

The GED® Program

A Guide for Admissions Officers

About one in twenty students entering postsecondary schools holds a high school credential earned by passing the GED® test. How can admissions officers evaluate these nontraditional applicants?

The GED® test is aligned to leading college- and career-readiness standards.

GED Testing Service offers clear guidance on how to evaluate its graduates, including those who have passed the GED® test. These

graduates have demonstrated the skills necessary to earn a high school diploma, including the critical thinking, problem solving, and computer skills needed for college- and career-readiness. GED Testing Service recommends that individuals who pass the GED® test be accepted as high school graduates for the purposes of college admissions.

About the current GED® test

To ensure it continues to measure the content and skills included in the current high school

curriculum, the GED® test undergoes regular review and revision. The most recent version of the test launched on January 2, 2014.

For the first time, the GED® test is fully-aligned to leading college- and career-readiness content standards, measuring both high school equivalency and college- and career-readiness.

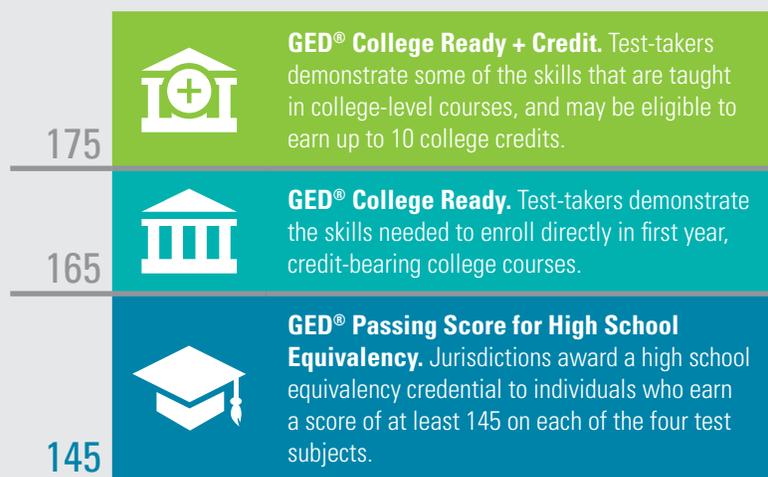
The GED® test is primarily computer-based and is made up of four test subjects:

1. Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)
2. Mathematical Reasoning
3. Science
4. Social Studies

The test includes written responses that assess the test-taker’s thinking and writing skills, known as “constructed response” items.

Interpreting scores

GED® test scores for each test subject range from 100 to 200. Test-takers must earn a minimum score of 145 on each test subject to pass and earn the high school equivalency credential. The GED® test has two additional passing levels: GED® College Ready (165-174) and GED® College Ready + Credit (175-200).



“Almost 2/3 (62%) of GED® test-takers indicated that they tested in order to further their education by attending a technical, two-year, or four-year college program.”

Source: 2012 Annual Statistical Report

College admissions

GED Testing Service makes the following recommendations concerning GED® test graduates:

- If applicants are routinely asked to submit admissions test scores (e.g., ACT or SAT), GED® test graduates may be required to do the same.
- If a minimum class rank is generally required for admission or scholarship awards, the accompanying table can be used to estimate the U.S. national class rank from GED® test scores.
- If a school admits students that graduated in the top half of their classes, it may require GED® test graduates earn an average score of at least 157.
- If a school offers merit scholarships to graduates in the top 10% of their high school classes, it may award scholarships to GED® test graduates with average scores of at least 173.



Dery, GED® graduate

GED® Test Average Score and Estimated National (U.S.) Class Rank of Graduating High School Seniors

GED® Test Average Score	Estimated National Class Rank
187-200	Top 1%
183-186	Top 2%
182	Top 3%
179-181	Top 4%
178	Top 5%
177	Top 6%
176	Top 7%
 175	Top 8%
174	Top 9%
173	Top 10%
172	Top 11%
171	Top 13%
170	Top 16%
169	Top 19%
168	Top 20%
167	Top 22%
166	Top 23%
 165	Top 27%
164	Top 31%
163	Top 34%
162	Top 37%
161	Top 39%
160	Top 40%
159	Top 42%
158	Top 46%
157	Top 51%
156	Top 54%
155	Top 57%
154	Top 60%
153	Top 62%
152	Top 66%
151	Top 70%
150	Top 73%
149	Top 75%
148	Top 79%
147	Top 82%
146	Top 83%
 145	Top 85%

Standardization and norming

The passing scores for the GED® test were based on the results of a Standardization and Norming Study (SNS) conducted by GED Testing Service in 2013. This process was completed before operational testing began, in accordance with test development best practices.

In the SNS, the current version of the GED® test was given to a national sample of high school graduates from the class of 2013. The GED® Passing Score was set based on their performance on the test. The resulting scores and class ranks can be used to describe the skills of adults who take the GED® test compared to the

performance of today's high school seniors. This is the same process that GED Testing Service has used to standardize and norm past versions of the GED® test.

