

What is the NIACC Certificate of Completion? This is a certificate which is given to individuals to recognize their completion of the GED tests.

When do I receive my certificate of completion? You will receive your certificate during a GED Recognition ceremony that is part of the GED Graduation ceremony that is held each spring on the main campus.

Is there a GED Graduation ceremony? Yes. Each year, new GED graduates are honored in a GED Graduation ceremony at NIACC. This GED Graduation ceremony honors those who have successfully met the requirements to earn a GED. You are encouraged to invite your family and friends.

Does NIACC offer a scholarship for GED students? Yes. Graduates who have scored very high on their tests may receive a scholarship to use for college at NIACC.

Is there an official GED website? More information can be found on the American Council on Education website. Click on the site map and scroll down to GED testing service. The URL address is http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GED_TS

Where can I find more information about NIACC GED classes? You can learn more about GED and GED-i by phone, email, or the web.

Phone: 641.422.4176 or 1.888.466.4222

Email: schulmar@niacc.edu

Web: http://www.niacc.edu/learningsupport/adult_literacy.html

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GED

On Site & On-Line

If you or someone you know is ready to start on one of the most important journeys in life, NIACC can help.

There is no better time than now to get your GED. Millions of people have taken the GED tests to get a better job, continue their education, or fulfill their personal aspirations.

This pamphlet will explain GED and GED on-line (i Pathways) and what you need to do to prepare, take, and pass the GED tests as you begin your new journey.

What does the word GED stand for? GED stands for General Educational Development.

What does the word i-Pathways stand for? I-Pathways stands for General Educational Development online.

What are the GED tests? The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) are designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course of study.

What are the GED content areas? Five separate content areas make up the GED tests. They are mathematics, language arts reading, language arts writing (including essay), science, and social studies.

Who is eligible to take GED tests? You are eligible if

- You are not enrolled in, and have not graduated from, high school
- Are at least 16 years of age
- Meet State of Iowa requirements as listed below:

Students Who Are Home Schooled

- Students who are 17 years old
- Letter from a parent stating that the student's education is home based
- If no transcript is provided, the diploma is issued at age 19
- Students must present a valid picture ID

Students in a Correctional Setting

- Students 16 and 17 years old in certain correctional settings may be tested
- May receive diplomas under special guidelines

Students 19 Years of Age or Older

- Valid picture ID with proof of age

Students 18 Years of Age

- Valid picture ID with proof of age
- Official high school drop letter

Students 17 Years of Age

- Valid picture ID with proof of age
- Official high school drop letter
- Written consent from a parent or guardian unless the student is married, divorced, or living independently. In these instances, a hardcopy must be submitted for verification.

Students 16 Years of Age

- Under certain conditions, 16 year-olds may test only if they have a court order complete with the judge's original signature.

Can I retest? If a part, or parts, of the GED test are not passed, or a person fails to attain an average of 450, any section that was failed needs to be retaken after additional study or a new Official Practice Test score of 500 or higher.

What must be done before I can retest? Before re-testing is allowed, candidates are required to attend preparation class to study in the particular area which was failed. He/she must then take a practice test to determine re-testing readiness. When practice tests indicate re-testing readiness, the instructor must submit a note of permission to the Chief Examiner. Candidates also have the option to wait for up to a six-month period before re-testing.

How long do I have to complete my GED? You can take as much time as you need to study for your GED. However, from the date you take your first component of the GED test, you must complete all five components within two years.

What happens if I don't pass all five components in two years? You will have to retest in each of the five components again.

What happens when I do pass all five components? You must apply to the State of Iowa for the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma.

What is the Iowa GED Diploma? When students have successfully passed the five GED tests with a total of 2250 points or more, they may apply for the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma which is issued by the State Department of Education, for job entrance requirements, or for college entrance requirements.

Will I receive a certificate or diploma from NIACC? Upon successfully passing all five components of the GED tests, NIACC will issue you a certificate of completion .

Are accommodations available for those with learning disabilities?

The GED Testing Service provides accommodations for students who experience learning disabilities that interfere with their ability to be successful when taking the GED tests under standard testing conditions. Documentation of a learning disability is required.

Why should I attend GED classes? Classes either at the site or on-line are opportunities to better prepare you for the GED tests. Instructors can help in at least six important ways:

- Evaluation-Will help you discover which subjects you need to study
- Calculator Practice-Familiarization with the calculator that is used as part of the math test
- Test Orientation and Practice-You will have practice tests similar to the GED test which will help you understand the nature of the GED tests
- Instruction-You will have help planning your studies
- Readiness for GED testing-Help in evaluating your readiness to take the GED tests.
- Support –Moral support and encouragement

Do I need to take a pre-assessment? Yes every GED and GED-I student is required to take a pre-assessment in reading and math to determine the proper level at which to begin study.

