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Pearson and Excelsior College Launch UExcel[®] Credit-By-Examination Program

Students can satisfy graduation requirements more quickly while saving significant money on tuition costs

BLOOMINGTON, Minn., November 11, 2009 – Two leading education providers, Pearson and Excelsior College, today announced the launch of UExcel[®], a new credit-by-examination program. UExcel provides students the ability to earn college credit by taking computer-based examinations in a number of subjects. Excelsior College, an accredited, nonprofit distance education institution, will report this credit on a transcript, which can be submitted for transfer credit to the college or university of the student's choosing. UExcel allows students to meet undergraduate degree requirements more quickly while saving significant dollars in tuition costs.

Created by Pearson and Excelsior College, UExcel exams have been evaluated and approved by the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) for the award of college credit. Pearson is the global leader in developing educational products for children, schools, universities, adults, and corporations. Excelsior College is one of the nation's leaders in distance education with more than 38 years of experience offering widely recognized credit-by-exam and [online education](#) programs.

"Students and parents around the world are struggling to pay for a semester's worth of college tuition, let alone an entire two- or four-year education," said Randy Trask, vice president of market development, Pearson VUE. "The UExcel program is designed to help students quickly and affordably earn college credit for knowledge they already have, or are willing to obtain through self study."

In addition to time and cost savings, there are many other unique advantages to participating in the UExcel credit-by-examination program:

- **Global Reach** – UExcel exams are available at thousands of Pearson VUE test centers around the world, making them convenient and affordable for not only traditional high school students, but also homeschooled students, those serving in the military, and international students looking to study in the United States.
- **Immediate Test Results** – Students receive immediate test results after completing an exam and can later request an official transcript from Excelsior College showing their letter grade and credit earned.
- **No Hidden Costs** – Unlike other credit-by-examination options on the market today, UExcel exams fees are all-inclusive. There are no hidden administration costs, such as a "seat" fee.
- **Other Benefits** – The UExcel program provides students with a number of other benefits including test preparation resources such as practice exams, free content guides that outline the areas covered by the exam, and recommended textbooks, as well as industry leading customer service and support.



“Excelsior’s decades of experience and reputation in examination development and [online education](#) combined with ACE evaluation provides colleges and universities with assurance that the credit awarded is an accurate measure of expected college-level learning,” said Dr. Patrick Jones, dean of assessment at Excelsior College. “The cost benefit to students taking UExcel examinations can be significant. For employers who provide education reimbursement, UExcel can extend the reach of this valuable employee benefit.”

“UExcel has been created to provide greater choice and value for students who are looking for credit-by-examination options that provide maximum flexibility and geographic reach at minimal cost,” said Trask. “And it’s not only students who benefit from the UExcel program. Colleges and universities accepting UExcel credit gain a competitive advantage by recruiting the bright, motivated students our program attracts both abroad and here in the United States. Institutions also can use UExcel test results to determine a student’s academic readiness or placement within a particular program of study.”

UExcel offers students the opportunity to earn credits in six college-level subjects: Calculus, Writing, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, and Statistics. In the near future, UExcel will increase its offerings, including a Spanish exam set to launch in its beta phase later this year. For more information and to learn about new exams as they launch in the future, please visit www.uexceltest.com.

About UExcel

UExcel is a credit-by-examination program that gives students the chance to turn their knowledge into college credit. An alliance between Pearson and Excelsior College, UExcel offers computer-based examinations that can be taken at thousands of test centers around the world. UExcel examinations feature immediate scoring, grading, and learning resources, and are ideal for independent learners, international students, or anyone else who would like to accelerate the completion of their degree or reduce the overall cost of their tuition.

About Pearson

Pearson is an international media company with market-leading businesses in education, business information, and consumer publishing. Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, and Longman are just a few of Pearson’s prestigious education brands. Pearson VUE is the computer-based testing business of Pearson.

About Excelsior College

Excelsior College (<http://www.excelsior.edu>) is an accredited, nonprofit distance learning institution that focuses on removing obstacles to the educational goals of adult learners. Founded in 1971 and located in Albany, NY, Excelsior is a proven leader in the assessment and validation of student knowledge. It offers more efficient and affordable access to degree completion through multiple avenues: its own online courses and college-level proficiency examinations, and the acceptance in transfer of credit from other colleges and universities as well as recognized corporate and military training programs. Excelsior College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.