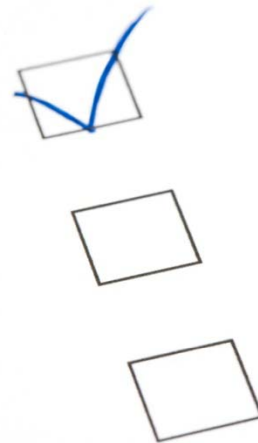


2008 Survey of National Test Takers

45% have taken an
online course

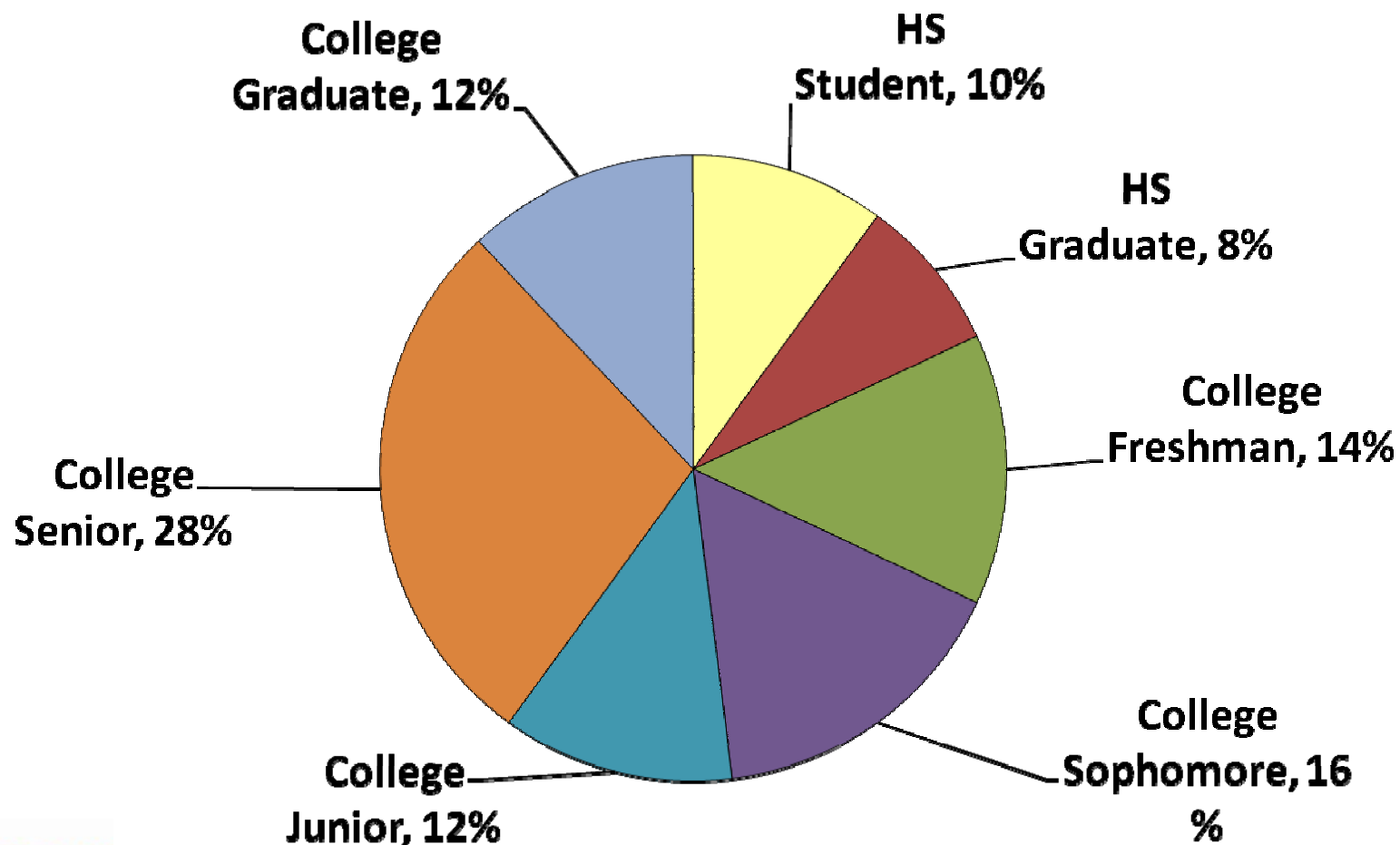
70% are working
full- or part-time

45% are first-generation
college students



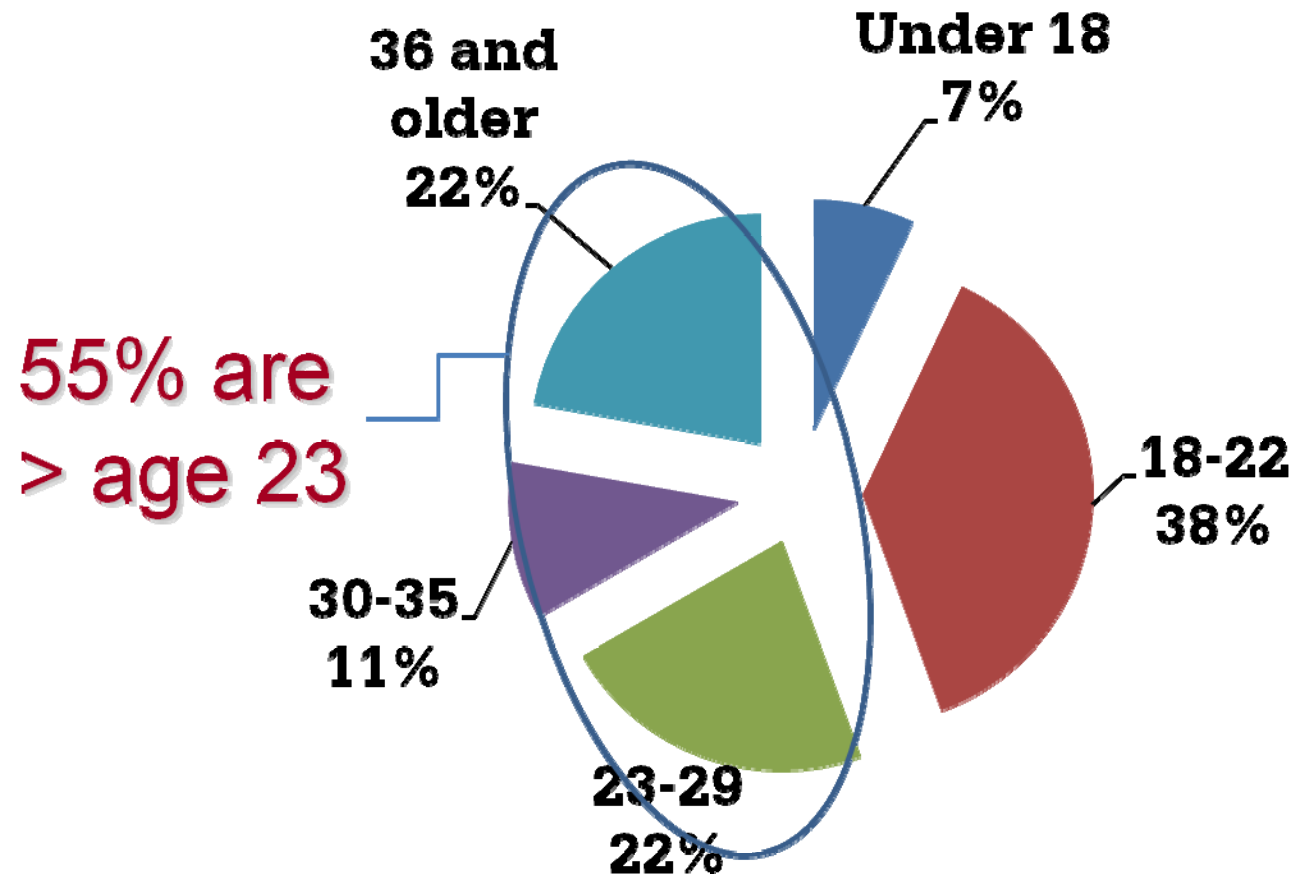
Education Level

Exams Administered to National Candidates, 2008-09



Age Distribution of Test Takers

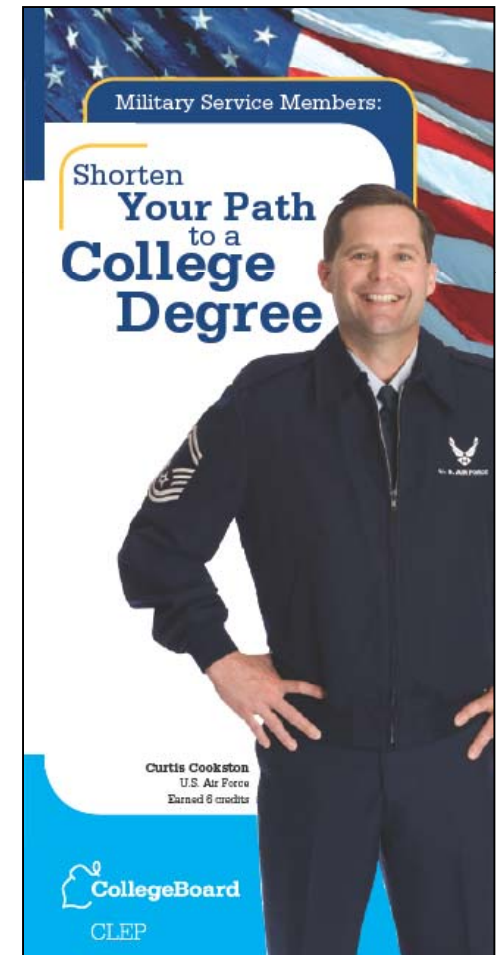
Exams Administered to National Candidates, 2008-09



