

What is the Difference Between the CLEP Exam & AP Test?

The College-Level Examination Program ([CLEP](#)) and the Advanced Placement (AP) program were both created by the College Board with the goal of helping students earn college credits through examination. While these programs look similar on the surface, they are actually very different. One big difference is that [CLEP exams](#) are tests only, while AP exams are accompanied by a high school course. To understand other differences, let's take a look at the CLEP vs. AP.

	CLEP	AP
Program Description	CLEP allows students of various ages to take exams based on information they already know. Examinees who pass CLEP exams are granted credits by institutions that could be used toward a college degree or for advanced placement.	AP allows high school students to take college-level classes that conclude with exams. Successful exam scores are accepted at college and universities for credit or advanced placement.
No. of exams available	34 exams	36 exams
Exam cost	2024-25 Fee: \$95 per exam (Mounds View Schools assists students by paying for ½ of the cost when the students register and take the exam at our high schools)	2024-25 Fee: \$75 per exam (Mounds View Schools and the Minnesota Department of Education support students in reducing the cost from \$98.)
Course or curriculum availability	CLEP offers no courses or College Board-developed curriculum. There are free online courses available at Modern States University that students can access.	Students typically take an AP course prior to taking the corresponding AP exam; however, AP courses are not required to take AP exams.
Who usually takes the exam?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Adults returning to school *Military service members *College students *Homeschooled and high school students *International students *Master's degree program applicants *Professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *High school students *Homeschooled and independent study students
Dates administered	Administered throughout the year	Administered on specific exam dates
Score range	20 to 80	1 (no recommendation) 2 (possibly qualified) 3 (qualified) 4 (well qualified) 5 (extremely well qualified)
Passing score	50 (minimum recommended)	3 (minimum recommended)
Credits granted	3-9 credits per exam (minimum recommended)	3-5 credits per exam (minimum recommended)
Where scores are accepted	2,900 colleges and universities Students should always contact the college/university directly to ensure that the post secondary institution they plan to attend will accept the CLEP Exam they are taking for credit or placement. This document explains the CLEP Exam to ARCC course Equivalencies	Most two- and four-year colleges and universities worldwide Students should should always check the AP Credit Policy Search or contact the college/university directly to ensure that the post secondary institution they plan to attend will accept the AP Exam they are taking for credit or placement.

	CLEP	AP
Where tests are taken	Mounds View Schools administered these exams at least 3 times during the year: Beginning of school year, end of Semester 1, and end of Semester 2. We will arrange for summer test administration for students individually, as well. Students can also access the test at MN State Institutions	AP tests are administered at high schools or school-designated off-site testing locations.
How are the tests constructed and delivered?	Online Exam Most tests consist of all multiple-choice items Up to 100 questions Timed: 90 minutes See CLEP Exam Information	Paper/Pencil Exam Most tests consist of multiple choice items and free response items Timed: about 3 hours See AP Exam Information
Links to College Board Webpage	College Board CLEP Webpage	College Board AP Webpage
Links to Mounds View Webpage	Mounds View Schools CLEP Webpage	Mounds View Schools AP Webpage
Transcript/score reporting fees	Free: No cost for a score reported to the school chosen during registration or testing \$20: Cost for each transcript request used to send score to a school not designated during registration or testing	Free: No cost for a score reported to the school indicated on the AP answer sheet \$15: Cost for each score report sent to a college or university not designated on the AP answer sheet

CLEP vs AP Test Difficulty: Which is Harder?

Data collected by Mounds View Schools shows that the CLEP and AP test are equivalent in their difficulty. What makes the difficulty different for some students is the way they are administered and the type of items that they included. Students are encouraged to study the content and take sample practice exams to ensure success on either exam.

Reproduced and revised from document found at:

<https://study.com/academy/popular/clep-exam-vs-ap-test-difficulty-differences.html>