

Credit available through testing

By Charles Korns
Of the Emerald

Earning nine credits in 90 minutes for the cost of a hard-bound textbook may sound too good to be true. Believe it or not, there is a way to obtain credits without taking classes. CLEP (College Level Examination Program) is one way to shorten the road to graduation.

CLEP tests enable persons to demonstrate their competence in certain subjects and to receive credit for doing so. Each test costs \$35 to take.

"These tests are a wonderful additional alternative for college credit," said Evelyn Rowe, a psychometrist at the University Testing Center.

Candidates with less than 90 completed college credits are eligible for three general exams, each of which carries nine credit hours. These broad topics are Natural Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences History. General exams fulfill cluster requirements, but do not satisfy specific course requirements.

The 90-credit hour restriction does not apply, however, to more than a dozen CLEP subject exams, which do carry credit for certain courses and clusters. These tests are comparable in scope to final exams, and candidates are advised to study one or more appropriate texts before taking a subject exam, Rowe said.

Credit can be obtained for History 201-203, English

253-255 and Biology 101, 102 and 104. It's also possible to hurdle Economics 201 and 202, Sociology 201, Chemistry 104-106 and Math 201 and 202. Other courses are FBE 226 (Introduction to Business Law), Spanish 207-209 and English 204-206 (This English exam involves an essay; all other tests are multiple choice.)

Registration for CLEP tests must be completed at least one month prior to the desired test date. Testing takes place the third week of every month throughout the year.

Another realm of challenge exams is CBE (Credit by Examination). Unlike CLEP, CBE is only available to currently enrolled University students, and the cost is \$45 per test.

CBE test also enable student to earn credit for particular courses. Subjects include Psychology 212, Geography 101, Health Education 250 and Music 201-203 (Introduction to Music Literature). Language exams are also offered in French 201-203, German 201-203 and Chinese 201-203.

CLEP and CBE exams carry credit hours that count toward graduation but do not count as residence hours at the University. Passing an exam results in a "P" on a student's transcript; no other grades are awarded.

Some restrictions make some candidates ineligible for certain exams. Students can't

be currently enrolled in the respective course, nor can they be enrolled in a higher level course in the same sequence. They can't take a test that is more elementary than courses for which credit has been granted or status has been established. Rowe stressed that the exam cannot be repeated, nor can it duplicate a course for which credit has been granted.

In addition to CLEP and CBE, students can challenge courses through waiver examinations. These tests fulfill graduation requirements but carry no credit.

Waiver exams are available in Writing 121 and 122 for a cost of two dollars, and in Health Education 250 for no charge. The Health test is given only at registration each term, while the writing tests occur several times every term.

Students can also clear their B.S. math or B.A. language requirements through waiver exams. The French, German and Spanish tests cost \$5 each; there is no charge for the math test.

Students interested in math or health waiver tests should contact those departments. Candidates for other exams, including CLEP and CBE, can obtain information and registration forms at the Testing Office, room 238, Student Counseling/Health Center, 686-3227.

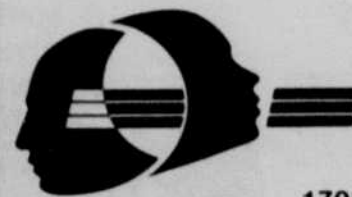
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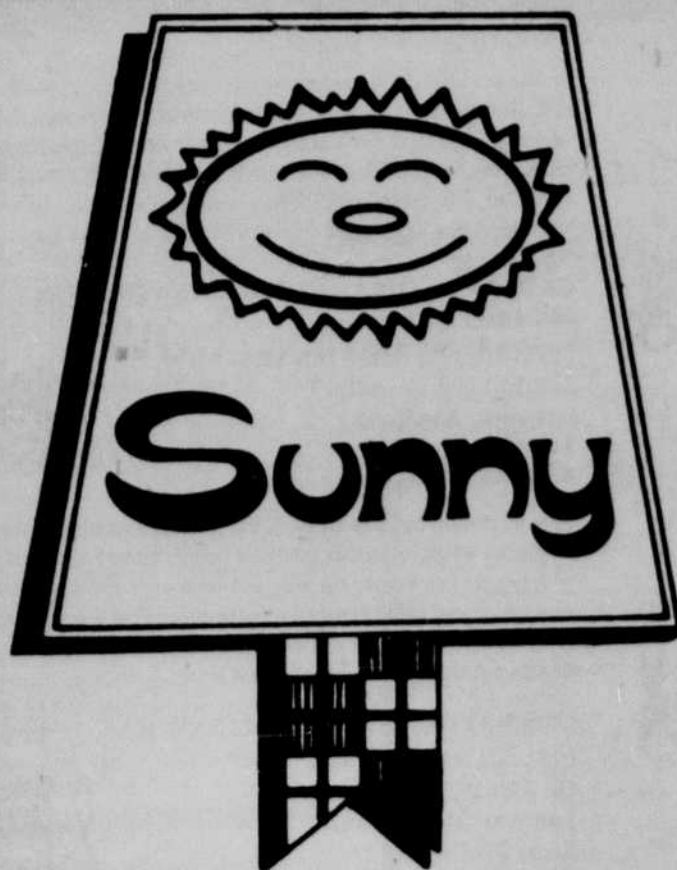
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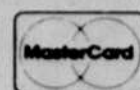
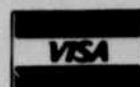
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