

Ways of Earning College Credit

- College Level Courses
- Credit by Exam
- Military Training and Education
- Portfolio Assessment



Ways of Earning College Credit

Purpose

The purpose of the Ways of Earning College Credit module is to provide both traditional and non-traditional sources to obtain college credits.



Part 1

College Level Courses

- Traditional
- Non-traditional



College Level Courses

Outcome: Explain the common sources for earning college level credits.

What is the most traditional common source of college level credits?

- The most common source of earning traditional college credits is to successfully complete courses through an accredited college or university. Most students who take courses are enrolled or matriculated into to a degree plan. The advantages of being enrolled in a degree program are that you have list of course requirements you need to fulfill to complete the degree and should the degree requirements change, your requirements will not change. As long as you complete the course requirements that were in place when you enrolled are successfully completed in a certain amount of time, often colleges and universities will allow a specified number of years to complete a degree, your requirements will stay the same.
- Often colleges and universities will allow non-enrolled or non-matriculated students to take a course. This is usually allowed if there is room in a class after all matriculated students have chosen their courses for the term. Then classes that still have seats available will allow non-enrolled students to take those seats. This also is true for online courses.

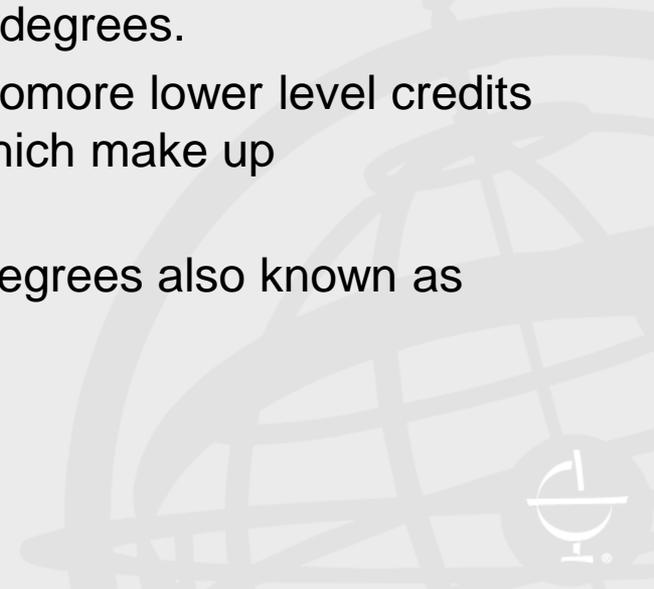
College Level Courses

- Often schools will charge a non-enrolled student a few dollars more to take a course with them. Reasons that students may need to take courses at a college other than the one they are enrolled in vary and may include: being geographically relocated temporarily, the course they need is not offered in a particular term, or a student may not be decided on a college or degree program to enroll in.
- Community Colleges provide two year programs which include degree programs and certificate programs. Certificate programs can be credit and non-credit bearing as well as non-credit remedial programs to bring a student's skills up to college level. Community Colleges offer both freshman and sophomore level classes and award associate of applied science and associate degrees.
- Colleges and universities generally provide four year degree programs but, can provide 2 year programs also as well as credit and non-credit certificate programs if they chose. Colleges and universities offer freshman and sophomore lower level credits as well as junior and senior upper level courses which make up undergraduate, bachelor level degrees. Colleges and universities often also offer master degrees also known as graduate level degrees.
- Today, most community colleges, colleges and universities offer classes traditionally, and non-traditional, such as online or various types of hybrid courses as well.

College Level Courses

College Level Courses summary

- The most common traditional and non-traditional source of college credits is to successfully complete courses in the classroom, online or hybrid format through an accredited college or university.
- Often colleges and universities will allow non-enrolled or non-matriculated students to take a course.
- Community Colleges offer both freshman and sophomore level classes and award associate of applied science and associate degrees.
- Colleges and universities offer freshman and sophomore lower level credits as well as junior and senior upper level courses which make up undergraduate, bachelor level degrees.
- Colleges and universities often also offer master degrees also known as graduate level degrees.



Part 2

Non-traditional: Sources of Credit by Exam

- CLEP
- DANTES
- ECE
- DLPT
- ACE Recommended
- IT Certification Exams



Sources of Credit by Exam

What is CLEP?

If you are knowledgeable in a certain subject area or you are an independent learner and want to earn credit showing what you know. You may want to test out of a subject area because it saves you time and money you would normally require to take a class.

You may want to consider taking the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). If you are an active duty military person, taking a CLEP at your local education center is free! CLEPs are funded through Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Exam Services (DANTES) for the military. There are approximately 33 CLEP exams that are available as well as try a practice exam first and obtain materials to study in preparation for successfully passing the exam and earning college credits.

Preparation resources may be available through your education center for free or you may be able to check CLEP preparation material out through a library or CLEP Official Study Guides can be purchased at most local bookstores or online.

CLEP exams are offered via computer-based and paper-based testing depending on your location. Depending on the CLEP exam successfully completed can earn you between 3 and 12 lower level college credits.

If you are pursuing a degree with a college, always check with the college to be sure they will accept CLEP credits.

For more information go to: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html> or http://www.dantes.doded.mil/DANTES_WEB/examinations/CLEP.htm

Warning in regard to all test preparation: “Beware of companies trying to sell you a test prep service or materials for hundreds or thousands of dollars. Low cost or free materials are available for test preparations through your education center, installation library or local college book stores.”



Sources of Credit by Exam

What are DSST Exams?

DSST exams are also known as DANTES Subject Standardized Tests. DSST exams are comprised of 38 exams each worth 3 college credits upon successful completion. DSST offers both lower and upper level exams through paper-based and computer-based testing. DSST are free for active duty military, contact your local education center for more information.

Preparation resources may be available through your education center for free or you may be able to check the DSST preparation material through the website:

<http://www.getcollegecredit.com/resources.html#factsheets> to see test information, a content outline, suggested references and sample questions.

Categories of DSST exams are in math, social sciences, humanities, business and physical science. If you are pursuing a degree with a college, always check with the college to be sure they will accept DSST credits.

For more information go to: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/DANTES_WEB/EXAMINATIONS/DSST.htm

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Sources of Credit by Exam

What is the source of credit called ECE?

Excelsior College® Exams (ECEs) are used by adult learners to help meet their educational goals.

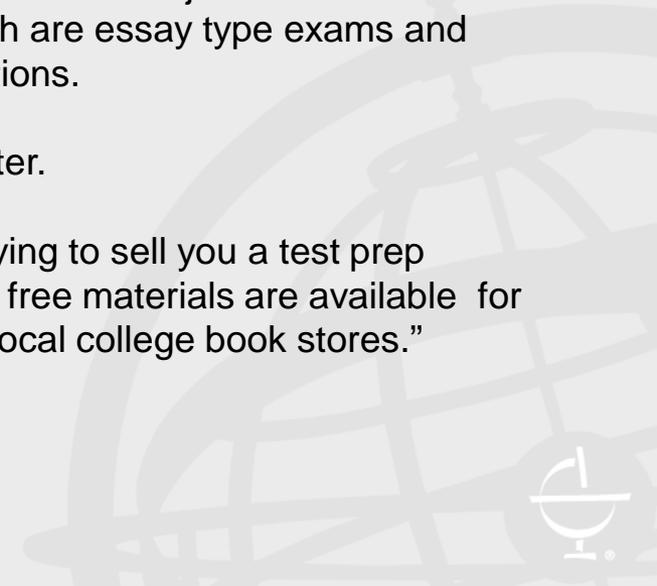
ECE exams are comprised of 27 exam titles and upon successful completion can be worth between 3 and 8 lower or upper level college credits.

Content Guides may be available through your military education center.

There are 3 types of exams offered through the ECE program. They are ECE Objective Tests which are multiple-choice type examinations, ECE Extended Response which are essay type exams and ECE Mixed Format which are multiple choice and free response questions.

For more information on ECE exams contact your local education center.

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Sources of Credit by Exam

What are ACE Recommended exams?

The American Council on Education (ACE) is a link between higher education and the Department of Defense (DoD).

ACE also continually evaluates exams for equivalent college credit recommendations. To earn ACE college credit recommendations for exams or certifications a student must pass by at least the minimum passing score requirements. Exams that have credit recommendations from ACE are: CLEP, DSST, DLPT, ECE, and IT Certification Exams.

To find a specific ACE-reviewed Certification Examination go to:

<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=6075>

Sources of Credit by Exam

What is meant by DLPT?

The Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) is a test used by the Department of Defense (DoD) designed for personnel who currently speak a foreign language. If the military requires a specific foreign language, they will test a person's current knowledge of that language.

The DLPT is provided at the Defense Language Institute which is the premier foreign language educator, a vital asset to the nation's defense. The DLPT test measures a person's reading and listening ability in a specific language. If a person has the required fluency in a specific language required by the military, then they can be placed in a job suited for their language abilities.

The new DLPT 5 test consists of two sections, reading comprehension and listening comprehension, you are allowed 3 hours on each section. DLPT guides provide information on the test and includes some sample questions and explanations.

If you are interested in possibly taking a DLPT 5 test, you can obtain guides at:

<http://www.dliflc.edu/dlptguides.html>

Sources of Credit by Exam

What IT Certification Exams are sources of credit by exam?

- Excelsior College has reviewed the following IT Certification exams for:
 - Cisco
 - CompTIA
 - ICDL
 - Microsoft
 - Oracle
 - SAS
 - Sun
- ACE reviewed IT Certifications can be found on the ACE National Guide to College Credit for Workforce Training :
<http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/?fuseaction=browse.main&firstLetter=C>

Sources of Credit by Exam

Sources of Credit Summary

- CLEP

- College Level Examination Program
- Active duty military personnel can take a lower level CLEP at your local education center for free!
- If you are pursuing a degree with a college, always check with the college to be sure they will accept CLEP credits.

- DSST

- DANTES Standardized Subject Test
- Active duty military personnel can take a lower level DSST at your local education center for free!
- If you are pursuing a degree with a college, always check with the college to be sure they will accept DSST credits.

Warning in regard to all test preparation: “Beware of companies trying to sell you a test prep service or materials for hundreds or thousands of dollars. Low cost or free materials are available for test preparations through your education center, installation library or local college book stores.”

Sources of Credit by Exam

Sources of Credit Summary

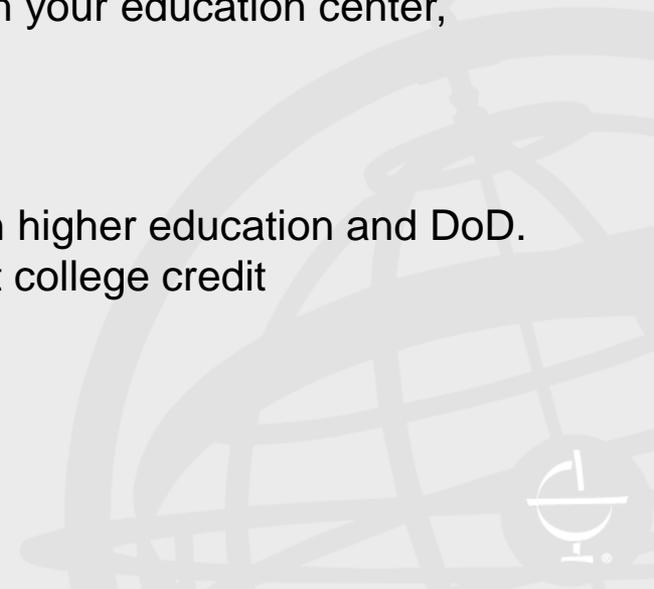
- ECE

- Excelsior College® Exams
- ECE exams are upon successful completion can be worth between 3 and 8 lower or upper level college credits.

Warning in regard to all test preparation: “Beware of companies trying to sell you a test prep service or materials for hundreds or thousands of dollars. Low cost or free materials are available for test preparations through your education center, installation library or local college book stores.”

- ACE Recommended Exams

- The American Council on Education is a link between higher education and DoD.
- ACE also continually evaluates exams for equivalent college credit recommendations.



Sources of Credit by Exam

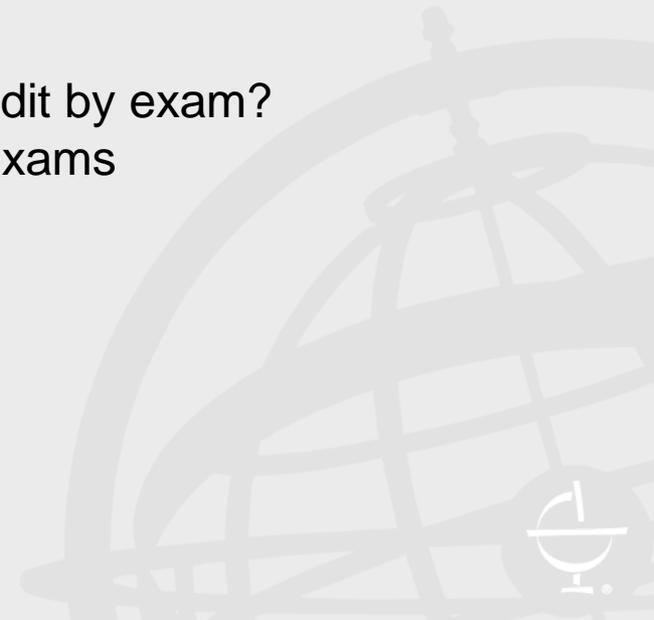
Sources of Credit Summary

- DLPT

- The Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) is a test used by DoD.
- The DLTP is provided at the Defense Language Institute.
- The new DLPT 5 test consists of two sections, reading and listening comprehension.

