

Pennsylvania Statewide Transfer and Articulation System Uniform Standards for Credit for Prior Learning Exams

Social and Behavioral Sciences Exams

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Introduction

In 2017 the Pennsylvania general assembly enacted legislation adding a section to the Pennsylvania Public School Code, 24 P.S. § 20-2004-C(d), requiring public institutions of higher education to:

- (1) Adopt and make public uniform standards for determining academic credit for prior learning as outlined in paragraph (4) within 18 months of the effective date of this subsection.
- (2) Agree to award academic credit for prior learning, which is determined to meet the standards established under section 2004-C(c)(6) and apply the credit toward graduation, unless prohibited by external accreditation or licensure.

This document establishes the uniform standard minimum scores for which all PA Transfer System participating institutions will award academic credit pursuant to 24 P.S. § 20-2004-C(d).

During the standard setting process, committees of faculty and personnel from Transfer System institutions developed minimum score standards for which any participating member of the PA College Transfer System will award credit, as well as additional guidance and recommendations for courses that institutions may offer as equivalencies for exam scores at or above the minimum. The course equivalency recommendations are considered guidance by the Oversight Committee and may vary between institutions in accordance with their course catalog and program design.

Uniform Standard Minimum Scores for Awarding Academic Credit

Exam	Minimum Score to Receive Credit
AP Exams	
AP Comparative Government and Politics	3
AP United States Government and Politics	3
AP Psychology	3
AP Macroeconomics	3
AP Microeconomics	3
CLEP Exams	
CLEP American Government	50
CLEP Human Growth and Development	50
CLEP Introduction to Educational Psychology	50
CLEP Introduction to Psychology	50
CLEP Introduction to Sociology	50
CLEP Principles of Macroeconomics	50
CLEP Principles of Microeconomics	50
CLEP Social Sciences and History	50

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP Comparative Government and Politics Course Content

Students compare and contrast political institutions and processes across six countries (Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria) and analyze and interpret data to derive generalizations.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
- Political Institutions
- Citizens, Society, and the State
- Political and Economic Change
- Public Policy

The emphasis should be on broad trends that allow comparison, rather than on details that are unrelated to larger trends and concepts.

Course Goals

- Students successfully completing this course will:
- Compare and contrast political concepts, themes, and generalizations;
- Describe and explain typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their consequences;
- Compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries to derive generalizations; and
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 3 would typically equate to a college level comparative government and politics course.

AP United States Government and Politics

AP U.S. Government and Politics Course Content

COURSE UNITS

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course is organized around five units, which focus on major topics in U.S. government and politics. The units are:

- Foundations of American Democracy
- Interaction Among Branches of Government
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs; and
- Political Participation

Foundational documents and Supreme Court cases are an integral part of the course and necessary for students to understand the philosophical underpinnings, significant legal precedents, and political values of the U.S. political system and may serve as the focus of AP Exam questions. The course requires study of:

- 9 foundational documents, including the U.S. Constitution
- 15 landmark Supreme Court cases

POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH OR APPLIED CIVICS PROJECT

The required project adds a civic component to the course, engaging students in exploring how they can affect, and are affected by, government and politics throughout their lives. The project might have students collect data on a teacher-approved political science topic, participate in a community service activity, or observe and report on the policymaking process of a governing body. Students should plan a presentation that relates their experiences or findings to what they are learning in the course.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES

Practice 1: Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context

Practice 2: Apply Supreme Court decisions

Practice 3: Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics

Practice 4: Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources

Practice 5: Develop an argument in essay format

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 3 would typically equate to a college level US Government and Politics course.

AP Psychology

AP Psychology Course Content

The AP Psychology course includes the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes represented by the following topics:

- History and Approaches
- Research Methods
- Biological Bases of Behavior
- Sensation and Perception
- States of Consciousness
- Learning
- Cognition
- Motivation and Emotion
- Developmental Psychology
- Personality
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Abnormal Behavior
- Treatment of Abnormal Behavior
- Social Psychology

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 3 would typically equate to a college level general or introductory psychology course.

AP Macroeconomics

AP Macroeconomics Course Content

The AP Macroeconomics course provides students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics and how economists use those principles to examine aggregate economic behavior. Students learn how the measures of economic performance, such as gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, and unemployment are constructed and how to apply them to evaluate the macroeconomic conditions of an economy. The course recognizes the global nature of economics and provides ample opportunities to examine the impact of international trade and finance on national economies. Various economic schools of thought are introduced as students consider solutions to economic problems.