Is there a fee to attend? There is a \$25.00 fee per student/per year to cover materials and supplies.

What do I do when I'm ready to take my GED test? When you and/or your instructor feel you are ready to take the GED, you must take an official practice test.

Can GED tests be taken online? No, the official GED tests cannot be taken online; beware of web sites and other sources that tell you otherwise. You can study on-line but not test on-line.

Are practice tests required? Yes. Practice tests determine if you are ready to take an official GED test in each component.

What is a GED Official Practice Test (OPT)? This test is timed and must be taken prior to officially testing in any of the five GED subject areas. Students must score a minimum of 500 on the OPT on each subject practice test prior to taking an actual GED subject test. This score expires after four weeks. Students must obtain a verification form from their instructor before they can take their OPT.

Do tests need to be taken in a particular order? The Iowa Department of Education recommends you complete math and writing in the middle of the testing process. Research supports this recommendation that you do not leave math and writing as the last tests.

Are the tests multiple choice? Yes. For each test question you are asked to select the correct answer from four or five choices. (Exceptions: Part II of the Language Arts Writing Test is an essay and Part I of the Mathematics Test uses a calculator and some grids.)

Is there a testing fee? Testing fees are \$75.00 for all five tests or \$15.00 each. Students may make three installment payments of \$25 each, but the balance must be paid before the last test. Arrange this with the NIACC GED Examiner. Some service agencies provide free testing, and NIACC has a limited number of testing scholarships available

Is there a fee to retest? Yes. The retest fee required for up to five retests is \$5.00 per test. State policy requires a minimum of six months elapse between testing and re-testing unless a candidate has the written permission from a NIACC GED instructor.

Where is the GED test center located? Testing is taken on the NIACC campus, Beem Center, Room 103.

What are the GED testing hours? Testing schedules follow the NIACC academic calendar as shown on the NIACC website. Testing

is done Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Students must call 641.422.4266 to make an appointment.

How much time is required for testing? Total testing time is approximately seven hours for the five exams. The tests are administered one at a time and need not be taken at one sitting. They are timed tests. Additional time must be pre-approved by the Chief Examiner.

What are the GED Tests and Time Limits?

Test	Items	Time Limit
Language Arts, Writing-Part 1	50 questions	75 minutes
Language Arts, Writing-Part 11	Essay	45 minutes
Social Studies	50 questions	70 minutes
Science	50 questions	80 minutes
Language Arts-Reading	40 questions	65 minutes
Mathematics-Part 1	25 questions with calculator	45 minutes
Mathematics-Part 11	25 questions without calculator	45 minutes

What score do I need to pass my GED test? To pass the GED test, students must have a test score of 410 or above to pass each content area. They must average 450 points on each of the five tests to pass. They must have a total of 2250 points over all five tests. A total of 800 is the highest possible score for an individual test. Students must take and pass all five tests, even if they score very high on a specific test.

How many questions do I need to get right on each of the GED tests to earn the 410 passing score? Each correct answer is worth one point. For each individual GED test, these points are totaled and then converted to a standard score which ranges from 200 to 800. Candidates need a standard score of 410 in order to pass each of the individual GED Tests and an overall average score of 450 for the five-test battery. To receive a 410 standard score on an individual GED

test, candidates generally need to answer 60 to 65 percent of the questions correctly.

What is a drop letter? This is an official letter from the student's high school stating the student has withdrawn from that high school. It must be printed on school letterhead; include the student birth date, withdrawal date, and kindergarten graduation date. No one may get a GED diploma before his/her original kindergarten class has graduated from high school.

What are the benefits of earning a GED diploma? GED Tests provide an opportunity for adults to continue their education. In fact, 95 percent of U.S. colleges and universities accept GED graduates who meet their other qualifications for admission, according to the College Board. A GED credential documents that you have high school-level academic skills. About 96 percent of U.S. employers accept the GED credential as equal to a traditional high school diploma, according to recent studies.

How do I get started? Preparation is an essential part of any important examination. NIACC GED class instructors can help you determine whether you need intensive preparation or a quick “brush up”.

Do I need to attend class? NIACC offers traditional GED classes and i-Pathways which is a blended approach to GED. All students must complete their pre-assessment in the classroom; however, i-Pathways students do all their studying on-line with an on-line instructor.

Where and how often are classes held? Classes are held at various days, times, and locations within the NIACC service region.

Are classes held all year long? Generally, classes are conducted September to May. However, some classes are extended at some sites. i-Pathways classes are held throughout the year.

Do I have to attend classes every day they are held? No, we realize that adult lives are complicated and perfect attendance may not be possible.