

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) at MTSU

Earn Credit for What You've Learned

Through our nationally recognized Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, students have an opportunity to earn as much as 60 hours of college credit for learning gained outside of the traditional college setting. There are numerous ways to earn college credit outside the traditional classrooms, and we will work with you to take advantage of all the methods that are right for you. Many adult students spend years in the workforce or military developing valuable skills, earning certifications, taking continuing education programs, and obtaining licenses for specific functions. At MTSU we have developed a means to turn this prior knowledge into college credit to complete a degree. Students may earn up to 60 hours—which equals two years of college credit—for what they already know. The number of credit hours earned depends upon the individual student's background and experience. We typically see 24–30 hours of credit awarded.

Ways to Earn College Credit

- Portfolio Assessment (PRST 3010)
 - Programs in which Portfolio Assessment is used:
 - BS Liberal Studies
 - BS in Professional Studies
 - BS in Integrated Studies
- Military Service
 - For Reserves, National Guard, or Armed Forces
 - Submit a DD214
 - Submit a JST
 - Air Force students must submit a CCAF transcript
- Credit by Examination
 - College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
 - Foreign Language Tests
 - Successful completion can be found on SOATEST
 - Advance Placement Examinations (AP)
 - American College Testing Program (ACT)
 - International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
 - DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

[Click here for more information](#)

The Evaluation of CLEP Essays for Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

The system the English Department has in place to assess **CLEP** essays assures that your writing will be evaluated impartially by competent judges.

Essays are read by full-time faculty who have many years of experience in evaluating college-level writing and who teach the English courses for which students attempt **CLEP** credit. To insure objectivity, the essays are read “blindly”; that is, faculty do not confer when reading the **CLEP** essays. Each professor reads the essay holistically and makes a judgment of “credit” or “no credit” for the course. To earn credit, an essay must be of similar quality to work a sophomore-level literature student would complete at semester’s end.

Because the essays are read holistically for the sole purpose of evaluation, readers do not mark on the essays, so it would not be instructive for you to see your essay. Neither is it appropriate to discuss the outcome of the evaluation since the decision is irrevocable. Results are generally available in three weeks from the exam’s date of completion.

Students seeking credit are encouraged to complete the **CLEP** test early during their time at MTSU, and students are allowed to take the test only once. So that students who do not receive **CLEP** credit will have ample time to register to take English 2020 or 2030 in a subsequent semester if needed, the following exam deadlines have been established.

Fall semester: November 1

Spring semester: April 1

Summer: June 15

To qualify for course credit, essays must:

- Provide thoughtful, thorough answers to both questions
- Demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the text(s) being analyzed
- Support the writer’s assertions through direct references to the text and its specific features
- Be clearly written and easy to understand

CLEP General Examination	Credits	In Lieu Of Courses At MTSU
American Government	3	Political Science 1005
American History I: Early Col. to 1877	3	History 2010
American History II: 1865 to Present	3	History 2020
Western Civ. I: Ancient Near East to 1648	3	History 1010
Western Civ. II: 1648 to Present	3	History 1020
Analysis & Interp. of Literature (Essay)	3	English 2030
Precalculus	4	Mathematics 1730
Calculus	4	Mathematics 1910
College Algebra	3	Mathematics 1710
College Mathematics	3	College Mathematics 1010
Biology	4	Biology 1030/1031
Chemistry	8	Chemistry 1110/1111, 1120/1121
Principles of Management	3	Management 3610
Financial Accounting	3	Accounting 2110
Introductory Business Law	3	Commercial Law 3430
Principles of Macroeconomics	3	Economics 2410
Principles of Microeconomics	3	Economics 2420
Introductory Psychology	3	Psychology 1410
Introductory Sociology	3	Sociology 1010
Principles of Marketing	3	Marketing 3820

