



GED APPLICATION AND INFORMATION BROCHURE

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO APPLY

1. READ THIS BROCHURE THOROUGHLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION ON-LINE. AT WWW.SCGED.ORG
2. FIRST TIME TESTERS MUST COMPLETE THE GED WIZARD'S ACCOUNT INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC FORM
3. RETURN "PRINT AND MAIL" COPY WITH PAYMENT. ALONG WITH OTHER DOCUMENTATION IF REQUIRED. ON-LINE PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SCGED.ORG (See Testing Fees, Age Eligibility, and Retesting.)
4. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GO TO WWW.SCGED.ORG AND CLICK ON THE LINK "CHECK THE TEST ROSTER FOR YOUR TEST DATE" OR CALL OUR OFFICE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GO ON-LINE.

"WHAT ARE THE GED TESTS?"

The General Educational Development (GED) tests are a group of five multiple choice tests that are designed to measure the general knowledge and thinking skills that it takes to earn a high school diploma.

"WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE GED TESTS?"

Most employers and colleges require a diploma or its equivalent for employment, promotion, or admission. If you do not own a credential proving that you completed high school, then you could be missing out on special opportunities.

"WHO CAN TAKE THE GED TESTS?"

Anyone who is at least 17 years of age, not enrolled in school, and does not already have a high school diploma from an accredited school may take the GED tests.

"WHAT IF I AM STILL IN SCHOOL?"

If you are in school, stay there. The GED examination is not supposed to offer the first opportunity to graduate. Talk to your guidance counselor about your options. If you are at least 17 years old and have chosen to quit school, then read inside about age eligibility. Students enrolled in alternative school programs are not eligible to take the GED. Students enrolled in adult education programs, who are at least 17 years of age, may take the GED.

"CAN I PASS THE GED TESTS?"

Yes, because the tests measure general knowledge and thinking skills, you may be learning at your job or by reading the newspaper each day. The tests are scored for correct answers only. No one is expected to answer all questions correctly. **Approximately 72% of those tested in South Carolina each year earn a passing score.** But, if it has been a while since you were in school, then it is a good idea to call the adult education office in your local school district. The people there can give you a GED practice test and help you prepare for the actual examination. If you cannot attend classes, you may qualify for the GED online program offered by your local adult education program. GED lessons are also available on South Carolina Educational Television. Also, ask your employer if there are GED study classes available where you work.

"WHAT WILL I GET IF I PASS THE GED TESTS?"

The South Carolina Department of Education issues a South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma to those who successfully pass all five GED tests with an average score of 450, for a total score of 2250 and a minimum score of 410 on each of the five tests.

GED TESTING OFFICE
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
1429 SENATE STREET, MAIL ROOM BOX GED
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

Toll free statewide at 800-277-7323 or in the Columbia area 803-734-8347

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TAKING THE GED TESTS

WARNING

Please be advised that the South Carolina GED® Diploma can be neither earned nor obtained via the Internet or through correspondence programs. The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests)—developed by the General Educational Development Testing Service of the American Council on Education (GED Testing Service)—require extensive preparation and the demonstration of a high level of high school knowledge and academic skills. The GED Tests are administered in South Carolina only at Official GED Testing Centers under the direction of the South Carolina Department of Education’s GED Testing Office. Any other high school equivalency diploma not issued by the South Carolina Department of Education or another jurisdictional GED testing authority may be of dubious value and may not be accepted by employers, colleges/universities, or the military.

READ THIS FIRST

You must first read this application brochure thoroughly. You are encouraged to register for the GED test as far in advance as possible. Paper applications or on-line registration will be accepted as long as there are seats available. Registration for the test may be accepted up to five days prior to the test date. To register on-line for the GED test go to www.scged.org.

Beginning June 21, 2010, Confirmation Letters Will No Longer Be Mailed to Examinees.

