



High School Equivalency Diploma

There is no better time than now to get your high school diploma. Earning your HSED is the key to getting a better job, continuing your education, or fulfilling your personal aspirations.

What are the HSED tests? Iowa uses the HiSET™ test as the official high school equivalency exam (Iowa discontinued using GED® in January 2014.) It is designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course of study.

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

Overview of the high school equivalency preparation process:

1. Students first enroll in an orientation session at their nearest class site.
2. At orientation, students register for the class, take pre-assessments in math and reading, and set work and educational goals for their study.
3. Students begin their study. Sessions last 7-8 weeks depending on the location/site. Class attendance is mandatory and students will be asked to enroll in a later session if they have excessive absences.
4. Once a student has accumulated at least 40 instructional hours (Iowa Dept. of Education recommends 70-100 hours, however), students will take a post-test in the area in which they scored lower at orientation (math or reading).
5. Students take Official Practice Tests for HiSET™ to determine whether they are ready to take the actual exam.
6. Students establish a HiSET™ test taker account and register for testing online. (For more information: http://hiset.ets.org/test_takers/) Testing fees are \$53.75 for the 5-test battery or \$10.75 for a single subject.
7. Students complete HiSET™ online testing in the testing center at NIACC's main campus.
8. After passing all subject-area tests, students can then order their official high school equivalency diploma from www.diplomasender.com. The first copy is free and all additional copies are \$15.
9. Students who complete their HSED during the program year are encouraged to attend the annual HSED graduation ceremony.





Specifics about the HiSET™ test

Test	Items	Time Limit
Language Arts, Writing-Part 1	61 questions(includes essay)	120 minutes
Social Studies	60 questions	70 minutes
Science	60 questions	80 minutes
Language Arts-Reading	50 questions	65 minutes
Mathematics	55 questions (calculator allowed)	90 minutes

What score do I need to pass my HSED test? To pass the HSED test, students must have a test score of 8 or above in each content area. They must average 45 points overall to pass. Students must take and pass all five tests, even if they score very highly on a specific test.

"It's a great program. The teachers are amazing—they really do care about their students." —James Campbell, 2017 graduate

Helpful links

NIACC Adult Education & Literacy: HSED Program (includes class schedules):

<http://www.niacc.edu/learning-support/adult-literacy/high-school-equivalency-diploma-hsed/>

Iowa Department of Education

Explanation of High School Equivalency Program:

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/adult-education-and-literacy/high-school-equivalency-diploma-hsed>

HiSET™ Free Practice Tests:

<http://hiset.ets.org/about/bulletin/>

Eligibility Requirements

Anyone 17 or older, as long as they are no longer enrolled in high school, can take the Official HiSET® tests. However, 17 and 18 year old HSED completers cannot receive their transcript and diploma from the Iowa Department of Education until May of the year they would have graduated from high school.

HSED Accommodations

Accommodations are provided for students with disabilities. Students must provide documentation of a disability and submit an application to the HiSET™ testing service 6 weeks in advance of testing. (HiSET approves the accommodations, not NIACC AEL staff). For more information, see this link: <http://hiset.ets.org/take/disabilities>

To get started, contact

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