MODERN STATES
EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Freshman Year for Free

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EARN FREE COLLEGE CREDIT

A new, high-quality path to free college credit has launched this year. The goal of the program, dubbed "Freshman Year for Free," is to make college more accessible and affordable for high school students, college students and adult learners, including active duty military personnel, their families, and veterans.

WHO IS MAKING THIS POSSIBLE?

Modern States, the New York-based charitable organization behind the effort, has funded production of online courses taught by college professors. The courses prepare students for introductory College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams in Economics, Sociology, Algebra, and other areas.

HOW DOES THIS LEAD TO COLLEGE CREDIT?

The CLEP exams, administered by the College Board, are accepted for credit by more than 2,900 colleges and universities. To launch its program, Modern States is partnering with high schools and colleges that are making students aware of the opportunity.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

This is the first time there have been courses (see list below) taught by top quality college professors for CLEP subjects. Also, Modern States is paying the $87 test fee and scheduling fee for students who enroll in the courses and take the exams. The benefit for participating institutions is that this creates a free on-ramp to college that facilitates learning and earning credits.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Modern States will pay for you to take the CLEP exam. After you complete the coursework and practice questions, request a CLEP voucher code from the Modern States website. There are no prerequisites for the 32 courses that are available, and all of them are self-paced. Some of the courses stem from a partnership between Modern States and edX, the online education platform created by Harvard and MIT.

COURSES AND CLEP EXAMS

Composition & Literature - American Literature, Analyzing & Interpreting Literature, English Literature, College Composition

Foreign Literature - College French, College German, College Spanish

History & Social Sciences - American Government, History of the US I, History of the US II, Human Growth & Development, Intro. to Educational Psychology, Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology, Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Western Civilization I, Western Civilization II

Science & Mathematics - Calculus, College Algebra, Precalculus, Biology, Chemistry, Natural Sciences

Business - Financial Accounting, Information Systems & Computer Applications, Introductory Business Law, Principles of Management

Modern States Education Alliance is a non-profit dedicated to making a high quality college education free of cost and accessible to any person who seeks one. Its founding principle is that access to affordable education is fundamental to any philosophy that respects all individuals, and fundamental to the American dream.

Modern States' initial program, "*Freshman Year for Free*," is intended to let students earn up to one year of college credit without tuition or textbook expense.

Modern States is partnering with edX, the leading online learning platform founded by Harvard and MIT. Modern States has given edX the money to complete the development of many of its high quality freshman college courses, taught by some of the world's leading universities and professors. Each course includes online lectures, quizzes, tests, and other features. Textbooks and materials will also be provided online, free of charge.

The courses are designed to prepare students for the major "Advanced Placement" (AP)* or "College Level Examination Program" (CLEP)* tests offered by the College Board, including subjects such as History, Computer Science, Math, English, Spanish and Economics.

According to the College Board, more than 2,900 traditional colleges and universities already offer credit to students who pass AP and CLEP tests. Students can take one course or many courses from Modern States, and then – by passing the AP or CLEP exams – can begin with up to a full year's worth of credit after they enroll in traditional college, making Modern States an "on-ramp" to college. Modern States hopes to provide links for students to tutoring, mentoring and college advising groups as well.

Modern States works like a global digital public library of great college courses. Enrollment in Modern States courses will be "massively open" to all people without regard to age, location, family income, nationality, prior credits or other factors. The courses may also provide a critical "road back" for students who have left the traditional US college system. Modern States is not in opposition to any traditional college and recognizes that a four-year residential experience at an established university is the preferred alternative. However, such an opportunity is out of reach for many people, given the high cost of tuition and other factors.

