Political Science

CREDIT HOURS 3
LEVEL LOWER

EXAM CODE 170
CATALOG NUMBER POLx170

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Before You Choose This UExcel Exam

Uses for the Examination

- Excelsior College, the test developer, recommends granting three (3) semester hours of lower-level undergraduate credit to students who receive a letter grade of C or higher on this examination.
- Other colleges and universities also recognize this exam as a basis for granting credit or advanced standing.
- Individual institutions set their own policies for the amount of credit awarded and the minimum acceptable score.

Exam-takers who have applied to Excelsior College should ask their academic advisor where this exam fits within their degree program.

Exam-takers not enrolled in an Excelsior College degree program should check with the institution from which they wish to receive credit to determine whether credit will be granted and/or to find out the minimum grade required for credit. Those who intend to enroll at Excelsior College should ask an admissions counselor where this exam fits within their intended degree program.

Examination Length and Scoring

The examination consists of approximately 120 questions, most of which are multiple choice; for samples of all the item types on this exam, see the sample items in the back of this guide. Some items are unscored, pretest items. The pretest items are embedded throughout the exam and are indistinguishable from the scored items. You will have two (2) hours to complete the examination. Your score will be reported as a letter grade.

UExcel Exam Resources

Excelsior College Bookstore

The Excelsior College Bookstore offers recommended textbooks and other resources to help you prepare for UExcel exams.

The bookstore is available online at: www.excelsior.edu/bookstore

UExcel Practice Exams

The official UExcel practice exams are highly recommended as part of your study plan. Once you register for your UExcel exam, you are eligible to purchase the corresponding practice exam, which can be taken using any computer with a supported Web browser. Each practice exam includes two forms that you may take within a 180-day period.

Excelsior College Library

Enrolled Excelsior College students can access millions of authoritative resources online through the Excelsior College Library. Created through our partnership with the Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University, the library provides access to journal articles, books, websites, databases, reference services, and many other resources. Special library...
pages relate to the nursing degree exams and other selected exams. To access it, visit www.excelsior.edu/library (login is required).

Our library provides:

- 24/7 availability
- The world’s most current authoritative resources
- Help and support from staff librarians

**Online Tutoring**

Excelsior College offers online tutoring through SMARTTHINKING™ to connect with tutors who have been trained in a variety of academic subjects. To access SMARTTHINKING, go to www.excelsior.edu/smartthinking. Once there, you may download a copy of the SMARTTHINKING Student Handbook as a PDF.

**MyExcelsior Community**

MyExcelsior Community enables Excelsior College students and alumni to interact with their peers online. As members, students can participate in real-time chat groups, join online study groups, buy and sell used textbooks, and share Internet resources. Enrolled students have automatic access from their MyExcelsior page. Visit www.excelsior.edu/myexcelsiorcommunity.

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**Preparing for UExcel Exams**

**How Long Will It Take Me to Study?**

A UExcel exam enables you to show that you've learned material comparable to one or more 15-week college-level courses. As an independent learner, you should study and review as much as you would for a college course. For a 3-credit course in a subject they don’t know, most students would be expected to study nine hours per week for 15 weeks, for a total of 135 hours.

**Study Tips**

Become an active user of the resource materials. Aim for understanding rather than memorization. The more active you are when you study, the more likely you will be to retain, understand, and apply the information.

The following techniques are generally considered to be active learning:

- **preview or survey** each chapter
- **highlight or underline text** you believe is important
- **write questions or comments** in the margins
- **practice re-stating content** in your own words
- **relate what you are reading** to the chapter title, section headings, and other organizing elements of the textbook
- **find ways to engage** your eyes, your ears, and your muscles, as well as your brain, in your studies
- **study with a partner or a small group** (if you are an enrolled student, search for partners on MyExcelsior Community)
- **prepare your review notes** as flashcards or create recordings that you can use while commuting or exercising

When you feel confident that you understand a content area, review what you have learned. Take a second look at the material to evaluate your understanding. If you have a study partner, the two of you can review by explaining the content to each other or writing test questions for each other to answer. Review questions from textbook chapters may be helpful for partner or individual study, as well.

