

Quick Guide for Earning Credit By Standardized Test

How can a student earn credit for previous knowledge about a subject area?

Standardized tests are a great way for students to earn college credit using their prior knowledge in a subject area. Test must be taken before a student has completed his/her first year at CIU. Students would want to review the transfer policy to see what test and subject area they would need to attempt before they have been here for a year.

Standardized testing does not count toward the residency requirement for the degree (please read policy for more details). CLEP and DSST/DANTES credits must be awarded prior to a student's graduating semester.

- Maximum of 30 credits can be awarded towards a bachelor's degree
- Maximum of 15 credits can be awarded towards an associate's degree

Does CIU award credit based on life experience?

No, CIU does not award credit based on life experience. Instead, students may use standardized testing to prove their knowledge on a particular subject.

These test can only be taken during high school

- Advanced Placement Exams (AP)
- Cambridge International Examinations
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB)

Other Tests/Exams

- [The American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)
- [College-Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#) This exams various subject. It is the most popular exam, and it usually is accepted by most institutions. Service members and Veterans can usually get this paid for through the military.
- [Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. Formerly called DANTES Subject Standardized Tests \(DSST\)](#) This is a test for service members and Veterans to assess their prior learning.

How do they send the scores to CIU?

All official test scores need to come directly from the testing agency to Columbia International University. We do not accept the scores from a high school or college transcript. The scores must come directly from the testing agency. Please send test score transcripts to the Admissions Office for new incoming students and the University of the Registrar for current students.