If you are unable to register on line you may call our office at (803) 734-8347 ext 12 for a paper application and demographic form. To confirm that we have received your registration and payment go to www.scged.org and click on “Check the Test Roster for Your Test Date.” **This is NOT a Confirmation**, this states that we have received your registration and payment and as long as you have completed the account information and demographic form in GED Wizard, you will be on the test roster.

ALL first time testers in South Carolina must go to <https://secure.gedwizard.com> (you may access this through www.scged.org) and complete this step in order for us to generate answer sheets.

If you are unable to access the Internet you may call our office TWO days prior to the selected test date to verify that we have received your registration and payment.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

You must be at least 17 years of age and not enrolled in any secondary level school other than adult education. If you are over 18, but still enrolled in high school, you may not take the GED examination.

Until you reach the age of 19, you must have a South Carolina Verification of School Withdrawal form completed by the principal or attendance supervisor of the last school you attended. You may pick up this form at your local high school or adult education office, or at www.scged.org. If you are 19 years of age and attended high school any time during the current school year, you must also have the South Carolina Verification of School Withdrawal form completed.

If you attended school in another state, you may either obtain a letter from the superintendent of the school district in which you live, indicating that you are not enrolled in any schools within the district or obtain a signed letter from the principal of the last school you attended out-of-state, indicating your last date of attendance and date of birth.

If you are enrolled in a home school association, you must also have the South Carolina Verification of School Withdrawal form completed by an official of the home school association. If you are not part of a home school

association, you may obtain a letter from the superintendent of the school district in which you reside, indicating that you are not enrolled in any K-12 schools within the school district.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

You are considered a resident of South Carolina if you are living here permanently and present either a current South Carolina driver's license or State identification card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. You may take the GED test as a non-resident if you are temporarily living in South Carolina, but you will NOT be eligible for a South Carolina Equivalency Diploma. Examples of non-residency include military personnel identification, legal immigrant documents, or visitors from another state that do not have a valid South Carolina ID or driver's license.

A non-resident applicant must indicate a permanent address on the GED application. Non-resident examinees are NOT eligible to be awarded a South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma, but our office will send your GED scores to your home state at your request. Examinees presenting a Federal Identification Number instead of a Social Security Number are NOT eligible for the South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma.

Non-residents may qualify for a South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma if they can provide proof that the last school attended, not counting adult education, was in South Carolina.

TESTING FEES

Testing fees must be paid at the time the GED application is submitted. Testing fees may be paid by money order, bank cashier's check, state agency check, business check, or cash only. **If you register on-line at www.scged.org, you may pay by credit card.** Make your money order payable to S. C. Department of Education. **Testing fees are not refundable.**

South Carolina Residents:

- \$80.00 for full 5-test examination.
- \$16.00 for each separate retest.

Out-Of-State Residents:

- \$160.00 for full 5-test examination.
- \$32.00 for each separate retest.

IF YOU ARE TAKING TESTS 1 & 2 FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE FULL FEE WITH THE FIRST APPLICATION.

It will be the responsibility of examinees who are absent to submit a new application and fee. **If you were absent for the first time, you will have six months to submit one-half of the original amount.** If it has been longer than six months since you were absent, you will have to submit the **entire** fee. If you have been absent twice, you must submit a new application with the entire fee. This policy reflects the fact that certain costs are incurred regardless of whether or not you actually take the GED examination.

If you register and take the tests in two parts (Part 1 and Part 2) you must complete both parts within one year of the date you started testing. Absentee fee for either part 1 or 2 is \$40.00.

If you took Part 1 over a year ago, you must pay the individual test fee for each remaining test needed to complete the test battery. You will not be able to repeat any test until you have completed taking all five parts of the GED battery.

SECURITY AND IDENTIFICATION

In order to be admitted to the GED examination site, you must show proof of your identification. **THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS ARE A CURRENT, NON-EXPIRED, VALID SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR A STATE ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

If you fail to show a valid ID, you will be considered absent, and you will have to register for another test and submit one half of the original amount.