**Using UExcel Practice Exams**

We recommend taking the first form of the practice exam when you begin studying, to see how much you already know. After taking the first practice exam, check your performance on each question and find out why your answer was right or wrong. This feedback will help you improve your knowledge of the subject and identify areas of weakness that you should address before taking the exam. Take the second form of the practice exam after you have finished studying. Analyze your results to identify the areas that you still need to review.

Although there is no guarantee, our research suggests that students who do well on the practice exams are more likely to pass the actual exam than those who do not do well (or do not take advantage of this opportunity).
About Test Preparation Services
Preparation for UExcel® exams and Excelsior College® Examinations, though based on independent study, is supported by Excelsior College with a comprehensive set of exam learning resources and services designed to help you succeed. These learning resources are prepared by Excelsior College so you can be assured that they are current and cover the content you are expected to master for the exams. These resources, and your desire to learn, are usually all that you will need to succeed.

There are test-preparation companies that will offer to help you study for our examinations. Some may imply a relationship with Excelsior College and/or make claims that their products and services are all that you need to prepare for our examinations.

Excelsior College is not affiliated with any test preparation firm and does not endorse the products or services of these companies. No test preparation vendor is authorized to provide admissions counseling or academic advising services, or to collect any payments, on behalf of Excelsior College. Excelsior College does not send authorized representatives to a student’s home nor does it review the materials provided by test preparation companies for content or compatibility with Excelsior College examinations.

To help you become a well-informed consumer, we suggest that before you make any purchase decision regarding study materials provided by organizations other than Excelsior College, you consider the points outlined on our website at www.excelsior.edu/testprep.

Preparing for This Exam

Prior Knowledge
No prior knowledge of political science is assumed.

Using the Content Outline
Each content area in the outline includes (1) the recommended minimum hours of study to devote to that content area and (2) the most important sections of the recommended resources for that area. These annotations are not intended to be comprehensive.

You may need to refer to other chapters in the recommended textbooks. **Chapter numbers and titles may differ in other editions.**

This content outline contains examples of the types of information you should study. Although these examples are numerous, do not assume that everything on the exam will come from these examples. Conversely, do not expect that every detail you study will appear on the exam. Any exam is only a broad sample of all the questions that could be asked about the subject matter.

Using the Sample Questions and Rationales
Each content guide provides sample questions to illustrate those typically found on the exam. These questions are intended to give you an idea of the level of knowledge expected and the way questions are typically phrased. The sample questions do not sample the entire content of the exam and are not intended to serve as an entire practice test.

Recommended Resources for the UExcel Exam in Political Science
The study materials listed below are recommended by Excelsior College as the most appropriate resources to help you study for the examination. For information on ordering from the Excelsior College Bookstore, see page 1 of this guide. You may also find resource materials in college libraries. Public libraries may have some of the textbooks or may be able to obtain them through an interlibrary loan program.

You should allow sufficient time to obtain resources and to study before taking the exam.

Textbooks
These textbooks were used by the examination development committee to verify all questions on the exam.


These study materials may be purchased from the Excelsior College Bookstore.
www.excelsior.edu/bookstore

**Open Educational Resources**

Because the exam represents a hybrid of US political science and international relations, you will likely need more than one Web course to match the entire content outline. The following are suggested resources:

The Saylor Foundation provides free, high quality courses through online, self-paced, free learning resources.

