

The top half of the cover features a dark blue background with a glowing circuit board pattern. In the center-left, the letters 'AI' are displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a square frame that mimics a microchip. The background is accented with wavy, light blue and purple bands at the top and bottom edges.

AI

# THE EXAMINER

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Newsletter



# CTCC RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

On the heels of last year's (2022) College Board National Achievement Awards, FIU's Center for Testing and Career Certification, (CTCC) again received the CLEP® Honors National Achievement award for being a top 20 CLEP Test Center for 2023. CTCC's practitioners, Zakina Ogbourne and Dr. Dwight Nimblett were recognized and accepted the award on behalf of FIU at a CLEP Honors reception held in Las Vegas in August. CTCC is among the test centers nationally that administered the highest CLEP exam volumes during the 2022–23 school year.

The CLEP Honors Award is an annual College Board program recognizing CLEP test centers that administer high volumes of CLEP exams, providing students of all ages the opportunity to earn college credits, saving them time and money toward achieving college degrees.

CLEP is the most widely trusted credit-by-examination program, accepted at over 2,900 colleges. Students can select from 34 CLEP subjects and use free online resources provided by College Board, Modern States, and others to practice and prepare for CLEP exams. Florida students in particular can fulfill the Florida Civic Literacy requirement by achieving a passing score on the American Government CLEP exam while earning three college credits. CLEP is available year-round at more than 2,000 CLEP test centers nationwide.



# Get Certified

CERTIFIED 2023 was a captivating Certiport work conference in Orlando that left us feeling elated and informed on the latest updates that will improve the lives of teachers, proctors, and most importantly, students!



The conference showcased advancements in proctoring programs, with a spotlight on the revamped Compass system. This latest version offers unparalleled efficiency, making life easier for proctors and ensuring a smooth examination experience for students. The improved user interface in Compass helps to alleviate the burdens of exam administration, enabling educators to focus on guiding their students towards academic success.

One of the most exciting perks for all conference attendees was the distribution of free vouchers for certification exams. These exams, when successfully completed, hold immense value for opening doors to new opportunities. From specialized certifications in the Microsoft Office Suite with Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification, to Microsoft's Cloud services with Microsoft Certified Fundamentals, the possibilities for career advancements for our Engineering students and really, students in general, are endless!

But perhaps the most inspiring and surprising part of the conference were the keynote speeches. Not necessarily because of the speeches themselves, but of the presenters they brought on stage. We heard beautiful and inspiring stories about those who, despite having life-debilitating problems like blindness and even loss of limbs, did not let it hinder them and used it as motivation to push onward to accomplish their dreams and ambitions.

Overall, our excursion to CERTIFIED 2023 had us enthralled and excited for the future of certifications. With all the new updates coming, testing has never been easier. If you're interested in learning more about Certiport and which certifications you would like to test for, please visit: <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com> and register to take

# Preparation is the Key to **Certification**



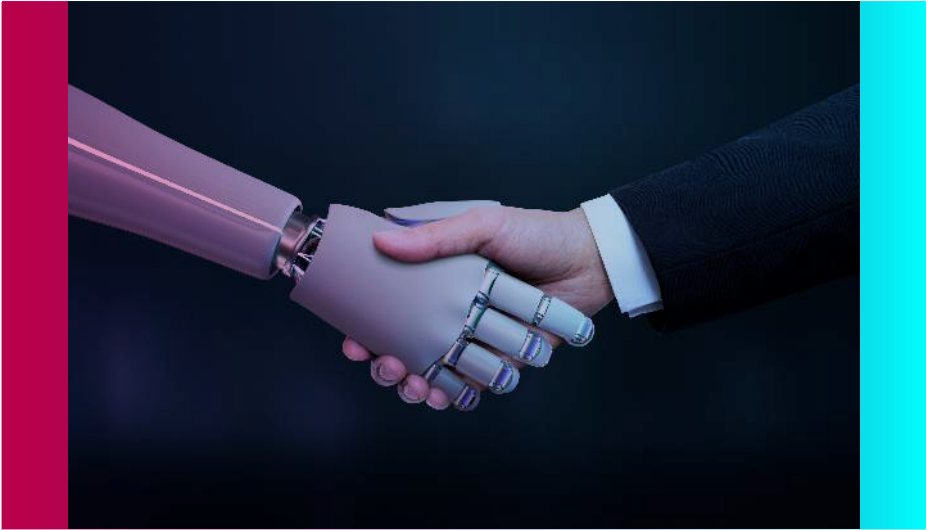
The revolutionary Learn, Practice, and Certify pathway from Certiport can help candidates advance on their certification journey. The trip starts with the 'Learn' phase, where you'll immerse yourself in a world of excellent learning resources created to empower and equip you with the information you need to thrive in today's competitive landscape. Certiport's Learn offerings cover a wide range of topics, so you may select the program that best suits your goals, whether you're interested in developing your technology skills, learning how to use



You'll be able to understand complicated ideas and lay a solid foundation for your future profession thanks to accessible and engaging learning materials and a user-friendly platform.

