

## COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP) TESTING

For more than 25 years, the nationally recognized College Level Examination Program (CLEP) has helped millions of students document their college-level learning through exams covering introductory college courses. Over 200,000 CLEP exams are taken each year.

About 1200 colleges and universities are testing centers, including 100 in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Even more institutions grant credit for passing scores but don't administer the tests. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has a test center, but our students may take CLEP exams wherever it is most convenient for them. SMWC follows the recommendations of the American Council on Education regarding passing scores and credits awarded.

### WHO SHOULD TAKE CLEP EXAMINATIONS?

People who are test-phobic probably won't do well on CLEP. And you shouldn't take a CLEP exam "just to see how I'll do." It takes real knowledge of the subject, and not just test-taking skills, to earn a passing score.

Among SMWC students who have been successful with CLEP are students who took courses at non-accredited colleges. These credits will not transfer, but CLEP provides an inexpensive way to document their college-level learning. Some business majors have prior business credits that are too old to transfer here to fulfill the requirements of the major. CLEP exams can help prove that knowledge is current. Other students may have gained college-level learning through self-study, training programs, or other means prior to admission to SMWC.

You may pursue credit for prior learning through either CLEP or Assessment of Prior Learning (APL). CLEP is less expensive and over thirty subject exams are available. To gain college credit for prior learning in other areas, you must prepare an APL application, which will be evaluated by SMWC faculty.

### CLEP FEES AND TESTING PROCESS

The fee to take a CLEP exam is less than \$100 (payable to CLEP), plus a small administrative fee to the test center. For an application form and list of test sites in your area, contact the WED Office or visit [www.collegeboard.com/clep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep). Be sure to designate Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (#1704) as the "score recipient" on the application form. Otherwise another test center may require an additional fee to send your test scores to us.

### SOME FINAL TIPS

Discuss CLEP possibilities with your academic advisor. As with APL, explore this option early in your studies. Take only one exam at a time and begin with your strongest subject. Books with sample questions to familiarize you with formats are available in libraries and bookstores; sample tests can be downloaded from the CLEP website. Don't take an exam if you already have college credit in that subject; it can't be counted twice on your transcript.

If you would like to take a CLEP exam at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, call the Learning Resource Center at (812)535-5271 or email <http://www.smwc.edu/lrc>