- Saylor Foundation: Introduction to Politics  
  http://www.saylor.org/courses/polsc101/
- Introduction to International Relations  
  http://www.saylor.org/courses/polsc211/
- Introduction to Comparative Politics  
  http://www.saylor.org/courses/polsc221/

**Reducing Textbook Costs**

Many students know it is less expensive to buy a used textbook, and buying a previous edition is also an option. The Excelsior College bookstore includes a buyback feature and a used book marketplace, as well as the ability to rent digital versions of textbooks for as long as students need them. Students are encouraged to explore these and the many other opportunities available online to help defray textbook costs.
Content Outline

**General Description of the Examination**

The UExcel Political Science examination is based on material typically taught in a one-semester, three-credit, introductory course in political science. The content of the examination corresponds to course offerings such as Introduction to Political Science, Comparative Law, and International Relations.

The examination measures knowledge of facts and terminology, an understanding of political theories and ideologies, concepts of comparative government, comparative law and policy, and international relations, and the ability to apply this knowledge and understanding in an analysis of politics, government, and world affairs.

No prior knowledge of political science is required before beginning study for this exam.

**Learning Outcomes**

After you have successfully worked your way through the recommended study materials, you should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between politics and political science.
2. Recognize the common theories and ideologies used in political science.
3. Differentiate the concepts of nation, state, country, and government.
4. Differentiate the concepts of democracy, totalitarianism, and authoritarianism and relate them to governmental regimes.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of political culture and its relationship to the institutions of government.
6. Recognize how political and legal processes and institutions differ among nation-states.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic workings of the international political system.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of how unconventional political activity, including violence and terrorism, is exercised.
## Content Outline

The content outline describes the various areas of the test, similar to the way a syllabus outlines a course. To fully prepare requires self-direction and discipline. Study involves careful reading, reflection, and systematic review.

The major content areas on the Political Science examination, the percent of the examination devoted, and the hours to devote to each content area are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Percent of the Examination</th>
<th>Hours of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Basic Terms and Concepts of Political Science</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Political Theories and Ideologies</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Comparative Government</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Comparative Law and Policy</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. International Relations</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**: Occasionally, examples will be listed for a content topic to help clarify that topic. However, the content of the examination is not limited to the specific examples given.

### I. Basic Terms and Concepts of Political Science

**10 PERCENT OF EXAM | 14 HOURS OF STUDY**

**Kegley (2015)**
- Ch. 1, Exploring World Politics
- Ch. 2, Theories of World Politics

**Roskin (2014)**
- Ch. 1, Politics and Political Science
- Ch. 4, States
- Ch. 5, Constitutions and Rights
- Ch. 6, Regimes
- Ch. 7, Political Culture

**Ch. 8, Public Opinion**
**Ch. 15, Judiciaries**
**Ch. 16, Political Economy**

**Shively (2014)**
- Ch. 1, Politics: Setting the Stage
- Ch. 3, The Modern State
- Ch. 5, Economic Policy of the State
- Ch. 6, What Lies Behind Policy: Questions of Justice and Effectiveness
- Ch. 7, Democracy and Autocracy
- Ch. 12, Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics
- Ch. 13, Social Movements and Contentious Politics

- A. Politics and political science
- B. Power
- C. Justice
- D. Sovereignty, authority, and legitimacy
- E. Representation
- F. Civil liberties and civil rights
G. Countries, nations, states, and governments
H. Political socialization and its agents
I. Political culture and public opinion
J. Civil society and citizenship
K. Elites, masses, and pluralism
L. Gross domestic product (GDP)

II. Political Theories and Ideologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15 PERCENT OF EXAM</th>
<th>20 HOURS OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Kegley**
- Ch. 1, Exploring World Politics
- Ch. 2, Theories of World Politics
- Ch. 3, Theories of International Decision Making
- Ch. 4, Rivalries and Relations among the Great Powers
- Ch. 5, The Global South in a World of Powers
- Ch. 12, The Demographic and Cultural Dimensions of Globalization

**Roskin**
- Ch. 2, Theories
- Ch. 3, Political Ideologies
- Ch. 4, States
- Ch. 5, Constitutions and Rights
- Ch. 6, Regimes

**Shively**
- Ch. 1, Politics: Setting the Stage
- Ch. 2, Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy
- Ch. 4, Policies of the State
- Ch. 15, National Decision-Making Institutions: Presidential Government

A. Normative vs. empirical approaches to the study of politics
B. Political ideologies
   1. Liberalism
      a. Classical
      b. Contemporary
      c. Neoliberalism
   2. Conservatism
      a. Classical
      b. Contemporary
      c. Neoconservatism
   3. Libertarianism
   4. Socialism and communism
   5. Anarchism
   6. Fascism
   7. Feminism

III. Comparative Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30 PERCENT OF EXAM</th>
<th>41 HOURS OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Kegley**
- Ch. 3, Theories of International Decision Making
- Ch. 7, The Threat of Armed Conflict to the World

**Roskin**
- Ch. 2, Theories
- Ch. 4, States
- Ch. 5, Rights
- Ch. 6, Regimes
- Ch. 3, Political Ideologies
- Ch. 8, Public Opinion
- Ch. 9, Political Communication
- Ch. 10, Interest Group
- Ch. 11, Parties
- Ch. 12, Elections
- Ch. 13, Legislatures
- Ch. 14, Executives and Bureaucracies
- Ch. 15, Judiciaries
- Ch. 17, Political Violence

**Shively**
- Ch. 4, Policies of the State
- Ch. 8, How Individuals Relate to the State, and the State to the Individual
- Ch. 9, Constitutions and the Design of Government
- Ch. 10, Elections
- Ch. 11, Parties: A Linking and Leading Mechanism in Politics
- Ch. 12, Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics
- Ch. 13, Social Movements and Contentious Politics
Ch. 14, National Decision-Making Institutions: Parliamentary Government

Ch. 15, National Decision-Making Institutions: Presidential Government

Ch. 16, Bureaucracy and the Public Sector

Ch. 17, Laws and the Courts

Ch. 18, Global Politics: Politics among States (and Others)

A. Forms of government
   1. Democratic
      a. Direct
      b. Representative
   2. Autocratic
      a. Totalitarian
      b. Authoritarian
   3. Constitutional
      a. Unitary
      b. Federal
   4. Transitional

B. Formal political institutions
   1. Electoral systems
      a. Representation
         1) Single-member districts
         2) Multi-member districts and proportional representation
      b. Plurality vs. majority-based elections
      c. Direct vs. indirect election
      d. Runoffs, recalls, and primaries
   2. Legislatures
      a. Powers and functions
      b. Congressional vs. parliamentary
      c. Unicameral vs. bicameral
      d. Committees
   3. Executives
      a. Powers and functions
      b. Presidential systems
         1) President as head of government (chief executive)
         2) President as head of state
      c. Prime ministerial systems
      d. Bureaucracies
      e. Cabinets
   4. Judiciaries
      a. Powers and functions
         1) Judicial review
         2) Adjudication
         3) Jurisdiction
            a) Original
            b) Appellate
      b. Judicial autonomy
      c. Selection of judges
      d. Court structures

C. Intermediary groups and institutions
   1. Political parties
      a. Functions
      b. One-, two-, and multi-party systems
      c. Ideological vs. non-ideological party structures
      d. Dominant party systems
   2. Interest groups
      a. Functions
      b. Public vs. private
      c. Tactics
   3. Mass media
      a. Private vs. state-controlled
      b. Print, digital, and broadcast
      c. Influence
   4. Public opinion
      a. Impact
      b. Attentive public
      c. Opinion leaders
      d. Measuring
         1) Polls/surveys
         2) Random sampling vs. quota sampling
         3) Bias in polls and surveys
5. Political change
   a. Social movements
   b. Revolutions
   c. Coups d’État
   d. Civil wars

IV. Comparative Law and Policy

B. Policy

1. Domestic policy
   a. Market vs. state-controlled economies
   b. Types of domestic policies
      1) Economic policy
         a) Fiscal and monetary policy
         b) Taxation
         c) Subsidies
      2) Social policy
         a) Health care
         b) Education
         c) Welfare