****Please bring your social security card, or a document with your social security number on it****

If you are a non-resident, you must present either a current, **non-expired**, valid out-of-state driver's license, military ID card, legal immigration card, or passport. School ID's, work ID's, and other forms of identification are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**. Any other form of ID must be approved in advance by the GED Administrator.

If an examinee who has registered as a South Carolina resident does not present an acceptable South Carolina identification card, but does have an acceptable non-resident identification, he or she may take the GED examination. The examinee will have 30 days to pay the additional testing fee. No GED scores will be mailed until the proper GED testing fee is submitted. If you do not have one of the acceptable forms of identification, you will not be admitted to the testing room. Broken, badly damaged, and/or faded identification cards may be rejected. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE EXAMINERS.** You should address all questions regarding identification to the GED Office before the exam date.

On the morning of the examination, the examiners will check your identification, obtain your signature, and obtain a fingerprint. Anyone caught violating test security will be subject to investigation, indictment, prosecution, and invalidation of the tests.

These steps are necessary to comply with the State laws and South Carolina Board of Education regulations which state: "Any individual(s) who knowingly engage(s) in any activities during [GED] testing which result in invalidation of scores," or allows the "presentation of forged, counterfeit, or altered identification for the purpose of obtaining admission to any test administration...shall forfeit all opportunities to retake the test(s)."

LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AND OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Although everyone must take the same level of GED tests, there are some changes which are allowed in the way the tests are given. If you feel that you need modifications to the tests and/or schedules, please call the GED Testing Office before mailing the application.

LEARNING DISABILITY - If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please call the GED Testing Office to determine what test modifications can be made for you. Documentation of the disability is required.

PHYSICAL DISABILITY - If you have a physical disability, please call the GED Testing Office to determine what arrangements can be made to accommodate you. Documentation of the disability is required.

LARGE PRINT TEST - If you have minor visual difficulties and need a large print GED test booklet, please attach a note to your application indicating that you would like a large print test.

Please call our office for information regarding special test situations.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are taking the GED examination for the **FIRST** time, you may apply to take all five tests at once, or you may take Tests 1 (Mathematics) and 2 (Language Arts Writing) the first day, and Tests 3 (Social Studies), 4 (Science), and 5 (Language Arts Reading) later. However, you **must select** both testing dates when you register.. The full testing fees are required with the first application

RETESTING

If you do not pass the examination, you may take the tests over as many times as you need. Your transcript will indicate the highest test score from each of the five tests.

There are some restrictions when applying to be retested:

In most cases, if your total standard score is under 2150, you must take the entire five-part examination again. If you score a zero in Language Arts Writing, you may not have to take the entire examination. This will be determined by the GED Testing Office.

If your total standard score is 2150 or above, you may take any individual tests that you choose. You must, however, repeat any tests on which you received a score that is less than 410.

Those who have taken the test in another state and wish to retest in South Carolina **MUST** request an official transcript of previous test scores from the state in which the tests were taken. These scores must be sent directly to the GED Testing Office from an official GED test center before you submit your application. Scores sent from the examinee will not be accepted. These scores **MUST** be received in the GED Testing Office prior to scheduling the GED test in South Carolina.

You may not take more than three different test forms (per subject) of the GED test from January-December of each calendar year.

TESTING TIMES

Full Tests begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until about 5:00 p.m. If you are taking a partial exam, you will be admitted at various times. Math test will begin testing at 8:00 am. Writing test will begin testing at 10:00 am, Social Studies begins at 1:00 pm, Science test begins at 2:20 pm, and Reading tests begin at 3:40 pm. **Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled testing time. Examinees arriving late will NOT be admitted.** The lead examiner will determine admittance to the test area.

