Non-Consent Agenda Item:
Approval to Modify the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Policy

Effective Term:
Summer/Fall 2014 for all enrolled students, regardless of Catalog.

Proposal:
Eliminate the stipulation that CLEP examinations should be taken before the completion of 55 units for native students, and before the completion of 55 units or two UA semesters for transfer students. Units earned by CLEP exams should be limited solely by the 60-unit cap on all exam credit (i.e., AP, IB, CLEP, department competency exams, and special exams) that applies to all UA baccalaureate programs.


Examinations offered through the CLEP test students’ mastery of college-level material acquired in ways other than formal course work, such as self-study, extracurricular activities, or living abroad. CLEP examinations may be utilized by nontraditional learners, military service members and veterans, as well as traditional students. The examinations are increasingly valuable to degree-seeking students as a means of satisfying certain course or subject area requirements, or for earning elective credits without having to enroll in those courses.

CLEP exams must be taken by UA students prior to the completion of 55 units. Transfer students must take CLEP exams before finishing 55 units or before completing two regular semesters at the University. Prospective and currently enrolled students utilizing these examinations cannot earn credit through CLEP for subjects or courses equivalent to, or at a lower level than, other courses for which they have already earned credit through formal course work. Students should consult with their academic advisor to make sure they are eligible to take a specific subject exam.

The University of Arizona accepts CLEP for college credit, provided satisfactory scores are attained. Passing scores for subjects credited through the CLEP are recorded simply as CR (credit), and may not necessarily be stated in terms of a specific course equivalent. No record is made of failing scores. Units earned by CLEP and other exams (i.e., AP, IB, department competency/proficiency exams, and special exams) cannot exceed 60 units for a baccalaureate degree.

CLEP examinations are available through the Testing Office at The University of Arizona. However, not all CLEP exams are awarded credit at the UA. Credit is determined from the CLEP credit table that applies to the date when the exam was taken. The credits earned are based on the student’s exam performance and may be applied toward the major, minor, or General Education requirements. Students should contact their academic advisor to confirm how course credit will apply toward their degree program.

Justification for the modification:

- The 55-unit limit is confusing, especially for transfer students. Are the 55 units transferable and applicable units, or total completed units? For resident students, does the 55-unit limit include currently enrolled units or only completed units?

- The policy is inconsistently enforced. Juniors and seniors must obtain a letter of approval from their dean’s representative waiving the 55-unit limit if they are otherwise eligible. Colleges have different criteria for determining eligibility for a subject exam. Some upper-division students are given college waivers, but others are denied.
• **It isn’t appropriate to limit CLEP exams to lower-division students**, even though the exams are for lower-division credit. Upper-division students may enroll in 100-200 courses, so they should be allowed to earn CLEP credit for a 100-200 level course, provided they have not taken courses in that discipline equivalent to, or at a higher level than, the course for which they are testing.

• **Research on CLEP policies at peer institutions** reveals that the UA’s 55-unit restriction is unusual, although a unit-maximum for exam credits that apply toward a degree (e.g., 60 units) is common.

**Approvals:**
- Undergraduate Council: 2/22/14
- Graduate Council: N/A
- Academic Deans: 2/28/14
- Administrative Review: 3/10/14
- FS: