

How to include CLEPPing in your High School Schedule

There are so many ways to combine HS and CLEPPing, it really comes down to a personal choice, but here are some ideas to get you started. You can also do a combination of these methods for each different subject depending on his strengths and interests.

Option 1

Study the subject normally, then spend another 2-4 weeks prepping for the CLEPPing. For even more *bang for your buck*, plan your school year to concentrate on studying subjects where cleps overlap your high school graduation requirements. For instance, you might choose as your science Environmental Science or Astronomy because there are coordinating CLEPs for them. Study the course as you normally would, but plan in an additional 2-4 weeks for Clep Prep at the end.

Note: If starting Cleps in the upper HS years, consider offering a slightly heavier load of 7-8 HS credits per year. Again, Clep at the end of the course. We actually started cleps in 7th grade but did a heavier load in 9th and 10th grade so his HS requirements were met by the time he entered PSEO in 11th.

Option 2

Aside from Math and English which need repetition, consider focusing on just one course at a time instead of 6 or 7 classes. Some colleges (Augsburg) are now offering this option. Intensely study one subject for 2-4 weeks, test and move on to another subject.

Option 3

Fast track and just study for the CLEP. You could count study time for the high school class. You might consider this option for these reasons:

- a. He has already completed a clepable course and now just needs brushing up for the exam. Analyzing Lit, College Math and English Comp fall into this category for older students. Or, maybe he took American Gov before ever hearing about CLEP. If so, make time in your HS schedule to include 2-4 weeks of test prep for these subjects.
- b. The subject may be something that is usually taken as a General in college and often a stand-alone course – doesn't build upon itself like math or English – so it can be fast-tracked rather than requiring a full semester to complete (ex: Psychology). Or, he might have prior knowledge attained from an outside job or hobby that has given him the knowledge usually covered in an introductory class (ex: Intro to Business or Intro to Computers).
- c. You may also want to take a closer look at what you are requiring for HS. If he is headed for med school, does he really need a whole year of ancient history? Perhaps, he can fast track Western Civ instead.

It is always a good idea to consider his ending college and their requirements. How many CLEPs do they allow to transfer in? Many colleges routinely accept 30 CLEP/DSST credits (one year), so consider this a goal. I know, lots to think about! Sometimes you just have to dive in and get started and find out what works.