

Northern Illinois University

Credit by Examination

Northern Illinois University provides a variety of opportunities for students enrolled at NIU to obtain college Credit by Examination (CBE).

Credit may be awarded through the Advanced Placement Program (AP), the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) Program, International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, and NIU proficiency examinations.

This brochure is intended as an overview of NIU's CBE program. The examinations, passing scores, course credit, and examination fees are subject to change.

Advanced Placement

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) is a series of national examinations that measures the knowledge and skills acquired by students who have taken AP courses. The courses and examinations are administered by high schools and the resulting examination scores are sent to colleges of the students' choice. Students with sufficiently high scores on certain AP examinations may be eligible for specific NIU course credit. NIU awards credit according to the following schedule:

APP Exam	Score	NIU Credit
Art History	4, 5	ARTH 282
Studio Art, Drawing	4, 5	Art Studio Elective, 3 hrs.
Studio Art, 2-D Design	4, 5	Art Studio Elective, 3 hrs.
Studio Art, 3-D Design	4, 5	Art Studio Elective, 3 hrs.
Note: No more than 3 sem. hrs. of studio elective credit may be awarded through the AP.		
Biology	4, 5	BIOS 205, BIOS 207, BIOS 208, & BIOS 210
Students wishing to substitute BIOS 104 for the above credit should submit a written request to Testing Services within 30 days of being notified of their eligibility for credit.		
Biology	3	BIOS 103

APP Exam (continued)	Score	NIU Credit
Calculus AB	3, 4, 5	MATH 229
Calculus BC	4, 5	MATH 229 & 230
Calculus BC	2, 3	MATH 229
Chemistry	5	CHEM 210, CHEM 211, CHEM 212, & CHEM 213
Chemistry	4	CHEM 210 & CHEM 212
Computer Science A	3, 4, 5	CSCI 205
Computer Science AB	3, 4, 5	CSCI 205 & 240
Computer Science AB	2	CSCI 205
English Lang. & Lit.	4, 5	ENGL 103 & 104
English Lang. & Lit.	3	ENGL 103
Students with credit in ENGL 105 or enrolled in 105 cannot receive credit in ENGL 103 or 104. However, students with an AP English exam score of 3 who are eligible to take ENGL 105 based on the English Core Competency Exam may substitute 3 hours of English Elective Credit for credit in ENGL 103. Students wishing to make this substitution must submit a written request to Testing Services within 30 days of being notified of their eligibility for credit.		
Environmental Science	4, 5	GEOG 253
Foreign Lang. & Lit.		
Spanish	3	FLSP 101 & 102
	4	FLSP 101, 102 & 201
	5	FLSP 101, 102, 201 & 202
French	3	FLFR 101 & 102
	4	FLFR 101, 102 & 201
	5	FLFR 101, 102, 201 & 202
German	3	FLGE 101 & 102
	4	FLGE 101, 102 & 201
	5	FLGE 101, 102, 201 & 202
Chinese	3	FLCH 101 & 102
	4	FLCH 101, 102 & 201
	5	FLCH 101, 102, 201 & 202
Human Geography	4, 5	Geography Elective, 3 hrs.
Government & Politics, U.S.	3, 4, 5	POLS 100
Government & Politics, Comp.	3, 4, 5	POLS 260
History, World	4, 5	HIST 171
History, U.S.	4, 5	HIST 261
History, European	4, 5	HIST 112
Students wishing to substitute HIST 260 for 261, or HIST 111 for 112 should submit a written request to Testing Services within 30 days of being notified of their eligibility for credit.		
Macroeconomics	4, 5	ECON 261
Microeconomics	4, 5	ECON 260
Physics B	3, 4, 5	PHYS 210 & 211
Physics C, Mechanics	3, 4, 5	PHYS 253
Physics C, Elect. Magn.	3, 4, 5	PHYS 273
Psychology	3, 4, 5	PSYC 102
Statistics	4, 5	STAT 301
Students wishing to substitute STAT 208 for STAT 301 should submit a written request to Testing Services within 30 days of being notified of their eligibility for credit.		
Statistics	3	STAT 208

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Like AP, the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) measures knowledge and skills learned prior to, or exclusive of, college enrollment. Students who receive sufficiently high scores on certain CLEP examinations may be eligible for credit at NIU.

