

About The GED Program

Randolph Academy is always seeking to offer programs which will afford our students every advantage possible to prepare them for their futures as successful, contributing members of society.

Realizing many students arrive at Randolph Academy in situations resulting in a lack of credits necessary for a traditional New York state high school diploma, the school offers a fantastic alternative. As an approved AHSEP (Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation) program, Randolph Academy prepares students to both take and pass the GED exam in order to acquire a General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

The GED test measures how well someone has mastered the skills and general knowledge that are acquired in a four-year high school education. The test does not expect someone to remember numerous details, definitions, or facts. You are expected to demonstrate the ability to think about a variety of issues. The GED test has changed from time to time to keep up with the knowledge and skills needed in our society. The last change was in January, 2002.

GED Test Subject/Content Areas

The following areas are included in the GED test.

Language Arts-Writing: In part one, you will be asked to correct grammar, sentence construction, spelling, or other common mistakes. Part two will require you to write an essay of approximately 250 words on a topic familiar to most young adults.

Social Studies: The multiple choice questions in this section will have to do with economics, civics/government, U.S. and world history, geography, as well as interpreting maps, charts, political cartoons, etc. Questions will also deal with the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and various Supreme Court decisions.

Science: This section of the test will contain questions on life science, earth and space science, and physical science.

Language Arts-Reading: This section requires you to read stories, essays, poetry, fiction, etc. and be able to restate, summarize, or explain what you have read. You could also be asked to apply what you have read to another situation.

Math: Basic knowledge in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as geometry and algebra, is measured in this section of the test. Part 1 allows the use of a Casio FX-260 solar calculator, while Part 2 does not allow the use of a calculator.

Some facts about the GED test

- The GED test is not easy, and requires study and preparation.
- Only six out of 10 graduating high school seniors would earn passing scores if they took the GED tests.
- People who pass the GED test have stronger reading skills on average than graduating high school seniors.
- About one out of every seven people who receive high school diplomas each year does so by passing the GED test.
- About two of three persons taking the GED test plan to enter a two-year college, four-year college, or trade, technical, or business school during the next year.

Another one in eight GED test-takers plan to take on-the-job training during the next year.

- About two-thirds of the people taking the GED test finished the tenth grade before leaving high school. About one-third finished the eleventh grade.
- Only one in 20 GED test-takers say academic problems led them to leave school.
- Nearly one-third of those who take and pass the GED test are under twenty.
- More than 95 percent of employers nationwide employ GED graduates on the same basis as high school graduates in terms of hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement.
- 90 percent of colleges and universities recognize the GED diploma.
- 65 percent of GED test-takers plan to enter college, a university, trade or technical school, or business school during the next year.
- Individuals with documented special needs or disabilities can apply for various testing modifications and accommodations when preparing for and taking the exam.

It wasn't too long ago the GED diploma was looked upon as a sub-standard achievement. While the GED diploma should not be viewed as a short-cut to completing high school, or a reason to not pursue a high school diploma, it does offer individuals a viable option to leaving school with no workable, recognized diploma. As an example, if a GED recipient manages to obtain an Associates Degree (which can be earned at junior colleges or community colleges located in many areas), they will have leveled the playing field with high school diploma recipients. They will have an equal chance of getting into other schools, obtaining higher degrees, or securing positions and salaries comparable to that of a high school graduate with an Associates Degree.

In short, a GED diploma is not an obstacle to overcome. On the contrary, it offers individuals a chance at achieving any future career goals they wish to aim for. As with any diploma, it is the ability, performance and commitment of the specific individual that will, in the long run, determine one's success in life.

Well-Known Individuals Who Earned A GED Diploma

Ruth Ann Minner, Governor of Delaware; Richard Carmona, 17th Surgeon General of the United States; Bill Cosby, actor and author; Peter Jennings, former ABC news anchor; Jim Florio, former New Jersey governor; Chris Rock, actor and comedian; Mark Wahlberg, actor; Michael J. Fox, actor; Waylon Jennings, country western singer; Danica Patrick, Indy Car driver; Christian Slater, actor; and Mary Lou Retton, former Olympic gymnast.

Enrolling In The GED Program At Randolph Academy

At Randolph Academy, candidates for the GED program must be 16 years of age, have a legitimate reason or need to pursue a GED diploma (ex. Lack of high school credits), and have approval and support from parents and/or caregivers. A GED schedule

at the Academy consists of one-half day GED study, along with a half-day vocational component (examples include food service and cosmetology).

To be eligible to sit for the actual GED test, students must generally be enrolled in GED preparation classes at the Academy for a minimum of six months. Students are not signed up to take the test until they have received passing scores (and a passing overall score) on all five GED practice exams. These practice tests are given at various intervals, and as deemed necessary by the school's GED teachers and team.

For the GED test, passing scores in each of the five subject areas requires a minimum of 410. The overall combined total of the five test areas, however, must be at least 2250, which means a minimum 410 score by a candidate on each section will not earn a diploma. The maximum score possible on each area of the GED test is 800, with a 4000 score being perfect.

Once a candidate has passed a certain section of the GED test, that score stands and a individual may then sign up to take only the sections of the test they may have failed. It is often recommended; however, that a student attempt to also retake certain sections they may have already passed in an effort to raise their overall test score necessary for their diploma. A candidate may retake the exam, or parts of the exam, up to three times during any one year, although they must allow a certain amount of time to pass before they are eligible to sign up again to sit for the test. During the time in between when a student has taken their initial attempt at the GED test and when they retake parts (or all) of the test, they are expected to continue studying and preparing for the exam at Randolph Academy.

Prior to a student turning 19 years of age, they must be enrolled in a approved GED preparation program (such as Randolph Academy) to be able to sign up to sit for the test. If a student leaves Randolph Academy (prior to arranged discharge), the school is not allowed to sign a student up to sit for the exam. Should a student be discharged from their placement in Randolph prior to passing the actual GED test, Randolph Academy will assist them in locating and enrolling in a approved GED preparation program near where they are being discharged so they can continue pursuing their diploma.

Other GED Links

www.emsc.nysed.gov/ged/

www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GEDTS

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GED