Topic Outline for AP Macroeconomics

Basic Economic Concepts

- Measurement of Economic Performance
 - National income accounts
 - Inflation measurement and adjustment
 - Unemployment
- National Income and Price Determination
 - Aggregate demand
 - Aggregate supply
 - Macroeconomics equilibrium
- Financial Sector

- Money, banking, and financial markets
- Loanable funds market
- Central bank and control of the money supply
- Stabilization Policies
 - Fiscal and monetary policies
 - The Phillips curve
- Economic Growth
 - Definition of economic growth
 - Determinants of economic growth
 - Growth policy
- Open Economy: International Trade and Finance
 - Balance of payments accounts
 - Foreign exchange market
 - Imports, exports, and financial capital flows
 - Relationships between international and domestic financial and goods markets

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 3 would typically equate to a college level principles of macroeconomics course.

AP Microeconomics

AP Microeconomics Course Content

The AP Microeconomics course provides students with an understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. The course examines the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit-maximizing firms under various market structures. Students evaluate the efficiency of the outcomes with respect to price, output, consumer surplus, and producer surplus. They examine the behaviors of households and businesses in factor markets, and learn how the determination of factor prices, wages, interest, and rent influence the distribution of income in a market economy. There are ample opportunities to consider instances in which private markets may fail to allocate resources efficiently and examine various public policy alternatives aimed at improving the efficiency of private markets.

Topic Outline for AP Microeconomics

Basic Economic Concepts

- The Nature and Functions of Product Markets
 - Supply and demand
 - Theory of consumer choice
 - Production and costs
 - Firm behavior and market structure
- Factor Markets
 - Derived Factor Demand
 - Marginal revenue product

- Hiring decisions in the markets for labor and capital
- Market distribution of income
- Market Failure and the Role of Government
 - Externalities
 - Public goods
 - Public policy to promote competition
 - Income distribution

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 3 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 3 would typically equate to college level principles of microeconomics course.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Exams

CLEP American Government

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the American Government exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities in the approximate proportions indicated.

- Knowledge of American government and politics (about 55%–60% of the exam)
- Understanding of typical patterns of political processes and behavior (including the components of the behavioral situation of a political actor), the principles used to explain or justify various governmental structures and procedures (about 30%–35% of the exam)
- Analysis and interpretation of simple data that are relevant to American government and politics (10%–15% of the exam)

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level American government course.

CLEP Human Growth and Development

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Human Growth and Development exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terminology
- Understanding of generally accepted concepts and principles
- Understanding of theories and recurrent developmental issues
- Applications of knowledge to particular problems or situations

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level human growth and development course or general elective if the span of human growth and development covered is different at your institution.

CLEP Introduction to Educational Psychology

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Introduction to Educational Psychology exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge and comprehension of basic facts, concepts, and principles
- Association of ideas with given theoretical positions
- Awareness of important influences on learning and instruction
- Familiarity with research and statistical concepts and procedures
- Ability to apply various concepts and theories as they apply to particular teaching situations and problems

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level introductory educational psychology course or a general elective.

CLEP Introduction to Psychology

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Introductory Psychology exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge of terminology, principles, and theory
- Ability to comprehend, evaluate, and analyze problem situations
- Ability to apply knowledge to new situations

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level general or introductory psychology course.

CLEP Introduction to Sociology

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Introductory Sociology exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of these abilities.

- Identification of specific names, facts, and concepts from sociological literature
- Understanding of relationships between concepts, empirical generalizations, and theoretical propositions of sociology
- Understanding of the methods by which sociological relationships are established
- Application of concepts, propositions, and methods to hypothetical situations
- Interpretation of tables and charts

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level introductory sociology course.

CLEP Principles of Macroeconomics

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Principles of Macroeconomics examination require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Understanding of important economic terms and concepts
- Interpretation and manipulation of economic graphs
- Interpretation and evaluation of economic data
- Application of simple economic models

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level principles macroeconomics course.

CLEP Principles of Microeconomics

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the Principles of Microeconomics exam require test takers to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Understanding of important economic terms and concepts
- Interpretation and manipulation of economic graphs
- Interpretation and evaluation of economic data
- Application of simple economic models

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level principles of microeconomics course.

CLEP Social Sciences and History

Knowledge and Skills Required

The Social Sciences and History examination requires candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Familiarity with terminology, facts, conventions, methodology, concepts, principles, generalizations, and theories
- Ability to understand, interpret, and analyze graphic, pictorial, and written material
- Ability to apply abstractions to particulars and to apply hypotheses, concepts, theories, and principles to given data
- Ability to assess evidence and data, to make comparisons, and to draw conclusions

Minimum Score

Credit will be awarded for a score of 50 or higher.

Rationale

This standard is in line with College Board and American Council on Education's minimum score recommendations <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/setting-credit-placement-policy/credit-granting-recommendations>

Additional Credit & Course Equivalency Guidance

A score of 50 would typically equate to a college level social science and history course and/or general elective.