As of July 1, 2001, all CLEP exams are administered on computer. Scores for exams taken after July 1, 2001 (computer-based examination delivery) are reported differently than exams taken before July 1, 2001 (traditional paper-and-pencil examination delivery). Credit eligibility scores for both computer-based and paper-and-pencil examination deliveries are reported below.

Computer-Based CLEP Examination Administration (CLEP Exams Taken AFTER July 1, 2001)

CLEP General Exam	Score	NIU Credit
College Composition (replaces English Composition with Essay as of 7/1/10)	50	ENGL 103
Humanities	56	Humanities & the Arts, 6 hrs.
Natural Sciences	56	Sciences & Mathematics, 7 hrs.
Social Sciences & History	56	Social Sciences, 6 hrs.
CLEP Subject Exam	Score	Course
Biology	50	BIOS 103
	57	BIOS 104
	66	BIOS 205, BIOS 207, BIOS 208, & BIOS 210
Chemistry	50	CHEM 210, CHEM 211, CHEM 212, & CHEM 213
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	ECON 261
Principles of Microeconomics	50	ECON 260
American Literature	50	ENGL 116
English Literature	50	ENGL 115
Human Growth and Development	50	FCNS 280
French Language	66	
German Language	61	
Spanish Language	61	
Students eligible to receive CLEP credit in foreign language must also take NIU's Foreign Language Placement Exam to determine the specific course credit to be awarded. Contact Testing Services for more information.		
Calculus	50	MATH 229
American Government	61	POLS 100
Introductory Psychology	52	PSYC 102
Introductory Sociology	50	SOCI 170

Paper-and-Pencil CLEP Examination Administration (CLEP Exams Taken BEFORE July 1, 2001)

CLEP General Exam	Score	NIU Credit
English Composition with Essay	480	ENGL 103
Humanities	550	Humanities & the Arts, 6 hrs.
Natural Sciences	550	Sciences & Mathematics, 7 hrs.
Social Sciences & History	550	Social Sciences, 6 hrs.
CLEP Subject Exam	Score	Course
General Biology	46	BIOS 103
	50	BIOS 104
	55	BIOS 205, BIOS 207, BIOS 208, & BIOS 210
General Chemistry	47	CHEM 210, CHEM 211, CHEM 212, & CHEM 213
Principles of Macroeconomics	44	ECON 261
Principles of Microeconomics	41	ECON 260
American Literature	46	ENGL 116
English Literature	46	ENGL 115
College Level French	45	
College Level German	41	
College Level Spanish	48	
Students eligible to receive CLEP credit in foreign language must also take NIU's Foreign Language Placement Exam to determine the specific course credit to be awarded. Contact Testing Services for more information.		
Calculus w/ Elementary Functions	41	MATH 229
American Government	53	POLS 100
Introductory Psychology	50	PSYC 102
Introductory Sociology	47	SOCI 170

CLEP Examination Fees

Testing Services requires two separate fees for each CLEP examination administered at NIU. There is a non-refundable service fee of \$20.00 for each examination. The service fee is payable in exact cash or a check payable to NIU. This fee is due on the examination date.

CLEP requires a fee of \$77.00 per examination, which is due on the examination date. This fee is payable to CLEP by credit card or check. CLEP requires an additional fee of \$10 to cover the processing and handling of the optional essays for *College Composition Modular*, *English Literature*, *Analyzing and Interpreting Literature*, and *American Literature* exams. Students interested in taking a CLEP examination should contact the NIU Office of Testing Services for information.

DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)

In addition to the CLEP subject examinations, NIU also accepts certain DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) scores in consideration of NIU credit. NIU awards DSST credit according to the following schedule:

DSST	Score	Course
General Anthropology	47	ANTH 120
Art of the Western World	48	ART 282
Physical Geology	46	GEOL 120
Astronomy	48	PHYS 162
Life-Span Developmental Psychology	51	PSYC 225
Principles of Statistics		
Prior to 7/15/08:	50	STAT 208
Effective 7/15/08 due to new score scale:	400	STAT 208

DSST Examination Fees

Testing Services requires two separate fees for each DSST administered at NIU. There is a non-refundable service fee of \$20.00 for each examination. This fee is payable either in exact cash or a check made payable to NIU. This fee is due on the examination date.

DSST requires a fee of \$80.00 per examination, which is due on the examination date. This fee is payable to DSST by credit card, certified check, or U.S. money order. DSST does not accept personal checks. Students interested in taking a DSST examination should contact the NIU Office of Testing Services for information.

International Baccalaureate Organization Examinations

Similar to AP, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, offers a series of rigorous, two-year high school courses leading to internationally prepared examinations at the conclusion of the program. Students with sufficiently high scores on certain IB examinations may be eligible for NIU course credit. NIU awards credit according to the following schedule:

IB Exam	Level	Score	Course
Social & Cultural Anthropology	High	4	Anthropology Elective
	High	5, 6, 7	ANTH 220 and Anthropology Elective
Biology	Standard	5, 6, 7	BIOS 205, BIOS 207, BIOS 208, BIOS 210, BIOS 209, and BIOS 211
	High	5, 6, 7	
Students wishing to substitute BIOS 104 for the above credit should submit a written request to Testing Services within 30 days of being notified of their eligibility for credit.			
Chemistry	Standard	5, 6, 7	CHEM 210 and CHEM 212
	High	5, 6, 7	CHEM 210, CHEM 211, CHEM 212, and CHEM 213
Economics	Standard	6, 7	ECON 260 and ECON 261
	High	5, 6, 7	ECON 260 and ECON 262
Geography	High	5, 6, 7	General Geography Elective
History	Standard	5, 6, 7	Requires Departmental Review
	High	5, 6, 7	
Philosophy	High	5, 6, 7	PHIL 101
Physics	High	4, 5, 6, 7	Requires Departmental Review

NIU Proficiency Examinations

NIU Proficiency Examinations are also a part of NIU's CBE program. The NIU Office of Testing Services administers proficiency tests for the following courses.

AHCD 318	Medical Terminology
BIOS 103/104	General Biology
CHEM 110	Chemistry
CHEM 210/211	General Chemistry
FCNS 201	Human Nutrition
FCNS 207	The Consumer
FCNS 230	Child Development
FCNS 280	Human Development, The Family, and Society
FCNS 284	Introduction to Family Relationships
MATH 201	Foundations of Elementary School Mathematics
POLS 100	American Government and Politics

Students interested in attempting any of the above examinations should contact the NIU Office of Testing Services for information. There is no fee for these exams. Information about proficiency examinations for courses other than those identified above may be obtained from the specific academic department office.

Note:

Credit awarded will be entered on the student's record subject to the following conditions:

1. The student must be enrolled at NIU to receive CBE.
2. All CBE awarded by NIU will be posted to the student's record with the symbol CR and will not be entered until after the 15th day of the student's first semester. No specific grade is attached to this credit.
3. CBE will not be awarded for courses in which NIU credit has already been granted or for courses which substantially overlap or are prerequisites to courses in which a student is enrolled or are prerequisites to courses for which credit has already been granted. Credit may already have been granted on the basis of transfer, other credit by examination, or courses taken at NIU. Exceptions to these restrictions could occur in cases in which a student passed a credit-by-examination test prior to credit being granted in (or the student enrolling in) a course that would normally render the student ineligible for credit by examination. For example, a student enrolled in MATH 230 could be eligible to receive credit for MATH 229 based on an AP examination taken the previous May. Other restrictions specified in the NIU *Undergraduate Catalog* may also apply.

Additional information about NIU's CBE program is contained in the NIU *Undergraduate Catalog* in the "Academic Regulations" section.

Testing Services

Adams Hall 128
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
Office (815) 753-1203
FAX (815) 753-3701
E-mail testing@niu.edu
Internet: www.niu.edu/testing
OTS: 11/2/11

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