

Guide to College Exams & CLEP Credits

The official administrative handbook for parents navigating college entrance requirements and earning early college credits.

Section 1: College Entrance Exams (ACT, SAT, and CLT)

While many universities—including Liberty University—are officially **test-optional** for general admission, completing a national entrance exam is the single most effective way to unlock thousands of dollars in **institutional merit scholarships**.

Additionally, strong scores allow freshmen to completely bypass remedial math and English classes, placing them directly into degree-advancing courses.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS SIDE-BY-SIDE		
Test	Structure	Testing Location
ACT	English, Math, Reading, Science	Physical regional high school centers on designated Saturday mornings
SAT	100% Digital, Reading/Writing, Math	Physical regional high school centers on designated Saturday mornings
CLT	Logic, Classical Literature, Math	100% Online from your home computer via secure remote monitoring

Option A: The ACT (American College Testing)

- **What it evaluates:** A fast-paced, timed exam measuring knowledge in four distinct areas. It features a heavy focus on charts, scientific data evaluation, and traditional geometry.
- **Where to take it:** At local certified public or private high schools. When registering online, enter your home zip code to choose the closest testing site (such as **Montgomery County High School** or regional centers in Winchester and Morehead).
- **Registration Portal:** Register directly via the [Official ACT Portal](#).

Option B: The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

- **What it evaluates:** A 100% digital, adaptive test (the questions change difficulty depending on how you answer previous sections). It focuses heavily on algebra, reading comprehension analysis, and vocabulary in context.
- **Where to take it:** Like the ACT, this must be taken on a Saturday morning at an approved physical high school campus outfitted with the secure digital testing application software.
- **Registration Portal:** Register directly via the [Official College Board Portal](#).

Option C: The CLT (Classic Learning Test)

- **What it evaluates:** A digital exam designed specifically for students pursuing a classical or Christian education framework. Instead of using contemporary texts, it evaluates logic, reading comprehension, and math using foundational historical, philosophical, and biblical literary excerpts.
- **Where to take it: Directly from your home computer.** The CLT operates on a secure online remote-proctoring framework. A live observer monitors the student's webcam and locking browser settings to allow them to test safely from their own desk.
- **Registration Portal:** Register directly via the [Official CLT Portal](#).

College Entrance Exams FAQ

Does Liberty University require these tests?

No. Liberty University is **test-optional** for general freshman admission. However, Liberty heavily utilizes these scores to award competitive **Middle America Scholarships and Academic Merit Aid**. A higher score directly lowers your out-of-pocket tuition bill.

What school code do we type in when registering?

Because ACA operates as an independent umbrella program, you must type in the standard universal domestic homeschool registry code: **999999**. This ensures the testing boards send the official score sheets directly to your home address instead of a public school registrar.

When should my child take these tests?

The ideal timeframe is **the spring semester of 11th grade**, leaving the fall semester of 12th grade open for a second attempt if they want to raise their score for better scholarship brackets.

Section 2: College Credit-by-Exam (CLEP)

The CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) is a series of 90-minute, computer-based exams created by the College Board. Passing a CLEP test proves a student has mastered freshman-level material, forcing colleges to instantly award them college credit hours without taking the actual class.

The Financial & Academic Benefit

A standard 3-credit class at a private university can cost thousands of dollars. A CLEP exam voucher costs exactly **\$97**. By passing a single test, you save thousands in tuition and completely knock out a general education requirement before ever stepping foot on campus.

Where to Take a CLEP Exam

- **At-Home Testing Track:** Your student can take any CLEP exam from home 7 days a week via remote online proctoring. Your home computer must have a working webcam, a reliable internet connection, and be located in a private room with a clear workspace.
- **On-Campus Testing Track:** If you prefer an official testing lab, exams are administered year-round at regional collegiate testing offices. The nearest options to Mt. Sterling include:
 - **Morehead State University Testing Center** (Ginger Hall, Morehead, KY).
 - **Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC)** (Newtown Campus, Lexington, KY).
 - *Note: Physical campuses typically charge an additional \$30 administrative sitting fee on the day of your appointment.*

Top CLEP Exams for Liberty University Students

Liberty University maintains a highly generous credit transfer matrix. These specific introductory CLEP exams match perfectly with Liberty's general education requirements:

- **College Composition:** Earns 3 credits (Satisfies *COMS 101 / Freshman English*).
- **Introductory Psychology:** Earns 3 credits (Satisfies *PSYC 101 / General Psychology*).
- **Analyzing & Interpreting Literature:** Earns 3 credits (Satisfies *ENGL 200+ / Humanities Elective*).
- **College Algebra:** Earns 3 credits (Satisfies *MATH 110+ / Math Elective*).

CLEP Exams FAQ

How do we sign up for a CLEP exam?

1. Log into the Official College Board CLEP Portal.
2. Purchase your chosen exam voucher code (\$97).
3. Select your testing method (At-Home or Local College Testing Center) to secure a testing date.

How is the exam scored, and what happens if they fail?

CLEP exams are scored instantly on a scale from 20 to 80. A score of **50 or higher is considered passing** and earns full college credit. If a student scores below a 50, it does not hurt their GPA or college transcript; they simply have to wait 3 months to retake the test if they want to try again.

Is there a way to get CLEP exams paid for for free?

Yes! Have your student sign up for a free account at **Modern States** (modernstates.org). Modern States is a non-profit organization that provides free, self-paced online video prep courses for CLEP. If your student completes the free prep course modules, Modern States will hand you a **fee waiver voucher that covers the full \$97 cost of your CLEP exam voucher** and will even reimburse you for any local campus sitting fees.

Final Core Summary for Parents

- **Iowa Assessments:** Used exclusively for parent peace of mind and tracking grade-level progression. **Do not submit these scores to colleges or list them on applications**, as admissions committees do not look at them.
- **Your Action Plan:** Choose one entrance exam track (ACT, SAT, or CLT) for scholarship maximize strategy, and integrate 1 or 2 CLEP tests into their high school years to save money and graduate early.