The GED® College Ready and GED® College Ready + Credit score levels were also set by examining the performance of college-bound high school graduates who participated in the SNS along with other data including course grades, grade-point averages, and college admissions test scores. These levels were further refined in 2015 through additional analysis of test-taker performance data.

ACE CREDIT® Recommendations

The American Council on Education® (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service® (CREDIT) connects learners with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional degree programs. With over 35,000 courses reviewed, ACE is the national leader in the evaluation process for education and training obtained outside the classroom.

The ACE CREDIT® has made the following recommendations for GED® graduates who have taken the current version of the GED® test which was launched in 2014.

Mathematical Reasoning	Reasoning Through Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the GED® College Ready level, students may be waived from placement testing and developmental courses in this subject at the postsecondary level At the GED® College Ready + Credit level, students may be eligible to receive 3 semester hours lower division credit in college algebra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the GED® College Ready level, students may be waived from placement testing and developmental courses in this subject at the postsecondary level At the GED® College Ready + Credit level, students may be eligible to receive 1 semester hour lower division credit in humanities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the GED® College Ready level, students may be waived from placement testing and developmental courses in this subject at the postsecondary level At the GED® College Ready + Credit level, students may be eligible to receive 3 semester hours lower division credit in introductory physical science (survey, without laboratory) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the GED® College Ready level, students may be waived from placement testing and developmental courses in this subject at the postsecondary level At the GED® College Ready + Credit level, students may be eligible to receive 3 semester hours lower division credit in economic thinking, society and social arrangements or humanities

We advise students to always check with postsecondary institutions to confirm whether and how the institution implements the ACE CREDIT® recommendations. A list of the institutions currently participating in the ACE CREDIT® program may be found at <http://www2.acenet.edu/CREDITCollegeNetwork/>.

The Smart Transcript: Making scores easier to understand

The Smart Transcript levels the playing field for GED® test graduates. For the first time, colleges can see the skills a graduate demonstrated and the meaning behind the scores to better understand his or her accomplishments.

The Smart Transcript is more secure than ever. It uses Blue Ribbon™ Security, a patented secure delivery system. More than 1/3 of all high school diplomas are delivered using this security system. With Blue Ribbon™ Security, colleges can be

confident that the Smart Transcripts received from students are trustworthy. It also cuts down the administrative burden on colleges. They can request a graduate's Smart Transcript easily and securely at exchange.parchment.com.

Note: Only students who test in states participating in GED Testing Service's credentialing service, GED Credentialing™, will receive the Smart Transcript. Students in states that do not use GED Credentialing™ will continue to use state-issued transcripts, which may not have all the information and features included in the Smart Transcript.

To tell if a Smart Transcript is authentic, just look for the blue ribbon. A transcript that has been tampered with will display a red X.

Use this sample Smart Transcript with accompanying explanations and discover how the new Smart Transcript gives you a secure way to evaluate GED® test graduates.

VERIFIED OFFICIAL GED® TRANSCRIPT IN PDF FORMAT ONLY



OFFICIAL GED® TRANSCRIPT

Issued under the auspices of GED Testing Service as of 06/20/2014

Mark: OK

Status — Indicates that test-takers earned the GED® Passing Score on all four test subjects.

Score — Shows the score achieved on each GED® test subject. Test-takers must earn 145 to pass each test subject, 165 to earn GED® College Ready and 175 to earn GED® College Ready + Credit.

Performance Level — Shows which performance level test-takers earned based on their scores for that particular test subject.

Test subjects — Click on the name of each test subject to access in-depth information on what skills are tested and what topics are covered on the tests.

Scores — The total cumulative score of all four GED® test subjects. On the GED® test, the cumulative score does not indicate whether a test-taker passed the test — scores on individual test subjects determine passing status.

Test subjects — Click on the name of each test subject to access in-depth information on what skills are tested and what topics are covered on the tests.

Percentile Rank — The percentile rank column shows the percentage of graduating seniors who score at or below the test-taker's score in that subject. For example, this test-taker scored better than 69% of graduating seniors on the Science test.

Click on a test subject area or performance level for more detailed information

TEST RESULTS						
	LANGUAGE	DATE	SCORE* <small>(on a scale of 100 – 200)</small>	PERFORMANCE LEVEL	STATUS	PERCENTILE RANK
Reasoning Through Language Arts	English	05/10/2014	174	GED® College Ready	PASS	91
Mathematical Reasoning	English	05/10/2014	167	GED® College Ready	PASS	88
Science	English	05/10/2014	164	GED®	PASS	69
Social Studies	English	05/10/2014	157	GED®	PASS	49
			SCORES	662		
					OVERALL	PASS

*Highest scores achieved by the candidate and not necessarily the most recent. If retest scores are lower than scores previously achieved, the retest scores are not reported.

To learn more about score scales and content descriptions, please visit www.GEDtesting.com/transcriptinfo

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Learn more about the GED® program and the GED® credential at www.GEDtesting.com