2. Foreign policy
   a. Goals of foreign policy
      1) National interest
      2) Elite interest
   b. Tools of foreign policy
      1) Diplomacy
      2) Sanctions
      3) Containment
      4) Collective security
      5) Deterrence
      6) Use of force

V. International Relations

A. Law
   1. Law vs. custom
   2. Types of law
      a. Common law
      b. Code law
### Ch. 5, The Global South in a World of Powers

### Ch. 6, Nonstate Actors and the Quest for Global Community

### Ch. 7, The Threat of Armed Conflict to the World

### Ch. 8, The Pursuit of Power Through Arms and Alliance

### Ch. 9, The Quest for Peace Through International Law and Collective Security

### Ch. 10, The Globalization of International Finance

### Ch. 11, International Trade in the Global Marketplace

### Ch. 12, The Demographic and Cultural Dimensions of Globalization

### Ch. 13, The Promotion of Human Development and Human Rights

### Ch. 15, Looking Ahead at Global Trends and Transformations

#### Roskin

- Ch. 1, Politics and Political Science
- Ch. 2, Theories
- Ch. 3, Political Ideologies
- Ch. 4, States
- Ch. 6, Regimes
- Ch. 13, Legislatures
- Ch. 17, Political Violence
- Ch. 18, International Relations

#### Shively

- Ch. 3, The Modern State
- Ch. 5, Economic Policy of the State
- Ch. 17, Law and the Courts
- Ch. 18, Global Politics: Politics among States (and Others)

### A. Concepts of international relations

1. Sovereignty
2. Nationalism
3. Polarity (uni-, bi-, multi-polarity)
4. Anarchy
5. Security dilemma
6. Hegemony
7. Balance of power
8. Imperialism/colonialism
9. Globalization
10. Human rights
11. Balkanization
12. Global North vs. Global South
13. Modernization/development
14. Failed state

### B. Theories

1. Rational choice
2. Realism
3. Idealism/liberal internationalism
4. Regime theory
5. Marxism/socialism

### C. Actors

1. State actors
2. Non-state actors
   a. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (for example: Greenpeace, Amnesty International, International Red Cross)
   b. Multi-national corporations (MNCs)
   c. Terrorist/criminal organizations
   d. Indigenous people’s movements
   e. Religious movements
3. Intergovernmental organizations
   a. United Nations
      1) Security Council
      2) General Assembly
      3) Specialized agencies (for example: World Health Organization [WHO], United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF])
   b. Regional organizations (for example: North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO], European Union [EU], African Union [AU], League of Arab States)
   c. Economic organizations (for example: International Monetary Fund [IMF], Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC])

### D. International law

1. Treaties (for example: North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START])
2. Conventions (for example: Geneva Convention)
3. Protocols (for example: Kyoto Protocol)

E. Global issues

1. Public health (for example: HIV/AIDS, pandemics, vaccination)
2. Borders and migration
3. Environment (for example: global climate change, sustainable development)
4. Energy and resources
5. Population
6. Genocide
7. Poverty
8. Human security (for example: terrorism, violent crime)
9. Weapons proliferation
Sample Questions

The sample questions give you an idea of the level of knowledge expected in the exam and how questions are typically phrased. They are not representative of the entire content of the exam and are not intended to serve as a practice test.

Rationales for the questions can be found on pages 14–15 of this guide. In that section, the correct answer is identified and each answer is explained. The number in parentheses at the beginning of each rationale refers to the corresponding section of the content outline. For any questions you answer incorrectly, return to that section of the content outline for further study.

1. Which term refers to attitudes about government that are widely shared by a country's citizenry?
   1) authority
   2) pluralism
   3) political culture
   4) political socialization

2. What differentiates a state from a nation?
   A state
   1) is not a legal entity.
   2) is not defined by territory.
   3) possesses a common language.
   4) can contain more than one ethnic group.