If you arrive late and you are not admitted to the test, but you have other tests to complete, you may come back at your next scheduled test time. To register for your missed exam, please go to www.scged and register as a retester and select the test you missed. You may pay on-line or “print and mail” your receipt with your fee to the GED Testing Office. Each test will be \$16.00.

SOUTH CAROLINA PASSING REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMAS AND TRANSCRIPTS WILL BE MAILED ONLY TO THOSE WHO PASSED THE ENTIRE BATTERY OF FIVE TESTS. YOU MAY CHECK YOUR SCORES ON-LINE THROUGH GED WIZARD USING YOUR USER NAME AND PASSWORD. In order to pass the tests, you must (1) make a total standard score of 2250 or more (an average of 450 on all five tests, the total standard score divided by 5), and (2) make no individual standard score below 410.

You will be awarded a South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma only if you are a permanent resident of South Carolina or a former resident whose most recent elementary or secondary school attendance was in South Carolina (see Residency Requirements).

If you are a resident of a state other than South Carolina, or if you are a foreign national, we will be happy to send your scores to another state, upon request. Your home state will require an official copy of your transcript and require you to complete an application form for a credential. North Carolina requires all residents to attend their adult education courses in order to receive a North Carolina credential. Please contact the North Carolina GED Testing Office for further information.

SCORE REPORTS

You may check your scores on-line through GED WIZARD approximately one week after testing. You may print an unofficial score report from the GED WIZARD. If an official transcript is required, please contact the SC GED Testing Office at 1429 Senate Street, Suite 402, Columbia, SC 29201. Or you may contact us at (803) 734-8347. You may also go to www.scged.org and request a transcript or a duplicate diploma on-line.

TEST DAY REGULATIONS

GED testing regulations now prohibit purses, tote bags, book bags, and similar items from being brought into the testing room. Please leave these items in your vehicle or at home. Remember to bring your ID.

Math starts at 8:00 am Writing starts at 10:00 am Social Studies starts at 1:00 pm Science start at 2:20 pm Reading Starts at 3:40 pm

PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR TEST TIME.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIVE GED TESTS

➤This information is effective January 1, 2002◀

There are five multiple choice tests on the examination. Of them, the Writing Skills and Mathematics tests have two parts. THE TESTS ARE SCORED FOR CORRECT ANSWERS ONLY. NO ONE IS EXPECTED TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS CORRECTLY. The five tests are:

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| <p>1. MATHEMATICS – Both halves equally weighted
Part I - (25 QUESTIONS, 45 MINUTES)
WITH CALCULATOR
Part II – (25 QUESTIONS, 45 MINUTES)
NO CALCULATOR</p> <p>Number Operations and Number Sense, Measurement and Geometry, Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability, Algebra Functions, and Patterns</p> | <p>3. SOCIAL STUDIES -
(50 questions, 70 minutes)
History, Civics and Government, Economics, Geography</p> |
| <p>2. LANGUAGE ARTS - WRITING -
Part I - (50 questions, 75 minutes)
Sentence Structure, Usage, Mechanics, Organization</p> <p>Part II - (ESSAY) (45 minutes) 1 – 4 Point Scoring Guide</p> | <p>4. SCIENCE – (50 questions, 80 minutes) -
Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science</p> <p>5. LANGUAGE ARTS: READING -
(40 questions, 65 minutes)
Literary Texts, Non-Fiction Texts</p> |

FULL TESTS BEGIN AT 8:00 AM AND LAST UNTIL ABOUT 5:00 PM. IF YOU ARE TAKING A PARTIAL EXAM, YOU MUST FOLLOW THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE, BUT YOU MAY LEAVE AFTER COMPLETING THE TEST(S). EACH OF THE FIVE GED TESTS IS TIMED SEPARATELY. ONCE YOU BEGIN A TEST, YOU MAY NOT LEAVE UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TEST. YOU MAY NOT RETURN TO THE TESTING ROOM UNTIL THE NEXT TEST BEGINS.