



MODERN STATES
EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Freshman Year for Free

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STEPS TO COMPLETE PROGRAM

Sign up for Modern States
and enroll in a course

Complete coursework and
practice questions

Request a CLEP voucher
code from the Modern
States website

Register for an exam and use
your voucher code as
payment

Contact a test center to
schedule your exam



MODERN STATES

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EARN FREE COLLEGE CREDIT

A new, high-quality path to free college credit has launched this year. The goal of the program, dubbed “Freshman Year for Free,” is to make college more accessible and affordable for high school students, college students and adult learners, including active duty military personnel, their families, and veterans.

WHO IS MAKING THIS POSSIBLE?

Modern States, the New York-based charitable organization behind the effort, has funded production of online courses taught by college professors. The courses prepare students for introductory College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams in Economics, Sociology, Algebra, and other areas.

HOW DOES THIS LEAD TO COLLEGE CREDIT?

The CLEP exams, administered by the College Board, are accepted for credit by more than 2,900 colleges and universities. To launch its program, Modern States is partnering with high schools and colleges that are making students aware of the opportunity.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

This is the first time there have been courses (see list below) taught by top quality college professors for CLEP subjects. Also, Modern States is paying the \$87 test fee and scheduling fee for students who enroll in the courses and take the exams. The benefit for participating institutions is that this creates a free on-ramp to college that facilitates learning and earning credits.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Modern States will pay for you to take the CLEP exam. After you complete the coursework and practice questions, [request](#) a CLEP voucher code from the Modern States website. There are no prerequisites for the 32 courses that are available, and all of them are self-paced. Some of the courses stem from a partnership between Modern States and edX, the online education platform created by Harvard and MIT.

COURSES AND CLEP EXAMS

Financial Accounting, Information Systems, Intro Business Law, Principles of Management and Principles of Marketing

American Literature, Analyzing & Interpreting Literature, College Composition, English Literature and Humanities

American Government, History of the US I & II, Human Growth & Development, Intro to Educational Psychology, Intro Psychology and Intro Sociology

Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Social Sciences & History and Western Civilization I & II

Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, College Algebra, College Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Precalculus

French Language, German Language and Spanish Language

Modern States Education Alliance is a non-profit dedicated to making a high quality college education free of cost and accessible to any person who seeks one. Its founding principle is that access to affordable education is fundamental to any philosophy that respects all individuals, and fundamental to the American dream.

Modern States' initial program, "*Freshman Year for Free*," is intended to let students earn up to one year of college credit without tuition or textbook expense.

Modern States is partnering with edX, the leading online learning platform founded by Harvard and MIT. Modern States has given edX the money to complete the development of many of its high quality freshman college courses, taught by some of the world's leading universities and professors. Each course includes online lectures, quizzes, tests, and other features. Textbooks and materials will also be provided online, free of charge.

The courses are designed to prepare students for the major "Advanced Placement" (AP)* or "College Level Examination Program" (CLEP)* tests offered by the College Board, including subjects such as History, Computer Science, Math, English, Spanish and Economics.

According to the College Board, more than 2,900 traditional colleges and universities already offer credit to students who pass AP and CLEP tests. Students can take one course or many courses from Modern States, and then – by passing the AP or CLEP exams – can begin with up to a full year's worth of credit after they enroll in traditional college, making Modern States an "on-ramp" to college. Modern States hopes to provide links for students to tutoring, mentoring and college advising groups as well.

Modern States works like a global digital public library of great college courses. Enrollment in Modern States courses will be "massively open" to all people without regard to age, location, family income, nationality, prior credits or other factors. The courses may also provide a critical "road back" for students who have left the traditional US college system. Modern States is not in opposition to any traditional college and recognizes that a four-year residential experience at an established university is the preferred alternative. However, such an opportunity is out of reach for many people, given the high cost of tuition and other factors.

Steve Klinsky, Founder and CEO, designed and funded Modern States and its "Freshman Year for Free" philanthropic initiative, which has grown as an alliance with the guidance and support of other education and foundation leaders. College systems with over two million students have affiliated with Modern States Education Alliance, including systems in New York, Texas, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee.

Along with creating Modern States, Steve also serves as chairman of the advisory board to Harvard's Program for Education Policy and Governance; was a founder of New York's first ever charter school (the Sisulu Walker School in Harlem); and founded other charter schools and after school programs.

Steve designed and endowed the Klinsky Professorship of Leadership and Progress at Harvard Law School; has established medical clinics in the Central African Republic in partnership with the International Rescue Committee; and is an active supporter of other charities.

Working closely with Klinsky is Pulitzer Prize winner David Vise, Executive Director of Modern States. The author of four books, Vise was a reporter at The Washington Post for more than 20 years before joining the investment firm New Mountain Capital as a Senior Advisor.

Modern States actively seeks to partner with others who share its goals. For more information, visit www.modernstates.org or contact David Vise at David@ModernStates.org.

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Making a dent in student debt with ‘Freshman Year for Free’

By **Michelle Singletary** August 24

There are two words that can rock people with regret.

Just ask them about their “student loans.” Then watch their faces. They will wince as they disclose how much education debt they’re carrying.

Politicians have been promising to fix the growing loan crisis for years, but outstanding student debt has now mushroomed to \$1.4 trillion. Meanwhile, a college degree has become out of reach for so many — unless they’re willing to go deep into debt.

But Steve Klinsky, founder and chief executive of the private equity firm New Mountain Capital, has invested his own money in a solution that will help lots of people get through college with less debt.

Klinsky founded Modern States Education Alliance, a New York City-based nonprofit that wants to make college more affordable through its “Freshman Year for Free” program.

The philanthropic program is open to anyone — high school students, military personnel or adult learners — with no limit on age, location or income. All you need is an Internet connection. It’s called “Freshman Year for Free” because students have access to free online courses that prepare them to pass Advanced Placement (AP) exams and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, which are both offered through the College Board. Students who score well on the subject-area exams can earn enough college credit to knock out their freshman year, potentially saving as much as 25 percent on tuition.

And there’s more: Textbooks and materials are free. And for the first 10,000 test takers, Modern States is giving out vouchers to pay the exam fees. The College Board charges \$92 for each AP exam and \$85 per CLEP test. You have to go

through the coursework to get a voucher, but you aren't limited in how many you can get. You can register and take the self-paced courses at modernstates.org.

"We are trying to create an on-ramp for people who want an education," Klinsky said in an interview.

You'll find many more options for CLEP classes on the Modern States site, and that's a good thing. AP exams are offered only in May, but the lesser known CLEP tests can be taken year-round, making them more accessible to nontraditional students. Modern States teamed up with edX.org, a nonprofit founded by Harvard University and MIT that also offers an online platform of free classes.

After working 10 years as a correctional officer, Lester Felton, 32, wanted to change careers. He's now going to Rowan College in New Jersey to become a history teacher. With help from Modern States, he passed the CLEP exam for Western Civilization II and is now studying principles of management. He plans to take eight more courses.

"There's nothing like being able to better yourself with somebody giving you something and not asking for anything in return," Felton said. "I appreciate that. I needed that."

If you're wondering how good the courses are, here's proof: During the pilot phase, in which 150 students went through various CLEP courses, 70 percent passed their exams, according to David Vise, executive director of Modern States and a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who worked at The Washington Post.

Home-schooled student William Rush, 17, is on track to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree, in part because of the courses he's been taking through Modern States. The Vancouver, Wash., resident has used Modern States material to pass five CLEP exams, and he got vouchers for four of the test fees, his mother said.

"It means so much to us," Melissa Rush said. "In a way, it feels like they have partnered with us, to benefit William."

The program's freshman-level college courses are taught by professors from top-ranked schools such as Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Rutgers and George Washington University.

Concerned about the quality of the courses because they're not taught in a classroom? You shouldn't be, says Paul Schiff Berman, a former dean of George Washington University Law School, who developed and teaches the "Introduction to Business Law" course. Berman oversaw more than 100 online degree and certificate programs at George Washington.

"If the choice is a 300-person lecture course in a giant lecture hall with a mediocre professor or a really well-taught interactive online course, I'm confident the online experience will be better educationally," Berman said.

Since CLEP credits are accepted at 2,900 universities worldwide, the Freshman Year for Free program is a viable way to cut costs, said Rebecca Lubot, an adjunct lecturer at Rutgers, who recently finished filming the American Government CLEP course. To see which colleges accept CLEP credits go to <https://clep.collegeboard.org>.

“This program is a game-changer,” Vise said.

If it will reduce the amount of debt students take on, I believe it is, too.