3. What do classical conservatives value most highly?
   1) order
   2) reason
   3) natural rights
   4) popular democracy

4. What is the primary goal of socialism?
   1) nation-building
   2) economic growth
   3) economic equality
   4) interracial harmony

5. Which condition describes the absence of government?
   1) anarchy
   2) civil society
   3) legitimacy
   4) warfare

6. Which situation illustrates a security dilemma?
   1) arms race
   2) global warming
   3) human trafficking
   4) illegal immigration

7. What is an indicator of globalization?
   1) political balkanization
   2) strengthening of traditions
   3) strengthening of sovereignty
   4) growth of multinational corporations
8. Which type of polarity best describes the international system during the Cold War?
   1) nonpolar
   2) unipolar
   3) bipolar
   4) multipolar

9. Which government actions violate due process?
   Government actions that are
   1) arbitrary
   2) inefficient
   3) inflexible
   4) radical

10. How does English common law (case law) differ from the continental European (Napoleonic) code law?
   English common law
   1) presumes guilt.
   2) is based on statutes.
   3) relies on judge-made precedent.
   4) is derived from specific religious principles.

11. What do market mechanisms typically avoid considering?
    1) externalities
    2) consumption
    3) personal choice
    4) resource scarcity

12. What is the most common outcome of proportional representation?
    1) multi-party system
    2) mixed-member system
    3) non-ideological parties
    4) winner-take-all elections
1.(II.I)
1) Authority is an attribute of a ruler rather than of citizens.
2) Pluralism is a theory about the distribution of power.
*3) Political culture refers to society’s commonly held political beliefs.
4) Political socialization is the process by which people acquire political beliefs.

2.(I.G)
1) A state actually is a legal entity with a permanent population.
2) A defining characteristic of a state is its territorial boundaries.
3) Multiple languages within a state are common.
*4) States commonly contain many ethnic groups (nations).

3.(II.B.2.a)
*1) Classical conservatives prefer stable tradition-based communities.
2) Classical conservatives do not consider reason to be all powerful.
3) Classical conservatives are concerned with historically-granted rights rather than natural rights.
4) Classical conservatives are critical of popular democracy.

4.(II.B.4)
1) Because socialism is a universalistic ideology, it does not focus on nation-building.
2) Although socialists favor economic growth, they are more concerned with the distribution of wealth.
*3) Socialists seek to institute a classless society by removing economic inequalities.
4) Socialists focus on class more than race.

5.(II.B.5)
*1) Anarchy is defined by the absence of government.
2) Civil society is compatible with the existence of government.
3) Legitimacy is an attribute of government and cannot exist without it.
4) Warfare is compatible with the existence of government.

6.(V.A.5)
*1) A security dilemma is an increase in armament by one state causing another state to also increase its arms, thus leading to an arms race.
2) A security dilemma occurs among states.
3) Human trafficking is generally a non-state criminal activity.
4) Illegal immigration involves movement of people across borders.

*correct answer
7. (V.A.9)
1) Political balkanization refers to the fragmentation of states regardless of globalization.
2) The homogenizing process of globalization threatens traditions.
3) Globalization weakens sovereignty.
*4) Multinational corporations are a driving force in the process of globalization.

8. (V.A.3)
1) Nonpolarity cannot exist in a state-based system.
2) Unipolarity occurs when power is concentrated in one state.
*3) Bipolarity existed between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.
4) Multipolarity occurs when more than two states wield disproportionate power in the international system.

9. (V.A.2.c.1)
*1) Due process requires following established legal procedures.
2) Inefficiency does not necessarily violate due process.
3) Inflexibility does not necessarily violate due process.
4) Radicalism does not necessarily violate due process.

10. (IV.A.2.a/b)
1) English common law presumes neither innocence nor guilt.
2) Code law is based on statutes.
*3) Precedents are the basis for English common law.
4) Although religious principles influenced English common law, it was not derived from them.

