

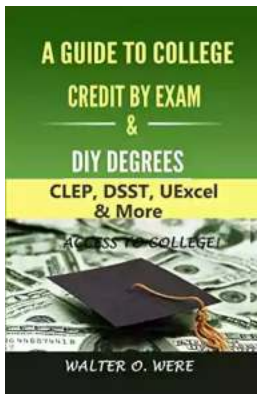
# Unlocking Your Potential: A Comprehensive Guide to Credit By Exam and External DIY Degree Programs

In today's fast-paced world, traditional education pathways may not always be the most suitable option for everyone. Many individuals are seeking alternative ways to earn college credits and degrees, allowing them to tailor their educational journey and unlock new opportunities. One such pathway is through Credit By Exam (CBE) and External DIY Degree Programs, which offer flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and the chance to accelerate your learning. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore these alternative routes, shed light on their potential benefits, and provide you with the tools to make informed decisions on your educational future.

## What is Credit By Exam?

Credit By Exam (CBE) is a program that allows students to earn college credits by demonstrating their knowledge and proficiency in a particular subject area. Instead of taking a traditional course, students can independently prepare for an exam that aligns with the material and learning outcomes of the desired course. Passing the exam successfully grants the student credit for that course, bypassing the need for traditional classroom attendance.

CBE programs are usually offered by universities, colleges, and educational institutions. They typically accept a wide range of exams, including College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), Excelsior College Examinations (ECE), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.



## Guide to Credit By Exam and External DIY Degree Programs: CLEP, DSST, UExcel & More

by Walter Were (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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### Advantages of Credit By Exam

- 1. Flexibility:** One of the main advantages of Credit By Exam programs is the flexibility they offer. Instead of attending classes at set times, students can study and prepare for exams at their own pace and according to their schedules. This flexibility is particularly helpful for individuals with work or family commitments.
- 2. Cost-Effectiveness:** Credit By Exam programs can save students significant amounts of money. By earning credits through exams, students can bypass paying for tuition fees associated with traditional courses. This not only reduces the financial burden but also shortens the time required to complete a degree, allowing individuals to enter the workforce sooner.
- 3. Accelerated Learning:** Credit By Exam programs enable students to accelerate their learning and progress through their degrees more quickly. By passing exams and earning credits, students can skip introductory or lower-level courses,

focusing on more advanced subjects. This can help motivated individuals complete their degrees in a shorter time frame.

## **The Process of Credit By Exam**

1. Research: Before engaging in Credit By Exam, it is essential to research and identify the exams accepted by your desired college or institution. Obtain a list of exams, their requirements, and whether they offer college credit upon successful completion.

2. Preparation: Once you have identified the exams, it is important to prepare thoroughly. Gather study resources, textbooks, online courses, and practice tests to ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

3. Exam Registration: Register for the exam(s) at your chosen institution and pay the necessary fees. Be aware of any registration deadlines and requirements.

4. Exam Day: On the day of the exam, arrive prepared and well-rested. Follow the exam guidelines and instructions carefully. Remember to manage your time effectively during the exam.

5. Score Reporting: After completing the exam, your score will be reported to the institution within a specified timeframe. Verify with the institution on when and how you will receive your results.

## **External DIY Degree Programs**

In addition to Credit By Exam programs, there are also External DIY Degree Programs that offer alternative routes to earning a degree. These programs enable individuals to design and complete their degrees without attending traditional classes or relying solely on exams. External DIY Degree Programs often incorporate various methods of earning credit, including portfolio

assessments, online courses, prior learning assessments, and experiential learning evaluations.

These programs, offered by institutions such as Excelsior College and Thomas Edison State University, recognize that individuals acquire knowledge and skills through various life experiences, work experiences, and self-study. Instead of disregarding these valuable experiences, External DIY Degree Programs allow individuals to showcase their abilities and earn credits towards their degrees.

## **Benefits of External DIY Degree Programs**

1. **Customization:** External DIY Degree Programs offer a high level of customization. Individuals can tailor their degrees to match their unique interests, skills, and career aspirations. This allows for greater flexibility and relevance in their educational journey.
2. **Real-World Experience:** By recognizing prior learning and work experiences, External DIY Degree Programs provide individuals with the opportunity to translate their real-world experiences into college credits. This recognition acknowledges the valuable knowledge and skills gained outside of traditional classroom settings.
3. **Self-Paced Learning:** Like Credit By Exam programs, External DIY Degree Programs allow individuals to learn at their own pace. This flexibility is beneficial for students who prefer a non-traditional learning environment or have time constraints due to work or personal commitments.