**Modern States Education Alliance
CLEP Course Catalog**

Course	Section Topics	Professor	Institution
1 Financial Accounting	Business & Management	Brian Kelly, Ph.D.	State University of New York
2 Information Systems	Business & Management	Gregory Gardner, Ph.D.	State University of New York
3 Introductory Business Law	Business & Management	Paul Schiff Berman, Ph.D.	The George Washington University
4 Principles of Management	Business & Management	Gregory Gardner, Ph.D.	State University of New York
5 Principles of Marketing	Business & Management	Malcolm Kirkup	University of Edinburgh
6 American Literature	Composition and Literature	Dana (Dean) Simpson, Ph.D.	Tufts University
7 Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	Composition and Literature	Dana (Dean) Simpson, Ph.D.	Tufts University
8 College Composition	Composition and Literature	Dana (Dean) Simpson, Ph.D.	Tufts University
9 English Literature	Composition and Literature	Erika Figel Roliz, Ph.D.	City University of New York
10 Humanities	Composition and Literature	Jose A. Mazzotti, Ph.D.	Tufts University
11 American Government	History and Social Sciences	Rebecca C. Lubot, Ph.D.	Rutgers University
12 History of the United States I	History and Social Sciences	Elvin T. Ramos, Ph.D.	St. John's University
13 History of the United States II	History and Social Sciences	Stephen Sullivan, Ph.D.	Columbia University
14 Human Growth and Development	History and Social Sciences	Lisa Aronson Fontes, Ph.D.	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
15 Introduction to Educational Psychology	History and Social Sciences	Vonetta Kalieta, Ph.D.	Monmouth University
16 Introductory Psychology	History and Social Sciences	David Sitt, Ph.D.	Baruch College
17 Introductory Sociology	History and Social Sciences	Dr. Joanna Hadjicostandi	University of Texas
18 Principles of Macroeconomics	History and Social Sciences	Helena Keefe, Ph.D.	Fairfield University
19 Principles of Microeconomics	History and Social Sciences	Helena Keefe, Ph.D.	Fairfield University
20 Social Sciences and History	History and Social Sciences	Ethan Hawkley, Ph.D.	Wesley College
21 Western Civilization I	History and Social Sciences	David Flaten, Ph.D.	State University of New York
22 Western Civilization II	History and Social Sciences	Robert Clemm, Ph.D.	Grove City College and SNHU
23 Biology	Science and Mathematics	Athena Anderson, Ph.D.	Purdue University
24 Calculus	Science and Mathematics	James Murphy, Ph.D.	Johns Hopkins University
25 Chemistry	Science and Mathematics	Ruben Savizky, Ph.D.	Columbia University
26 College Algebra	Science and Mathematics	James Murphy, Ph.D.	Johns Hopkins University
27 College Mathematics	Science and Mathematics	James Murphy, Ph.D.	Johns Hopkins University
28 Natural Sciences	Science and Mathematics	Amy Nielsen, Ph.D.	Washington State University
29 Precalculus	Science and Mathematics	James Murphy, Ph.D.	Johns Hopkins University
30 French Language	World Languages	Romain Chareyron, Ph.D.	Washington State University
31 German Language	World Languages	Tania Hinderberger-Burton, Ph.D.	American University
32 Spanish Language	World Languages	Maria Isabel Castro, Ph.D.	Boston College and Tufts University
Overview			
Passing the CLEP and Learning with Modern States			

Modern States Education Alliance
AP Course Catalog

Course	Section Topics	Professor	Institution
1 English Literature Composition	English	Maggie Sokolik	BerkeleyX
2 Human Geography	History & Social Science	Dana Browning	UTAustinX
3 Macroeconomics	History & Social Science	Dr. Clark Ross	DavidsonNext
4 Microeconomics	History & Social Science	Jonathan Gruber	MIT
5 Psychology	History & Social Science	Steven J. Barnes	UBCx
6 Calculus 1A	Math & Computer Science	David Jerison	MITx
7 Calculus 1B	Math & Computer Science	David Jerison	MITx
8 Computer Science A: Java Programming	Math & Computer Science	Yosef Skolnick	CooperUnion
9 Biology	Sciences	Lee Ferguson	RiceX
10 Environmental Science	Sciences	Reid Whitaker	RiceX
11 Physics 1	Sciences	Gigi Nevils	RiceX
12 Physics 2	Sciences	Reid Whitaker	RiceX
13 Physics C	Sciences	Boris Korsunsky	WestonHS
14 Italian Language and Culture	World Languages & Cultures	Daniela Bartalesi-Graf	Wellesley College
15 Spanish Language and Culture	World Languages & Cultures	Molly Monet-Viera	BUx



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