The practice phase is next, and it's crucial since it helps you remember what you've learned and puts your newly gained knowledge to the test. Take part in practical exercises and real-world simulations to hone your abilities and earn the confidence necessary to succeed in your chosen career. The Practice section of Certiport offers a secure and encouraging environment for students to test their abilities, make mistakes, and learn from them to progress towards set goals. You will gain comprehension from insightful information and comments as you move through this dynamic phase, discovering areas for improvement and honing your skills. Using Certiport's Learn, Practice, and Certify approach, you'll be equipped to successfully complete the final hurdle—the coveted certification process—showing your abilities to employers and industry leaders and opening doors to new opportunities.

# The **AI** of things **Testing**



For practitioners involved in the business of academic and industry-certification testing, artificial intelligence (AI) has quietly been part of our experience for several years, this according to Dr. Dwight Nimblett, Director of the Center for Testing and Career Certification (CTCC). While testing language and lingo have certainly evolved, the fundamentals of AI's increasing use in the design of academic and industry certification tests remain true. Among the benefits of AI's infusion into the testing industry include test-item generation/accuracy, fairness/exam integrity, and enhanced test-taker experience, among others. AI algorithms support test-item generation as vast quantities of related educational content are analyzed, filtered, then converted into concepts and topics, streamlining the question creation process. Even more familiar to our CTCC practitioners is the way in which AI is used in adaptive testing to guide the user experience based on answer responses. It is the AI that recognizes and then adjusts the difficulty level appropriate to the individual being tested. The subsequent questions, in real time, more closely align with the users' true abilities resulting in a more precise assessment.

Increasingly, AI is used to bolster item analysis, which in its simplest terms is a process which considers students' responses to individual test items to evaluate the quality and performance of the items based on set criteria. AI can analyze vast amounts of data from previous test takers to calibrate the degree of difficulty or easiness of an item. This fine-tuning of the items allows for better validity and reliability. With every technological advancement, some rogue test-takers and bad actors are able to manipulate the technology in ways that threaten the integrity of exams. Cheating detection is a primary focus of proctors, test administrators, testing industry developers and policy wonks. Recently, cheating detection has become an urgent conversation and primary focus throughout K through 12, Higher Education, and business and industry. AI algorithms are able to scan and monitor test instances for unusual response times, patterned responses, attempts to access unauthorized resources and other suspicious behaviors. Rogue test-takers ignore well placed proctor instructions and warnings at their own peril, as AI is "always listening."

Many of the grading and scoring mechanisms have been automated as AI quickly crawls through multiple-choice or short-answer questions. Even in Natural Language Processing (NLP), algorithm advances enable AI to interpret and understand human language inputs so nuances encountered in essay-type questions can be assessed with a level of sophistication once unheard of. AI is also being used to identify, better understand, and mitigate bias in test question design ensuring fairness and inclusivity regardless of test-taker ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic background.

For the CTCC team, whether it is test-item generation, adaptive testing, item analysis, cheating detection, grading/scoring, natural language processing, or item bias mitigation, the integration of AI into academic and industry-certification test design, is at once a challenge and an opportunity. And if you are wondering, yes, AI is partly responsible for content generation in this article, "The AI of Things".

[Bookmark This](#)



Effective July 1, 2023, the CLEP® exam fee is \$93. Test takers who purchase their registration tickets on or after this date will be charged the new fee. Registration tickets purchased prior to this date will still be valid until their stated expiration dates. If you have any questions, email College Board at [clep@collegeboard.org](mailto:clep@collegeboard.org).

CTCC was humbled to be a recipient of the 2023 CLEP Honors National Achievement award! Our dedication is fueled by the many students and those within our surrounding community that elect to test at our facilities. Thank you for choosing us!



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Career Certification

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