11. (IV.B.1.a)
*1) Externalities are a hidden cost of commercial transactions.
2) Markets respond to consumer demand.
3) Markets allow personal choice.
4) Markets respond to levels of supply.

12. (III.B.1.b)
*1) Parties will still receive representation even though they do not win a majority.
2) A mixed-member system is not an outcome, but a hybrid voting system.
3) Proportional representation does not require the parties to moderate their views in order to gain seats.
4) A winner-take-all system is characteristic of single-member districts and does not result from proportional representation.
Registering for Your Exam

Register Online

www.excelsior.edu/examregistration
Follow the instructions and pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card.

Examination Administration

Pearson Testing Centers serve as the administrator for all Excelsior College computer-delivered exams. The Disability Services office at Excelsior College is responsible for considering requests for reasonable accommodations (exceptions for individual students with documented disabilities). If you are requesting an accommodation due to a disability, download and complete a Request for Accommodation form that can be accessed by visiting the Excelsior College website at www.excelsior.edu/disability-services.

On the Day of Your Exam

Important Reminders

On the day of your exam, remember to:

• dress comfortably: the computer will not mind that you’re wearing your favorite relaxation outfit
• arrive at the test site rested and prepared to concentrate for an extended period
• allow sufficient time to travel, park, and locate the test center
• be prepared for possible variations in temperature at the test center due to weather changes or energy conservation measures
• bring your ID, but otherwise, don’t weigh yourself down with belongings that will have to be kept in a locker during the test.

Computer-Delivered Testing

You will take the exam by computer, entering your answers using either the keyboard or the mouse. The system is designed to be as user-friendly as possible, even for those with little or no computer experience. On-screen instructions are similar to those you would see in a paper examination booklet.

We strongly encourage you to use the online tutorial before taking your exam at a Pearson Testing Center. To access the tutorial, go to www.pearsonvue.com/uexcel and click on the Pearson VUE Tutorial link on the right hand side of the page.

Academic Honesty

Nondisclosure Statement

• All test takers must agree to the terms of the Excelsior College Academic Honesty Policy before taking an examination. The agreement will be presented on screen at the Pearson VUE Testing Center before the start of your exam.

• Once the test taker agrees to the terms of the Academic Honesty Nondisclosure Statement, the exam will begin.

If you choose not to accept the terms of the agreement

• your exam will be terminated
• you will be required to leave the testing center
you will not be eligible for a refund. For more information, review the Student Policy Handbook at www.excelsior.edu/studentpolicyhandbook.

Student behavior is monitored during and after the exam. Electronic measures are used to monitor the security of test items and scan for illegal use of intellectual property. This monitoring includes surveillance of Internet chat rooms, websites, and other public forums.

Information About UExcel Exams for Colleges and Universities

A committee of teaching faculty and practicing professionals determines the learning outcomes to be tested on each exam. Excelsior College Center for Educational Measurement staff oversee the technical aspects of test construction in accordance with current professional standards. To promote fairness in testing, we take special care to ensure that the language used in the exams and related materials is consistent, professional, and user friendly. Editorial staff perform systematic quantitative and qualitative reviews to ensure accuracy, clarity, and compliance with conventions of bias-free language usage.

Excelsior College, the test developer, recommends granting three (3) semester hours of lower-level undergraduate credit to students who receive a letter grade of C or higher on this examination. Other colleges and universities also recognize this exam as a basis for granting credit or advanced standing. Individual institutions set their own policies for the amount of credit awarded and the minimum acceptable score.

Political Science Exam Development Committee

Thomas Dolan, PhD
(Georgia State University, 1997)
Associate Professor, Columbus State University

Andrew Essig, PhD
(The Pennsylvania State University, 2001)
Assistant Professor, DeSales University

Sean Foreman, PhD
(Florida International University, 2003)
Assistant Professor, Barry University

Sandra Hinchman, PhD (Cornell University, 1978)
Professor, St. Lawrence University

Charles Venator Santiago, PhD
(University of Massachusetts – Amherst, 2002)
Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut