



## ARTICLES

### Spotlight on San Diego State University

By updating its CLEP policy, San Diego State University was able to attract more military service members and veterans.

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**"I feel that I am doing my best as an adviser when I talk with qualified students about CLEP."**

Erica Day, CLEPper and academic adviser at Franklin University, shares her story.

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### Best Practice: A Customized Strategic Planning Tool for Your Institution

The 2006—07 CLEP "Summary of Scores Reported" report can provide a vivid statistical picture of your institution's CLEP program.

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### Best Practice: Include CLEP in New Student Orientation

CLEP can offer your new students an academic head start.

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### CLEP Workshops for Advisers

Register for these free online sessions.

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## SAVE THE DATE

**CLEP will be participating in several conferences over the next months. Look for us there!**

### Minnesota School Counselor Association

Brainerd, MN; March 4-6

### University Continuing Education Association

New Orleans, LA;  
March 26-28

### Oklahoma Association of College Testing Personnel

Tulsa, OK; March 28

### Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Sectional Meeting

Charleston, SC;  
March 28-29

### New England Transfer Association

Newport, RI; April 21-23

### Prepárate™ Educating

**Meet Hannah Shepherd**

Hannah is in her fourth and last semester at Northeast State Community College. She plans to transfer to East Tennessee State University this fall in order to enter the nursing program there. [Read More >](#)

**Latinos for the Future of America**

Chicago, IL; May 21-23

**Spotlight on San Diego State University**

San Diego State University had a CLEP problem. Military service members were returning to San Diego from Iraq eager to apply the CLEP credit they had earned while overseas. Although the San Diego metropolitan area is home to one of the country's largest concentrations of active duty and retired service members—who tend to be avid CLEP users—San Diego State's CLEP policy was limited and had not been reviewed or updated for a number of years. In fact, the university's policy only allowed credit to be granted for Calculus, Chemistry, and College Algebra-Trigonometry—an exam that had been retired for more than a year. As a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium, SDSU needed to offer services members a way to earn credit for extra-institutional learning, and to improve its articulation agreements with other SOC institutions. By updating its CLEP policy, SDSU would also be in a better position to compete with other local colleges in attracting veterans.

A team led by Bonnie Anderson, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, along with Cassie Steadman, Director of Advising and Evaluations, and Stephanie Samuels, Articulation Coordinator, reviewed San Diego State's overall articulation policies. They sent CLEP exam descriptions to faculty in the relevant departments for review. In 11 cases, the faculty approved specific course equivalencies for CLEP exams. Twenty-two CLEP exams were approved to satisfy foundation course or general education distribution requirements. Faculty continues to evaluate other CLEP exams for possible inclusion in the policy.

The result: San Diego State granted credit for more CLEP exams in July and August than it did in all of the previous school year, and its test center administered more CLEP exams in those two months than it did in the entire preceding 12 months. In addition to helping SDSU attract more military service members, this new CLEP policy provides other benefits as well. Research shows that CLEP test takers tend to enroll in more advanced course work and to achieve higher grades in sequent courses than their similar-ability classmates. CLEP students report that CLEP makes a difference in helping them to finance their education and to graduate on time.

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## Erica Day



Erica Day is a Student Services Associate and academic adviser at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. She is married with one child. Erica is also a former CLEPPER. In addition to her family responsibilities, Erica, like many returning adult students, held down a full-time job while carrying a full schedule as a student at Franklin University. She graduated in 2007 with dual majors, Business Forensics and Business Administration, and is proud to be a first-generation college graduate.

Erica earned 32 credit hours toward her degrees by taking CLEP exams. She now works as an adviser at Franklin. Erica tells us: "CLEP exams allowed me to shave off a tremendous amount of time from my bachelor's degree, which I earned with dual majors. As an academic adviser at Franklin University, I can testify from my own experience that CLEP exams save time and money while providing flexibility. I primarily advise two groups of students: accounting majors preparing to become CPAs and international students. The accounting majors benefit from CLEP by applying CLEP credits to the 150 credit hours that Ohio requires to sit for the CPA exam. Many of my international students have already earned bachelor's degrees in their home countries, but they're unable to transfer all of their credits to Franklin. By taking CLEP exams to earn those credits, the students are not required to retake courses. I feel that I am doing my best as an adviser when I talk with qualified students about CLEP."

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## Best Practice: A Customized Strategic Planning Tool for Your Institution

The 2006-07 CLEP Summary of Scores Reported presents data about the CLEP scores sent to your institution and about the students on your campus who take CLEP exams. You can use these reports to help you evaluate the strengths of your CLEP program and identify areas of potential growth.

Visit the [CLEP Resource Center](#)\* to review a sample report and to read a one-page guide for interpreting your data. You can also submit a request for your institution's Summary of Scores Reported.

\*Because we take the security of your data seriously, the [CLEP Resource Center](#) is password protected. You may request a username and password by emailing [CLEP@collegeboard.org](mailto:CLEP@collegeboard.org). Please include your name, title, institution name, and email address.

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## Best Practice: Include CLEP in New Student Orientation

Orientation is the ideal time to offer your capable students an academic head start by encouraging them to take CLEP exams. Reaching entering freshmen, transfer students, degree-seeking adults, members of the military and veterans, and students enrolled in high-demand programs early in their academic careers with information about your CLEP program can help those students satisfy introductory requirements and move into upper-level course work sooner.

Including CLEP in new student orientation can benefit your institution as well.

CLEP can help:

- Enhance retention and completion rates. 91% of CLEP test-takers report that CLEP made a difference in helping them to complete their degrees.\*
- Seal the deal with prospective and incoming student. 62% of students not currently enrolled say that the CLEP policies of the institutions they were considering would affect their decision to enroll.\*
- Increase access for other entering students. CLEP can open up seats in lower-division courses for students who need that course work.
- Move students ahead in their course work right from the start. [A recent study](#) conducted at a major research institution showed that CLEP and non-CLEP students enrolled in a similar number of hours per semester. CLEP students took additional course work in the area where they received credit by examination, or they took additional elective courses.
- Finance students' educations. 70% of CLEP test-takers claim that earning CLEP credit made a difference in their ability to finance tuition and fees.\*

To make CLEP part of your new student orientation:

[Order free CLEP brochures and resources](#) to include in your orientation packets.

[Sign up for a free CLEP Tabling Kit](#). The Kit is perfect for orientation and may be reused for other student events.

[Download a customizable college policy template](#) to include with CLEP brochures and other information for students.

Offer your new students the opportunity to earn CLEP credits right away: set up special CLEP testing times during orientation.

More information on making [CLEP part of your orientation](#).

\*\*Based on a 2004 survey of 4,031 CLEP candidates.

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## CLEP Workshops for Advisers

Our Advising Workshop sessions in February received an enthusiastic response. We've scheduled more workshops in March, April, and May.

Register for any of the four sessions below:

- **March 17, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. ET**
- **April 1, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. ET**
- **April 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. ET**
- **May 1, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. ET**

To register, visit [www.collegeboard.com/clepworkshops](http://www.collegeboard.com/clepworkshops).

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## Meet Hannah Shepherd



Hannah is in her fourth and last semester at Northeast State Community College. She plans to transfer to East Tennessee State University this fall in order to enter the nursing program there. Her long-term goal is to become a pediatric physical therapist.

Hannah credits CLEP with helping her move more quickly towards a degree at Northeast State. She says, "I think CLEP is the best kept secret at many colleges! The program has helped me test out of more than a semester of credit hours."

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