

**DANTES**  
DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

## DSST vs. CLEP: What's the Difference?

By Demetra King, DANTES Exams, Program Manager

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Whether a Service member is interested in earning college credit or just getting started with education, it is important to understand what types of exams are available, how they differ and to know that they can't "CLEP a DANTES". DANTES sponsors the Credit-by-Exam Program which includes two separate groups: DSST (formerly DANTES Standardized Subject Tests) and CLEP (College Level Examination Program). Although DSST and CLEP are different products, both offer the same end result – providing college credit that Service members can use towards their college degree without going into a classroom. The CLEP and DSST exams are funded by DANTES for Service members

at National Test Centers (NTCs) located on and off base around the world for completing degree requirements.

### How are DSST and CLEP exams the same?

These exams are a form of prior learning assessment that test an individual's knowledge gained outside of the traditional college or university classroom. These exams have been evaluated and assigned college credit recommendations by the American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service. Traditional students and adult learners may fulfill degree requirements at over 2,000

Continued on page 2

institutions in the ACE College and University Partnership network that recognize and consider these exams for recommended college credit. Students who take and successfully pass DSST and CLEP exams can earn 3-9 semester hours toward completing their degree.

## How are DSST and CLEP Different?

**Testing Agencies** - DSST exams are offered by Prometric while CLEP exams are offered by the College Board. DANTES contracts with each testing agency to provide the exams at National Test Centers (NTCs) at no cost to Service members.

**Test Titles** – Both Prometric and College Board offer exams that cover general education subject area requirements. While a few exam titles overlap slightly, it is important to note that each testing agency offers exams in different subjects and at varying levels. Students are responsible for checking with their college or university to find out which exams are accepted for college credit as it applies to their degree plan.

**Student Registration Process** – These exams are offered by different testing agencies that use separate

registration processes.

**Access to Study Materials** – Study materials are available for both CLEP and DSST exams to assist students in preparing for taking exams. See the Counselor Resources section of this DIB issue on page 3 for more information on the available study material. Also, visit each testing agency's test prep resources on their website:

DSST: <http://getcollegecredit.com/testprep>

CLEP: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/test-preparation>

**National Test Center Process** – Education Centers need to ensure that agreements are established with both Prometric and the College Board when they are assisting a participating college or university to become a fully funded NTC. Both testing agencies will provide support for completing the application process which allows DANTES to fund both the test administration and the exam fee.

Please visit the Examinations section of the DANTES website and select Earn College Credit to learn more about registering to take DSST or CLEP exams. <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/earn-college-credit/earn-college-credit.html>. 🎓

“*I started taking college classes at night and weekends along with CLEP and DSST tests. I am getting my bachelor's degree in liberal arts and I'm only two classes short of my goal, thanks to credit-by-exams.*”

University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Bachelor of General Studies Degree Student



## FY15 Top DSST and CLEP Exams

### DSST Exams with Top Military Passing Rates

1. Principles of Supervision
2. Introduction to Business
3. Introduction to Computing
4. Business Ethics and Society
5. Here's to Your Health

### Most Popular DSST Exams among Military

1. Principles of Supervision
2. Principles of Public Speaking
3. Introduction to Computing
4. Human Resource Management
5. Organizational Behavior

### CLEP Exams with Top Military Passing Rates

1. Spanish Language
2. College Composition Modular
3. College Composition
4. French Language
5. Information Systems

### Most Popular CLEP Exams among Military

1. Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
2. College Composition Modular
3. Principles of Management
4. College Mathematics
5. Introductory Sociology

## Counselor Tools & Resources

### DANTES Resources

**DANTES Exams Guide** - provides detailed information on available exams, funding eligibility, obtaining transcripts, reimbursement procedures, and more. <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/examinations-guide.html>.

**DSST & CLEP Pass Rates** - Each year, DANTES posts CLEP & DSST volumes and pass rates online. <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/earn-college-credit/pass-rates.html>.

**Videos** - DANTES offers a variety of videos on each program. Visit our Video Center at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/multimedia/index.html> or on our DANTES DoD YouTube Channel for information to share with Service members.

**Publications** - Browse the online catalog for handouts, references and marketing material to order for your education or family service center at <http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil/online-catalog>.