## **The External DIY Degree Process**

1. **Evaluation of Prior Learning:** External DIY Degree Programs typically start with an evaluation of your prior learning experiences. This can include reviewing work

experience, portfolios, certifications, military service, or any other relevant knowledge or skills that you have acquired throughout your life.

2. **Credit Evaluation:** After the evaluation process, you will receive a credit evaluation report, indicating the number of credits you have earned from your prior learning experiences. These credits can be applied towards your chosen degree program.

3. **Course Selection:** Once you have received your credit evaluation report, you can choose the courses that complement your existing credits and align with your educational goals. Some programs may require a minimum number of credits to be taken from the institution as per degree requirements.

4. **Course Completion:** Enroll in and complete the selected courses. These can include online courses, independent studies, or even traditional classroom-based courses if desired.

5. **Degree Completion:** Upon completing the required courses and earning the necessary credits, you will meet the degree requirements and be eligible for graduation.

## **The Future of Alternative Education**

As the demand for flexibility, affordability, and personalized learning experiences continues to grow, Credit By Exam and External DIY Degree Programs are likely to gain even more popularity. These alternative pathways offer individuals the opportunity to craft their educational journeys, maximize their time and resources, and gain recognition for the knowledge and skills they possess.

It's important to note that not all institutions and employers may fully recognize or accept credits earned through CBE or DIY Degree Programs, so it is essential to

research and understand the credibility and recognition of the programs offered before committing to them.

, Credit By Exam and External DIY Degree Programs are empowering individuals to take control of their education, making it accessible, flexible, and tailored to their needs. By leveraging these alternative pathways, you can unlock your potential, accelerate your learning, and pave the way for future success.



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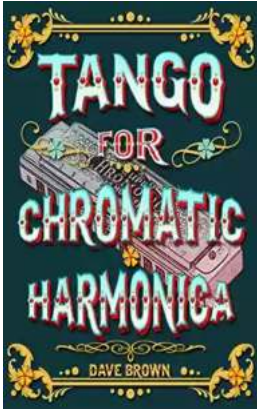
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Learn how to save on college tuition costs and accelerate your undergraduate degree through credit by exam. Credit by exam is an option to earn undergraduate college course credits by taking a single standard exam. Credits are transferrable to thousands of US colleges. Additionally, discover the concept of external degrees, also known as do-it-yourself (DIY) degrees. DIY degrees present a solution for many non-traditional college students who are constricted by barriers of limited time, financial resources, and the challenge of balancing work, family, and studies. Also learn about the topic of college accreditation - how

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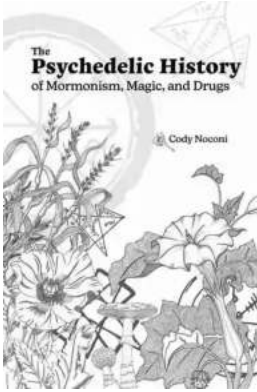
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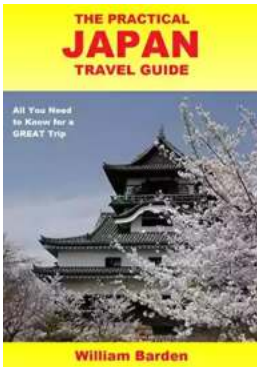
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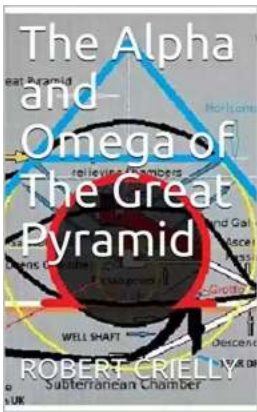
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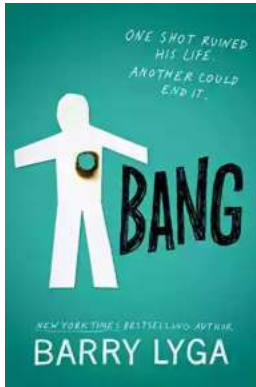
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