

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS:

A Look Back at the History of CLEP

CLEP helps students earn credit and achieve their education goals.

- **1967:** CLEP established 50 test centers around the U.S. and held its first national test administration. Four students showed up to take CLEP exams for the first administration.
- **1970s:** CLEP offered exams covering 47 different subjects, including exams related to dental auxiliary education, medical technology, and nursing.
- **1974:** The College Board partnered with the Department of Defense to offer free CLEP exams to military service members.
- **Late 1970s–80s:** The majority of students taking CLEP exams were age 26 and above. In addition, the proportion of women taking CLEP exams grew from 50% to 62%.
- **1980s:** The most popular CLEP exam was English Composition. Today, the top CLEP exam is Spanish Language.
- **1990s:** CLEP discontinued 15 of its exams, including Money and Banking, Elementary Computer Programming, and Fundamentals of Nursing.
- **2001:** The format of CLEP exams switched from paper to computer-based tests.
- **Last 10 years:** The CLEP Program introduced three new exams: Financial Accounting, College Composition, and College Composition Modular.

To date, more than seven million students have taken a CLEP exam.

The CLEP logo has gone through various changes over the years.

1971



College-Level Examination Program of the College Entrance Examination Board

1980–1981



1990–1991



2000–2004



2005–2010



2011–2016



Current