CLEP for Military and Veterans

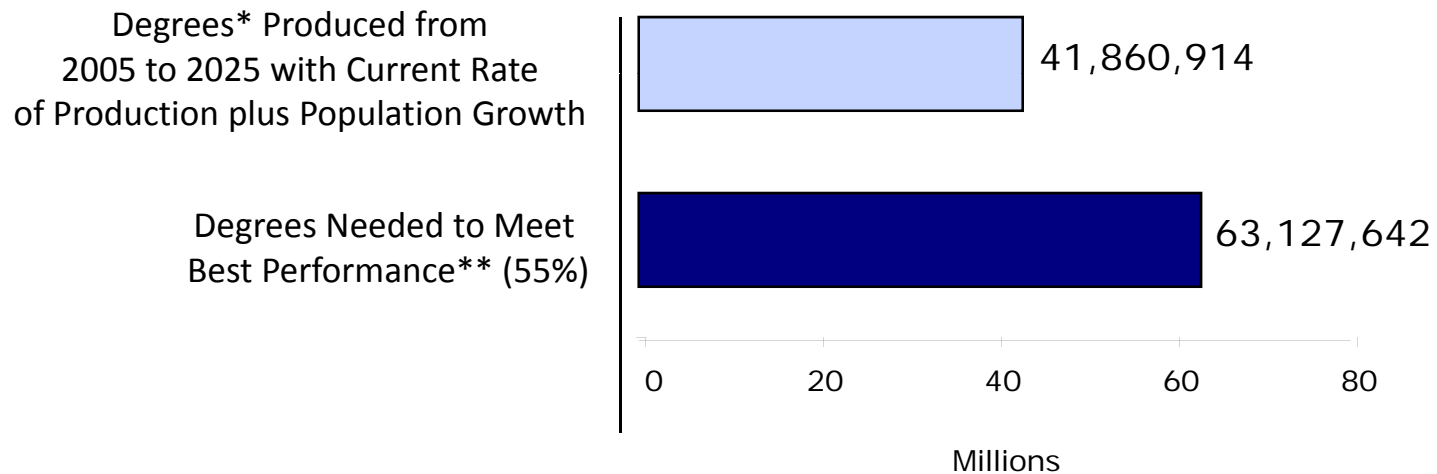
- CLEP exams are free for eligible military service members
www.collegeboard.com/clepmilitary
- Military veterans can seek reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for exam and fees

www.collegeboard.com/clepveterans



Adult Learning: A National Priority

Current Degree Production Combined with Population Growth vs. Best Performance* on the Student Transition and Completion Measures



*Degrees includes both Associates and 4-year degrees

** Best performance is the average of the top three states.

NCHEMS and JFF, *Adding it Up: State Challenges for Increasing College Access and Success* (2007)

Research



College Board CLEP Data, Reports & Research

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/cb/clep>

- Results indicate that CLEP students perform as well, or better than, those in the comparison group in nearly every case.

ACES Placement Validity Study evaluates how performance on CLEP tests taken at the end of a course is related to student performance in that same course.

Florida Study (2010)-soon to be released study of students earning credit with CLEP and their performance in sequent coursework, persistence rates, and degree completion. Preliminary findings indicate CLEP students persist with continued college enrollment at higher rates and complete degrees in less time.

CAEL (2010): Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success

- CLEP and AP, Challenge, Excelsior, and DSST recognized as national exams that support PLA success.



Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success

A 48-Institution Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcome

Highlights of CAEL Study and Findings

Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success

62,475-adult students in sample (age 25 or older)

15,594 (25%) earned PLA credit between 2001 and 2008

Standardized tests, such as AP and CLEP, were most commonly offered PLA option.

CLEP® was cited as a key example of prior learning assessment (PLA) methods.

Persistence (Completed 80 or more credits within 7 years)

-PLA Student: 56%

-Non-PLA Student: 22%

Time to Degree (PLA vs. Non-PLA)

-Bachelor's Degree: Saved 2.5 to 10.1 months to attain degree

-Assoc. Degree: Saved 1.5 to 4.5 months to attain degree

Degree Attainment within 7 years

-PLA Student: 56% (43% Bachelors; 13% Assoc.)

-Non-PLA Student: 21% (15% Bachelors; 6% Assoc)

PLA Methods

Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success

- Standardized exams
 - Advanced Placement (AP)
 - College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
 - Excelsior and DSST Exams
- Challenge exams
- Evaluation of non-college training (e.g., corporate or military)
- Individual student portfolios

CAEL findings: *Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success*

What we now can say.....

Executive Summary and report available online (www.cael.org)

Evidence shows that PLA students, on average, have higher rates of degree earning than do non-PLA students.

- True at institutions of all sizes, levels and controls.

PLA students have higher rates of persistence compared with non-PLA students.

PLA students in this study had better graduation rates than non-PLA students:

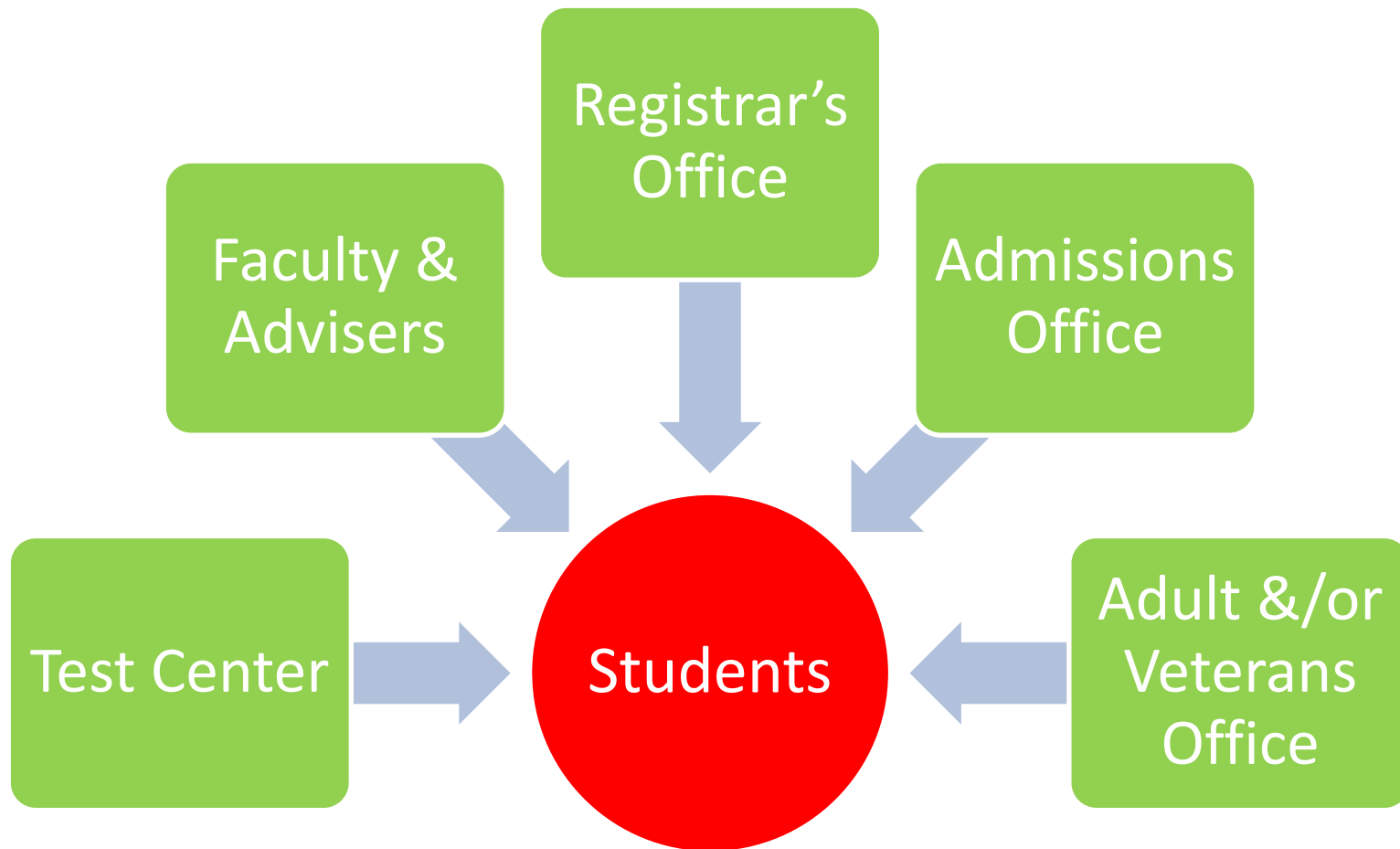
- regardless of institutional size, level (two-year or four-year) or control (private for-profit, non-profit, or public)
- regardless of student's academic ability or grade point average
- regardless of student's age, gender, or race/ethnicity
- regardless of whether or not student receives financial aid

Top Reasons for Offering PLA

Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success-survey results

- To provide a **time-saving avenue for degree completion**: 92%
- To fulfill the mission to serve adult learners: 92%
- To encourage **greater student persistence** towards a degree: 90%
- To recognize the value of learning that happens outside of the classroom: 88%
- To provide a cost-effective avenue for degree completion: 85%
- To remove barriers to education: 83%
- To offer a way for students to avoid class work that would be repetitious and redundant: 73%

Who Needs Your CLEP/PLA Policy?



CLEP Resources for Students

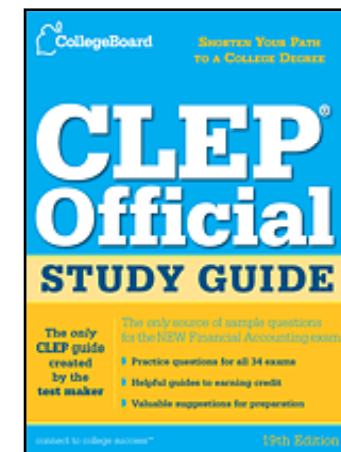
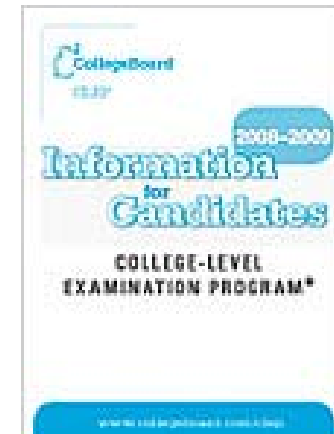
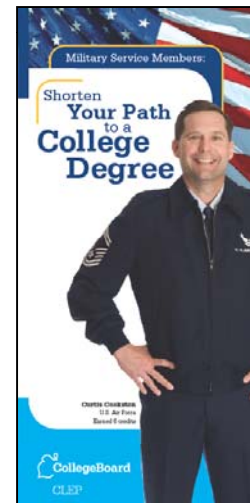
Test Preparation Aids

www.collegeboard.com/clepprep

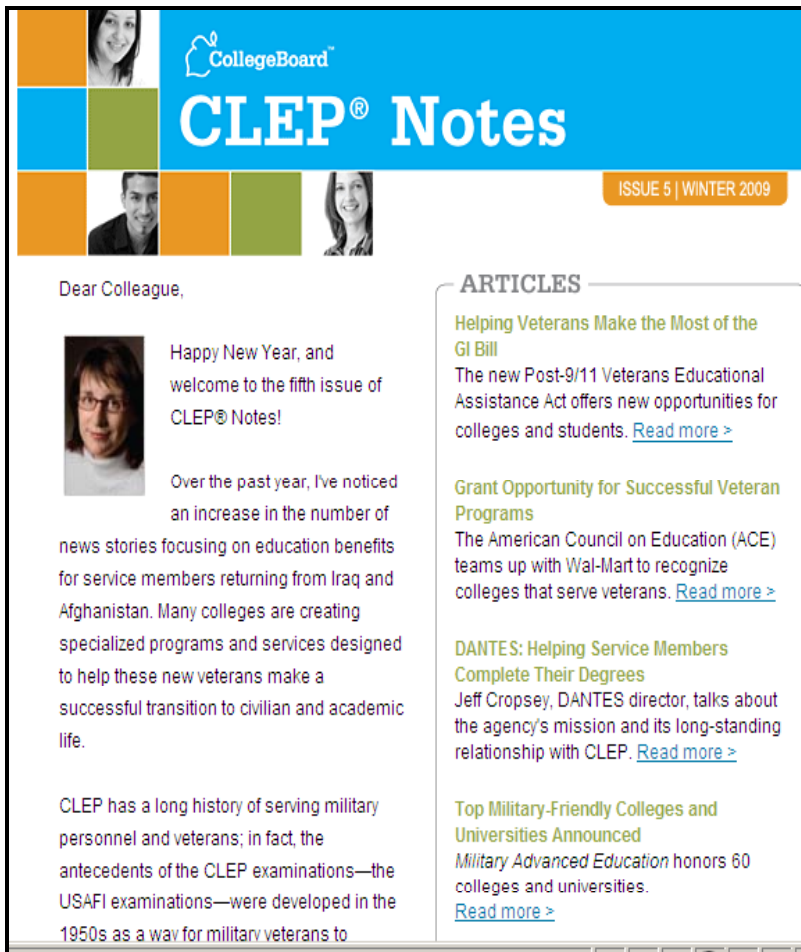
- Free College Composition Exam Guide posted on April 1, 2010.
- *CLEP Official Study Guide* – \$24.95
- Free online resources for all CLEP exams.

Publications for Students

- Take One brochures
- CLEP Military brochures
- *Information for Candidates* booklet




Sign Up for CLEPNotes



The screenshot shows the CLEP Notes website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and the text "CLEP® Notes". Below the header, there are three small portrait photos of people. To the right of the photos, it says "ISSUE 5 | WINTER 2009". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a letter from a colleague, starting with "Dear Colleague," and a small photo of a woman. The right column is titled "ARTICLES" and lists three articles with their titles and brief descriptions, each followed by a "Read more >" link.

CollegeBoard
CLEP® Notes
ISSUE 5 | WINTER 2009

Dear Colleague,

 Happy New Year, and welcome to the fifth issue of CLEP® Notes!

Over the past year, I've noticed an increase in the number of news stories focusing on education benefits for service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Many colleges are creating specialized programs and services designed to help these new veterans make a successful transition to civilian and academic life.

CLEP has a long history of serving military personnel and veterans; in fact, the antecedents of the CLEP examinations—the USAFI examinations—were developed in the 1950s as a way for military veterans to

ARTICLES

Helping Veterans Make the Most of the GI Bill
The new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act offers new opportunities for colleges and students. [Read more >](#)

Grant Opportunity for Successful Veteran Programs
The American Council on Education (ACE) teams up with Wal-Mart to recognize colleges that serve veterans. [Read more >](#)

DANTES: Helping Service Members Complete Their Degrees
Jeff Cropsey, DANTES director, talks about the agency's mission and its long-standing relationship with CLEP. [Read more >](#)

Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities Announced
Military Advanced Education honors 60 colleges and universities. [Read more >](#)

collegeboard.com/clepnotes

Need More Information?

CLEP website for professionals:
professionals.collegeboard.com/Clep

CLEP website for students:
www.collegeboard.com/clep

CLEP email address:
CLEP@collegeboard.org