- IT Certification Exams

- What IT Certification Exams are sources of credit by exam?
 - Excelsior College reviewed IT Certification exams
 - ACE reviewed IT Certifications



Part 3

- Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education
- ACE Recommended and College Faculty Evaluated Training



Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

What is meant by sources of credit through military training and education?

- Sources of credit through military training and education are documented by each branch of the military.
 - o The Army has the **Army/American Council on Education (ACE) Registry Transcript System** also known as AARTS.
 - o The Navy and Marines have the **Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript**, also known as SMART.
 - o The Air force has the **Community College of the Air Force Transcript**, also known as CCAF.
 - o The Coast Guard has the **Coast Guard Institute Transcript**, also known as CGI.

Many colleges and universities accept ACE recommended credits toward their degrees using the Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Forces. Both the military and ACE work cooperatively to maintain the transcripts. The transcripts are used to assist colleges and universities in awarding credits with confidence.

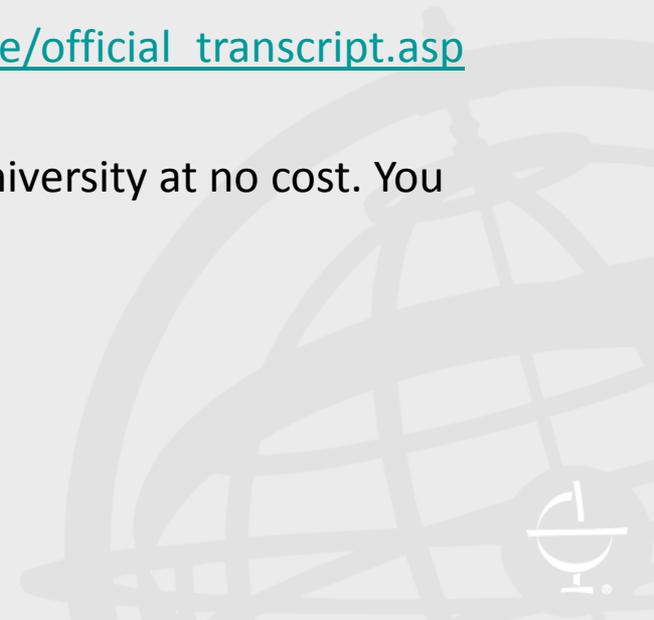


Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

- You can review your transcript by going to:

- Army AARTS - <https://aartstranscript.army.mil/>
- Navy/Marine SMART - <https://smart.navy.mil/smart>
- Air Force CCAF - <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp>
- Coast Guard CGI - [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active_duty/go to college/official transcript.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active_duty/go_to_college/official_transcript.asp)

Official military transcripts can be sent to your college or university at no cost. You may print personal copies from these websites at anytime.



Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

American Council on Education

The American Council on Education has a program in place to conduct Military Reviews. A handbook is available called, Military Course and Occupations Evaluations, describes procedures for onsite reviews.

For a military course review, an evaluation team of subject matter experts and ACE staff will evaluate new courses and courses that have not been evaluated for ten years with at least 45 contact hours. The courses must contain learning objectives, learning activities and assessment strategies. All course content, activities, lab materials and assessment material must be provided to the evaluation team. Upon completion of the military course review the team must formulate a credit recommendation and prepare a course description.

For a military occupations review which include rating and MOS evaluations, evaluation team of experts are selected. Evaluators require the skills, competencies and knowledge requirements for each occupation. During the process on-site interviews with two servicemember from each pay grade are conducted as an integral part of the process. Upon completion of the military occupations review evaluators will summarize their review and provide an unofficial evaluation report.

Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

College Faculty Evaluated Training

Some colleges are renowned for their assessment and evaluation skills. They utilize faculty consisting of professors who have extensive education and experience and are considered subject matter experts in specific educational and occupational areas.