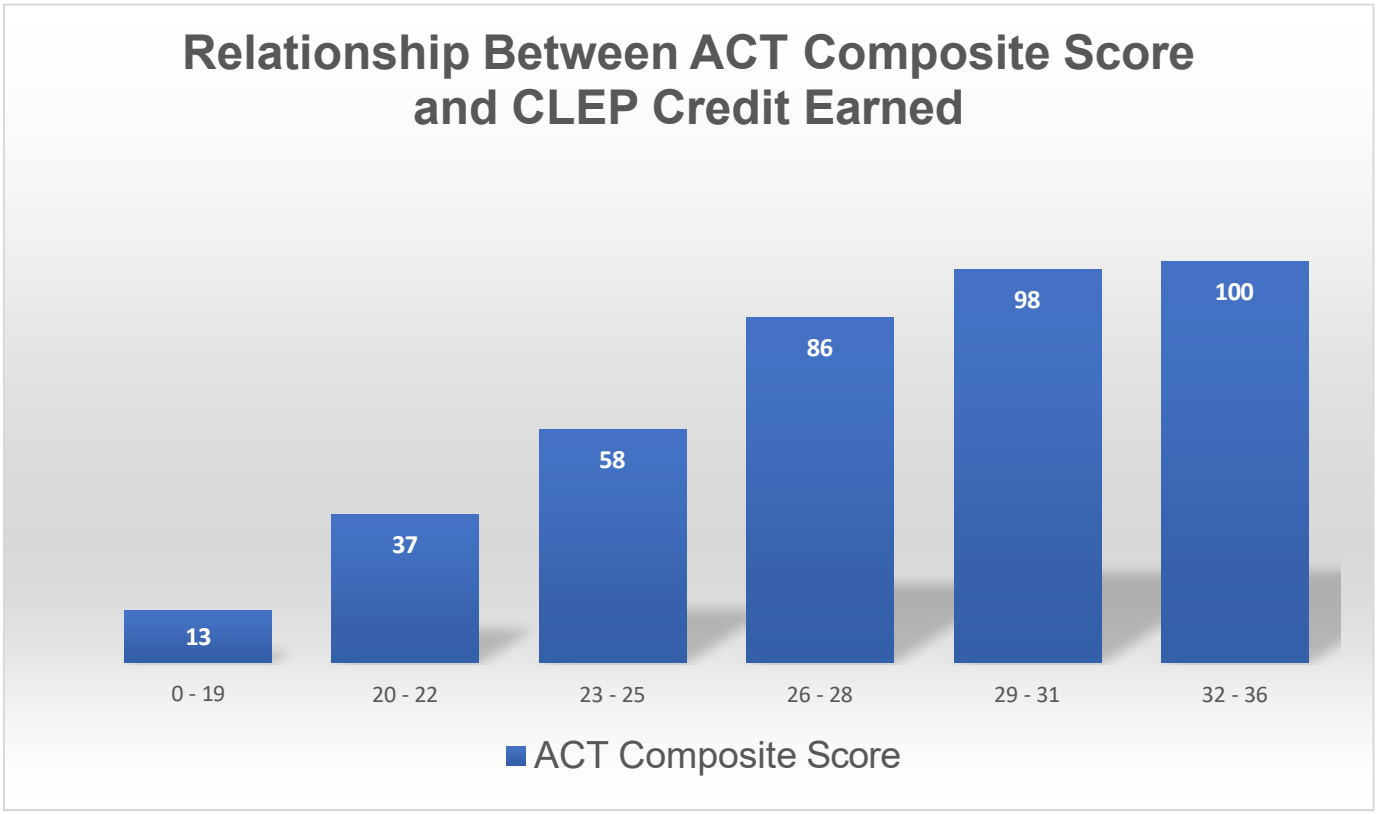
Steve Klinsky, Founder and CEO, designed and funded Modern States and its "Freshman Year for Free" philanthropic initiative, which has grown as an alliance with the guidance and support of other education and foundation leaders. College systems with over two million students have affiliated with Modern States Education Alliance, including systems in New York, Texas, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee.

Along with creating Modern States, Steve also serves as chairman of the advisory board to Harvard's Program for Education Policy and Governance; was a founder of New York's first ever charter school (the Sisulu Walker School in Harlem); and founded other charter schools and after school programs.

Steve designed and endowed the Klinsky Professorship of Leadership and Progress at Harvard Law School; has established medical clinics in the Central African Republic in partnership with the International Rescue Committee; and is an active supporter of other charities.
Working closely with Klinsky is Pulitzer Prize winner David Vise, Executive Director of Modern States. The author of four books, Vise was a reporter at The Washington Post for more than 20 years before joining the investment firm New Mountain Capital as a Senior Advisor.

Modern States actively seeks to partner with others who share its goals. For more information, visit www.modernstates.org or contact David Vise at David@ModernStates.org.

Percentage of Test Takers Receiving at Least Three Semester Hours of Credit



SOURCE: University of Iowa Evaluation & Examination Service, 1997

Steps to Earning Credit for Free with Modern States and CLEP

1. Register at Modern States Website https://modernstates.org/
2. Enroll in a prep course at Modern States
3. Complete the prep course and practice questions
4. Request a CLEP vouchers code from the Modern States website
5. Register for a CLEP Exam on the CLEP website and use your voucher code from Modern States to pay for the test https://clep.collegeboard.org/
6. Schedule your exam at UWL Test Center on RegisterBlast https://www2.registerblast.com/uwlax/Exam/List
7. Take your Test at the UWL Test Center
8. Send your RegisterBlast receipt to Modern States to get reimbursed the proctor fee
    a. https://modernstates.org/test-center-reimbursement/
9. Send your CLEP Scores to UWL (Code 1914)