

# PLA CHECKLIST



Use this checklist to figure out which standardized exam is right for you and how to make the most of your prior learning experience.

## BEFORE YOU START.

### Is PLA Right for Me?

- ☐ I have 3+ years of work or military experience
- ☐ I have professional certifications or licenses
- ☐ I've completed job training, workshops, or non-credit courses
- ☐ I've studied independently or learned a new skill on my own
- ☐ I want to save time
- ☐ I want to save money

### Know Your Degree Goals

- ☐ Identify your degree or certificate program
- ☐ Review general education and major course equivalents
- ☐ Highlight courses you may already know based on life or work experience

### Check What Your College Accepts

- ☐ Visit your college's PLA or credit-by-exam policy page.
- ☐ Ask an academic advisor which exams are accepted.
- ☐ Inquire about the minimum passing score and what type of credit is awarded

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## Play Your Strengths

- ☐ Match your work or life experience with exam subjects
- ☐ Take a free practice test

## Consider the Format & Schedule

- ☐ CLEP - Available year round with online options
- ☐ DSST - Available on military bases and civilian centers
- ☐ AP & IB - Typically only available to high school students

## Decide and Register

- ☐ Register for the exam via the official provider site
- ☐ Prep using study guides, flashcards and online courses

## AFTER YOU PASS

### Once You Pass Your Exams

- ☐ Request official score report to be sent to your college
- ☐ Confirm your school received it
- ☐ Confirm how your credit is being applied
- ☐ Save a copy of your transcript or score report for your records
- ☐ Celebrate and plan your next step!