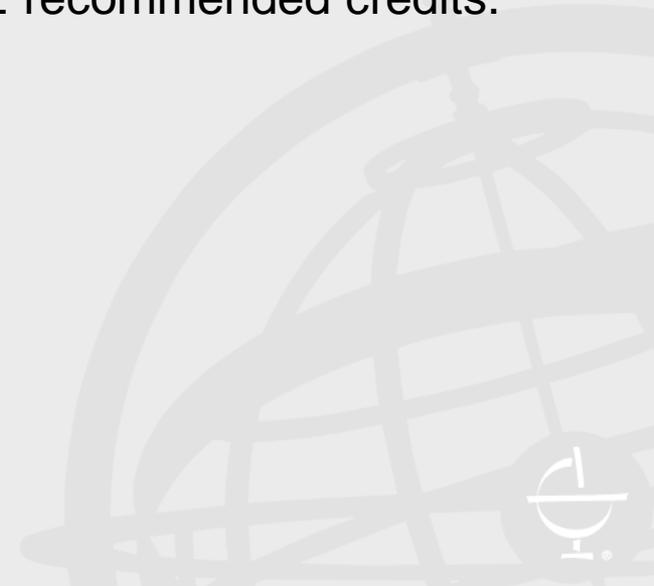
These colleges use their expertise in assessment to evaluate courses that use theoretical and occupational learning.

- Theoretical learning is evaluated and assessed using faculty subject matter experts to review content outcomes, course materials and assessment tools to determine number of credit hours and course level.
- Occupational learning is evaluated and assessed using faculty subject matter experts who review all the same areas as the theoretical learning and also includes a lab/performance evaluations through observation. This review will result in a determination of the number of credit hours and course level.

Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

Sources of Credit Summary

- Military Training and Education
 - o Each branch of the military has their own transcript to document military training and education.
 - o The transcripts used to translate your military training and education into comparable college credits.
 - o Many colleges and universities accept the ACE recommended credits.



Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

Sources of Credit Summary

- American Council on Education
 - The American Council on Education has a program in place to conduct Military Reviews.
 - Upon completion of the military course review the team must formulate a credit recommendation and prepare a course description.
 - Upon completion of the military occupations review evaluators will summarize their review and provide an unofficial evaluation report.



Sources of Credit through Military Training and Education

Sources of Credit Summary

- College Faculty Evaluated Training
 - o Some colleges are renowned for their assessment and evaluation skills.
 - o These colleges use their expertise in assessment to evaluate courses that use theoretical and occupational



Part 4

Portfolio Assessment

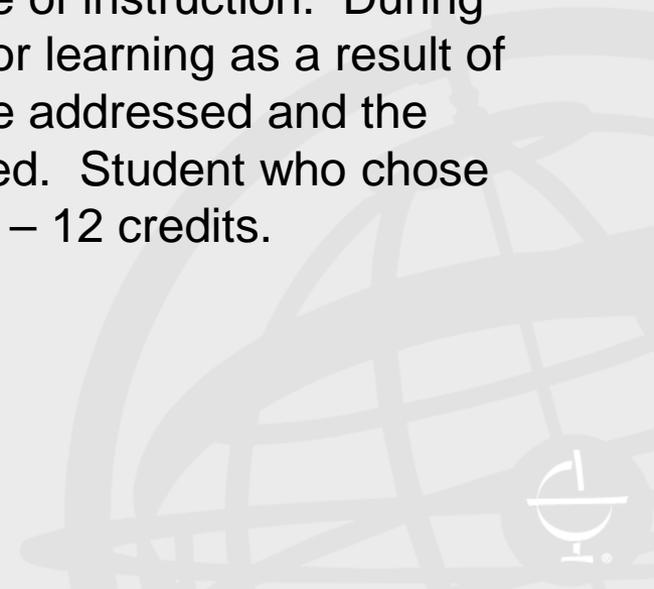


Portfolio Assessment

What is Portfolio Assessment?

Portfolio Assessment is conducted on a student developed portfolio. The portfolio is developed to demonstrate mastery in specific areas. Demonstrating mastery involves individuals with significant learning from work and life experiences. Learning can be gained from professional duties, on-the-job training, seminars, workshops and independent study, adequate documentation is also required.

Portfolio development is usually conducted as a course of instruction. During the course students are assisted in identifying their prior learning as a result of work and life experiences. Adult learning principles are addressed and the process and tools for developing a portfolio are provided. Student who chose portfolio assessment on the average obtain between 1 – 12 credits.



Portfolio Assessment

Portfolio Assessment Summary

- The portfolio is developed to demonstrate mastery in specific areas.
- Portfolio development is usually conducted as a course of instruction, usually earning 3 lower level credits.
- Some students who go on to create a portfolio after taking the class may be awarded between 1 – 12 credits upon successful completion.

