



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a GED credential?

A GED credential is earned by passing the GED Tests. The GED Tests provide adults who did not complete a formal high school program the opportunity to certify their attainment of high-school level knowledge and skills.

## Who accepts the GED credential?

--98% of colleges and universities that require a high school diploma accept the GED credential (*Annual Survey of Colleges 2007*).

--96% of companies accept applicants with a GED credential for jobs requiring a high school degree (*Society for Human Resource Management, 2002*).

## How old do I have to be to take the GED tests?

In general, you have to be 18 years old and not enrolled in school to take the GED tests. In some cases, exceptions are made for people age 16-17. Call ACE of Central Virginia (434.528.6494) for details.

## What are the GED tests like?

The GED Tests are timed and include the following subjects:

- *Language Arts, Reading*
  - 40 questions (50 minutes)
- *Language Arts, Writing*
  - Part I has 50 questions (75 minutes)
  - Part II is an essay (45 minutes)
- *Mathematics*
  - Part I has 25 questions (45 minutes) *with a calculator option*
  - Part II has 25 questions (45 minutes) *without a calculator*
- *Science*
  - 50 questions (80 minutes)
- *Social Studies*
  - 50 questions (70 minutes)

## What score is required to pass the GED Tests?

To pass the GED Tests, a test-taker must earn a minimum total score of 2250 on all five tests combined and a minimum standard score of 410 on each content area test.

## What if I don't pass?

Individual tests may be retaken, but you can only take each test three times per calendar year.

## How much does it cost?

The fee for the complete battery of tests is \$45.00. Individual, repeat tests are \$7.00 each. Fee waivers are sometimes available.

## When and where do I take the tests?

GED tests are given at an official GED Testing Center. There are many options for testing dates and schedules. Your local adult education center can provide you with more specific information about testing locations and schedules that are most convenient for you. The tests are in paper-pencil format—they *cannot be taken online*.

## How do I register?

The test-taker must complete a brief application in advance and present the application along with a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license or passport) prior to the test date. Call ACE of Central Virginia (434.528.6494) to find out the deadline for registering for an upcoming test session.

## How can I get ready to take the tests?

### FREE CLASSES FOR ADULTS IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA

ACE of Central Virginia offers free classes in 15 convenient locations throughout the region (Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Lynchburg, and Nelson). Classes are offered at various times of day and are taught by qualified instructors. When you come to class you will be given a pre-test to determine where you are and what you need to work on before you take the tests.

This is a good choice for those who like one-to-one contact with instructors. A class provides consistency, structure and assistance as you study for the GED tests.

### FREE ONLINE LEARNING

Some people are able to study for the GED Tests online. You will need a pre-test score before you are allowed to register for this free service. Visit your local adult education center to take the pre-test so you can find out if online learning is right for you.

This is a good option for those who need a flexible schedule because of family or work; however, if your reading skills are low the face-to-face classes might be a better option for you.

### FREE OFFICIAL PRACTICE TEST

If you feel you are ready to take the GED Tests, you can take a free practice test to determine how well you will do on the official test. The practice test takes four hours and uses the same format as the official test. Call or visit your local adult education center to schedule a time to take the practice test.

### BOOKS AND STUDY GUIDES

There are many books available for purchase or for you to check out from your local library. Someone at your local adult education center can recommend the materials they believe will best meet your needs.

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**For more information**  
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