

POLICY ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF GED® EXAMINEES  
and  
OWNERSHIP OF TESTS, SCORES, and OTHER DATA

The American Council on Education® (ACE) is the sole owner of the Tests of General Educational Development (GED® Tests) and the responses to those tests, including all test questions, essay prompts, and essays. The GED Tests are not the property of the examinee. The test questions and essay prompts administered at testing centers are the valuable, copyrighted property of ACE. As a condition of testing, an examinee agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all test questions and essay prompts administered to him/her. An examinee may not receive any unauthorized assistance while taking the GED Tests. An examinee may not discuss specific test items or essay prompts with anyone other than the GED Chief Examiner/GED Examiner. An examinee must return all testing items to the GED Chief Examiner/GED Examiner at the conclusion of testing.

A disclosure of test questions in any form by any means in violation of this confidentiality agreement undermines the integrity and security of the GED Tests and is strictly prohibited. Any unauthorized access, reproduction, distribution, or disclosure of test questions by an examinee before, during, or after taking the GED Tests is a violation of U.S. and international intellectual property laws and treaties. Available remedies will be pursued by ACE as appropriate, which may include criminal prosecution, a civil lawsuit seeking damages, and/or canceling or invalidating the examinee's test scores and notifying entities that have received the examinee's test scores.

In addition, a number of third parties perform services relating to the GED testing program. These third parties provide the GED Testing Service™, a program of ACE, with information from or about examinees that is collected on forms that are prepared by ACE or the GED Testing Service, or on modified versions of those forms. The information includes, but is not limited to, candidate demographic details, test scores, accommodation requests, and GED Option testing authorizations. This information is also owned by the GED Testing Service, as it is reflected in the GED Testing Service records.

Jurisdictions (states, provinces, territories, insular areas, military facilities, correctional institutions) that administer GED Tests have various rights to access and use their jurisdiction's GED testing program information separate from GED Testing Service.

ACE reserves the right to update, change, and amend ownership policies at any time.

## PRIVACY POLICY

GED® Testing Service, a program of the American Council on Education, recognizes the privacy interests of GED examinees. GED Testing Service™ is committed to respecting that privacy and keeping examinees informed about our data privacy policies.

Except as set forth below, the personally identifiable information an examinee provides when registering for the GED Tests is not made available to third parties without the examinee's permission. An examinee's personally identifiable information includes his/her name, address, identification number, date of birth, test dates, and test scores.

1. Research. GED Testing Service and third parties authorized by GED Testing Service may access and use examinee data for research purposes, including research directed toward improving or reporting on the effectiveness of the GED testing program. Any such access to examinee information will be subject to a confidentiality requirement that prohibits the disclosure or publication of any information that allows individual examinees to be identified. Once a third party has completed services related to the GED testing program, the data used will be permanently removed from the third party's possession. Unless an examinee has indicated otherwise on the demographics form, GED Testing Service may contact an examinee to determine whether he/she is willing to participate in surveys that also are intended to improve or report on the effectiveness of the GED testing program.

2. Legal Proceedings. GED Testing Service may disclose and provide access to personally identifiable examinee information in response to a subpoena or other order in a judicial or other governmental proceeding, or as otherwise required by law. To ensure test security, GED Testing Service may also disclose and provide access to personally identifiable information in order to detect, investigate, or prevent fraud or other unlawful activity or violations of GED Testing Service testing policies.

GED Testing Service has established safeguards to help prevent unauthorized access to or misuse of the examinees' personal information maintained by GED Testing Service, but cannot guarantee that examinees' personally identifiable information will never be disclosed in a manner inconsistent with this data privacy policy (for example, as a result of unauthorized acts by parties that violate applicable law or relevant web policies).

Jurisdictions (states, provinces, territories, insular areas, military facilities, correctional institutions) that administer GED Tests have various rights to access and use their jurisdiction's GED testing program information separate from GED Testing Service.

Questions about this data privacy policy should be directed to GED Testing Service at [ged@ace.nche.edu](mailto:ged@ace.nche.edu) or (202) 939-9490.

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## Understanding Your Scores

### How are GED scores reported?

Your GED test scores provide an estimate of your academic knowledge and skills in each content area as compared to that of recent high school graduates. As with any test, the scores are not intended to be a complete measure of all you can do.

For the 2002 Series GED Tests, performance on each of the five tests is reported in two ways: as "a standard score," ranging from 200 to 800, and "a percentile rank," ranging from 1 to 99.

A standard score is used to compare a test-taker's performance on a test to the performance of graduating high school seniors who took the test. The average standard score for a sample of U.S. graduating high school seniors is 500 for each test in the battery. About half of these seniors earned standard scores above 500 and about half earned standard scores below 500 on each test. Approximately 68 percent of all graduating high school seniors earn scores between 400 and 600 on the GED standard score scale. Only 2 percent of graduating high school seniors earn scores lower than 300 or higher than 700.

The percentile rank indicates the percentage of graduating high school seniors who earned scores at or below your test score. For example, if a test-taker earned a score of 510 on the Science Test with a percentile rank of 54, those numbers indicate that 54 percent of graduating high school seniors earned a score of 510 or lower.

Each item is worth one point if answered correctly and zero points if answered incorrectly; however, the number of items answered correctly is not reported.

The Language Arts, Writing Test standard score is a weighted combination of scores from Part I (multiple-choice items) and the essay in Part II.

### What scores are needed to pass the GED test battery?

To pass the five-test battery, the GED test-taker must demonstrate a level of knowledge and skill that meets or surpasses that of approximately 60 percent of graduating high school seniors.

For the 2002 Series GED Tests, the minimum passing standard set by the GED Testing Service® is an average standard score of 450 or greater across the five content area tests (a total standard score of 2250 or greater) and, in addition, a standard score of 410 or greater on each content area test. Most U.S. jurisdictions (state, province, or territory) use this passing standard requirement; however, they may set their passing standard requirement higher than, but not lower than, a total standard score of 2250 or greater and a standard score of 410 or greater on each test. Although the requirements may vary slightly from one jurisdiction to the next, passing standard requirements are

typically reported as a minimum total or average standard score across all five tests and a minimum standard score for each test.

This passing standard requirement allows test-takers to "compensate" for performance in one content area by stronger performance in another; i.e., a lower score on one test can be compensated by a higher score on another test and result in passing the GED test battery. Many skills make important contributions to achievement, and it is possible for most test-takers to compensate for weaknesses in one area using strengths in other areas.

Local [Official GED Testing Centers](#) can tell test-takers what requirements must be met in order to earn a GED credential.

## **Retesting**

If you take the GED Tests and don't meet the minimum passing standard needed to earn a GED credential in your jurisdiction, you should contact your local adult education resource center or look into preparation classes or materials to help you brush up on your skills.

## **College admissions and the GED credential**

If you are taking the GED Tests for college or university admission, check first with the institution to find out the minimum scores required as well as other criteria you might need to meet for admission.

In addition, the 2002 brochure "[College Admissions and Candidates with GED High School Credential](#)" (PDF; 115KB) provides information on understanding GED test scores and estimating national class rank from GED test scores. This information is useful for both the test-taker and the college or university admissions office.

## **Requesting Official Transcripts of GED Tests Results**

If you've already taken the GED Tests and want to find out how to get a transcript of your scores, please visit our [transcript request page](#) on this web site.

Please direct questions about this page to:  
[ged@ace.nche.edu](mailto:ged@ace.nche.edu)