### DSST Resources

Visit [http://getcollegecredit.com/test\\_takers](http://getcollegecredit.com/test_takers) for DSST resources such as:

- Free brochures, posters, and flyers
- Exam Fact Sheets
- Exam Titles Content Outlines
- Practice Tests
- Transcript Order Forms
- Test Center Locator
- Frequently Asked Questions
- News Releases and Blog

### CLEP Resources

Visit <https://clep.collegeboard.org/military> for CLEP resources such as:

- Tutorials for DANTES-funded test takers
- Exam Titles and Resource Lists
- Registration Instructions
- Transcript Order Forms
- Study Guides
- Sample Tests
- Study Tips
- Testing Center Locations
- Search Institutions that accept the exams

# Additional Resources

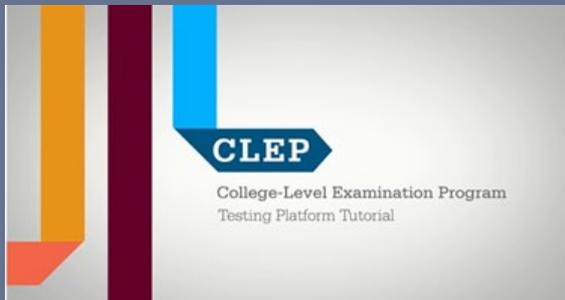


## Points of Contact

Inquiries and general exam questions should be directed to the DANTES Examinations team at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

Questions about DSST exams, score reports, and transcripts contact: Prometric online at [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com), by phone toll free at 1-877-471-9860, and by email at [getcollegecredit@prometric.com](mailto:getcollegecredit@prometric.com).

Questions about CLEP exams and score reports contact: College Board online at <https://clep.collegeboard.org>, by phone toll free at 800-257-9558, and by email [clep@collegeboard.org](mailto:clep@collegeboard.org) (Professionals) or [clep@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:clep@info.collegeboard.org) (Students).



**dsst**

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With exam information and test prep tools and resources at your fingertips, now is the time to save time and money with DSST exams. Whether you're preparing for your exam, or just curious about the types of questions to expect, this app is for you!

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## What is TTT?

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a DANTES-managed Department of Defense program that can help Veterans begin a new career as a public

school teacher – giving them the opportunity to use their leadership skills, knowledge and experience to have a positive effect on our nation’s youth. 🎓



## Troop, Educator, Fulbright Scholar, Student

By Christene Nemetsky, in cooperation with Joseph Olan, Texas Troops to Teachers

Retired U.S. Army Joseph Olan was medically discharged from the Army in 2004 and had been serving as a Counter Intelligence Specialist (97B) at Fort Huachuca prior to his separation from the military. He immediately joined Troops to Teachers and has spent seven years impacting student lives. “The interpersonal communications skills the military helped me develop, transferred seamlessly to my work with students. In both the military and the classroom, experiencing different personalities and backgrounds prepared me for the diverse populations that I worked with,” says Olan.

After earning his teacher certificate from the University of Texas in El Paso, he began teaching world geography in the Houston Independent School District (ISD). First, he taught at Sam Houston High School, then at Eastwood Academy. Olan was awarded Teacher of the Year in his first full year of teaching. In 2011, he was chosen as one of 15 teachers from Houston ISD

to participate in a statewide collaborative program with the University of Texas College of Liberal Arts.

In 2012-2013, Olan moved to Fondren Middle School, where he received his second Teacher of the Year award. “I believe education is the cornerstone of our society. Teaching and learning should not only prepare and empower students academically in becoming responsible yet productive citizens, but should cultivate social and emotional competencies to help develop intrinsic motivation and resilience,” adds Olan.

In 2014, Olan was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Award and traveled to Singapore to provide training in support of building student engagement and motivation through use of social and emotional learning strategies.

He facilitated training with primary and secondary curriculum specialists in applying emotional intelligence strategies in support

of optimal professional development trainings and relationships with teachers. Olan modelled the use of affective domain teaching strategies for secondary teachers. He collaborated with leadership at Sembawang Secondary School in support of school culture and climate. In addition, he also earned his master’s degree in 2014 from the University of Houston in Curriculum and Instruction.

Olan is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Education at John Hopkins University. He will graduate in 2018. Olan is truly a life learner as is evidenced by his career and achievements.

“The Troops to Teachers program helped me stay humble in all I did as a teacher and was a constant motivational reminder about my commitment and duty I felt toward whole student development,” Olan ends.

For more information on the Troops to Teachers program, visit [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com). 🎓



## National Women's History Month 2016 Honoring Women in Government and Public Service

### NEW FOR DSST!

#### Second Chances and Exam Changes

Prometric recently announced a new initiative to help Service members and important updates for DSST exams.

**Second Chances** - Spread the word early! Starting in April 2016, the DSST program will offer Service members a FREE second shot at obtaining college credit. Currently, DANTES funds the first attempt of each exam test title. The costs for any retests on the same test title are the responsibility of the Service member. Under this new Prometric initiative, if a military test taker does not pass a DSST exam taken in April or May 2016, they will receive an email with a voucher code for a FREE retake.

During this period, the retake policy will also be more flexible allowing test takers to try their second attempt after 30 days. There will be an expiration date on the free voucher, so it is important that Service members read the full post-test email provided. The promotion will only be offered for a limited time, so don't miss the chance to share this great opportunity with your test takers. Life is about second chances. Why not give Service members a second chance to be successful taking their DSST exams? Share this news today!

**New Changes for DSST Exams** - The American Council on Education (ACE) recently reviewed 12 updated DSST exams. It's important to instruct

test takers to visit [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com) for updated fact sheets and exam information.

Highlighted among this group are three highly anticipated exams that are now available: Money and Banking, General Anthropology, and History of the Soviet Union, now known as The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union.

Also receiving updates:

- Ethics in America
- Health & Human Development
- Introduction to Business
- Introduction to Computing
- Introduction to World Religions
- Management Information Systems
- Personal Finance
- Principles of Supervision
- Substance Abuse

#### Professional Development Opportunity

Register for the 2016 ACCUPLACER and CLEP National Conference held June 21–23, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nev. The conference is an opportunity for K–12 and higher education professionals to come together to address key educational issues that affect students' college and career goals. Join them to explore the theme "Challenge, Change, and Opportunity." Help drive the conversation by registering today. Learn more by visiting the conference website: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/professionals/national-conference>. 🎓



## Hot News

### Publications FY16 ordering extended

The DANTES Publications FY16 ordering period has been extended through March 19! Don't wait until the last minute to place your order.

### DoD's pilot tutor program

In case you missed it last month, DoD announced a pilot tutor program for Service members. Go to <http://military.tutor.com/home> to learn more.

### Electronic exam reimbursements only

All paper-based DANTES exams reimbursement requests received by mail after March 1, 2016 will be returned to the Service member with instructions referring them to the "Electronic Reimbursement Form" located on the DANTES website.

To process your reimbursement request online, Service members select Examinations, Reimbursement Eligibility, then click on the "Electronic Reimbursement Form." A valid Uniformed Services CAC is required to access the Reimbursement Center. Service members must provide the required score report and payment receipts with all reimbursement requests.

Questions may be directed to DANTES Exams at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

### Administration fee increase for fully funded test centers

DANTES has had a long standing partnership with the College Board and Prometric through the fully funded test center initiative. By working with college and university test centers, CLEP and DSST testing is made more accessible for eligible Service members, their spouses, and civil-service employees.

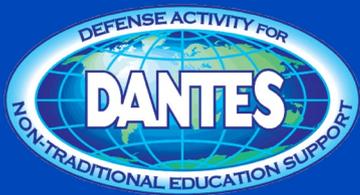
Fully funded national test centers are college and university that have agreed to waive their administration fee for eligible Service members and civilians whose exam fee is funded by DANTES. National test centers that participate in the fully funded program agree to receive a \$25 administration fee for each eligible test taker. Previously, the reimbursement was \$20.

### Benefits of becoming a fully funded national test center include:

- Help eligible DANTES-funded test-takers achieve their educational goals at a lower cost
- Increase the number of test-takers at your test center
- Increase enrollment and retention rates for your institution



**Spoiler Alert:** In next month's DIB, check out what it takes to be part of the DoD Virtual Education Fair, that will be held in May!



# DANTES

## DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

**DANTES**  
Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support

📍 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509  
☎ (850) 452-1901  
✉ [DANTES@navy.mil](mailto:DANTES@navy.mil)

**DANTES OCONUS**  
European Advisor (Contingency Operation Support)

☎ 011-49-611-143-544-1230/1210  
✉ [usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil)

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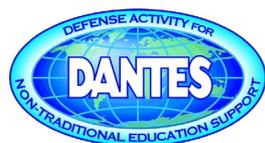
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## DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Jeff Allen, Director**  
**Michelle Alexander, Editor**

### DANTES Information Bulletin

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