



- If a minimum class rank is normally required for admission, the information in the accompanying table can be used to estimate the U.S. national class rank from GED standard scores. For example, if the institution generally admits traditional students graduating in the upper half of their classes, it should require GED graduates to present average standard scores of at least 500. In such cases, the candidate may retest to earn the required GED Test scores or provide data from other academic achievement tests.
- If merit scholarships are offered to seniors graduating in the top ten percent of their classes, similar awards should be made to GED graduates with average standard scores of 610 or better.

Interpreting GED Test Scores

GED standard scores are normalized scores based on a nationally representative stratified random sample of high school seniors tested in the spring of their graduating year. Only seniors who are expected to meet the academic requirements for graduation are included in the sample. Separate normings are performed for the United States and Canada; scores are restandardized only when the norm group shows significant changes. The standard scores currently reported are based on a 2001 standardization study.

The resulting standard scores and percentile ranks can be used to describe the skills of adults who take the GED Tests compared to the

performance of contemporary high school seniors. GED standard scores have the following properties:

- The median standard score for U.S. graduating high school seniors is 500 for each of the five tests.
- The standard deviation is 100 points for U.S. graduating high school seniors.
- The percentage of graduating seniors at or below each GED standard score value is the same for each of the five tests.
- The percentile ranks provided on the Official Transcript of GED Tests Results are those for graduating high school seniors, not for adult candidates.

GED Standard Score and Estimated National Class Rank (U.S.) of Graduating High School Seniors

GED Standard Score	Estimated National Class Rank
700	Top 1%
670	Top 2%
660	Top 3%
640	Top 5%
610	Top 10%
580	Top 15%
570	Top 20%
550	Top 25%
530	Top 33%
520	Top 40%
500	Top 50%
460	Top 55%
450	Top 60%

College Admissions and Candidates with GED High School Credential

Today, one in twenty college freshmen holds a high school credential earned by taking and passing the General Educational Development (GED) Tests. How can admissions officials evaluate these nontraditional applicants?

Nearly all of the colleges and universities in the United States have published policies to admit students without a traditional high school diploma. However, unlike traditional high school graduates, GED credential holders face the challenge of documenting their academic ability in the traditional manner.

These nontraditional candidates have demonstrated academic skills in the core content areas of language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics. In fact, those who pass the GED Tests have surpassed the performance of at least 40 percent of the nation's graduating high school seniors. The American Council on Education's Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials recommends that persons who earn their jurisdiction's high school credential by taking and passing the GED Tests should be accepted as high school graduates for the purposes of college admission.

About the GED Tests

There are five tests in the GED Test Battery: Language Arts, Writing; Social Studies; Science; Language

Arts, Reading; and Mathematics. The tests take more than seven hours to complete and include a direct writing assessment. To ensure that the content and skills measured by the tests remain closely matched to contemporary high school curriculum, the tests undergo regular review and revision.¹ Test results are expressed as standard scores ranging from 200 to 800. States award a high school credential to individuals who earn at least 410 on each test and an average standard score of 450 or better across all five tests.²

College Admissions

Percentile ranks can be interpreted as ranks in the national graduating class of high school seniors. The American Council on Education makes the following recommendations concerning GED graduates:

- If applicants are routinely asked to submit admissions test scores (e.g., ACT or SAT), GED graduates should be required to do the same. Institutions should not substitute GED Test scores for admissions test scores.

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¹ Consequently, there have been four versions of the tests since 1942. The newest GED Test series, based on emerging national and state-level content standards, was released in January 2002.

² Canadian provinces and territories require that candidates earn a minimum of 450 on each test.

INTERPRETING GED TEST RESULTS

The sample *Official Transcript of GED Tests Results* below reports sample scores for a GED test-taker.

Your performance on each of the five GED Tests is reported in two ways: as "standard scores," ranging from 200 to 800, and "percentile ranks," ranging from 1 to 99. Both scores compare your results to scores earned by a recent representative national sample of high school seniors.

The **standard score** column shows the standard score you earned on each test. A standard score of 410 on each test and an average score of 450 for the five-test battery is the minimum passing standard set by GEDTS. A jurisdiction may set a passing standard that exceeds this.

Approximately 68% of all graduating seniors score between 400 and 600 on the standard score scale. Only 2% of graduating seniors score lower than 300 or higher than 700.

The **percentile rank** column shows the percentage of graduating seniors who earned scores at or below your test scores. For example, this test-taker scored better than 97% of graduating high school seniors on the *Mathematics Test*.

GED **Official Transcript of GED Tests Results**

Issued by
OFFICIAL GED TESTING CENTERS
of the
General Educational Development Testing Service of the American Council on Education
(For additional transcripts, contact the center below.)

Candidate's Name
Last: JONES
Address: 765 Maple Lane
Gary, IN 46212
Phone Number: 315-555-7905
Date of Birth: 03/26/66

First: THOMAS
Middle Initial: P
Examiner's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Center Name: Center Community College
Center Identification No.: 3000174208
Phone Number: 315-555-9475
Center Address: 321 Union Street
Gary, IN 46211

Reported to: GED Administrator
Division of Adult Education, IN Dept. of Education
State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Social Security Number (if required): 734-21-9641

Issue Date: 02/25/2002
Test Format: EP

TEST DATE	TEST FORM	** STANDARD SCORE	PERCENTILE RANK	INDIVIDUAL TEST STANDARD SCORE
01/17/2002	IZ	580	79	
01/17/2002	IZ	430	28	
01/17/2002	IZ	690	97	
01/17/2002	IZ	590	81	
01/17/2002	IZ	570	76	

Standard Score Total	2860	*PASS	*NON-PASS
Battery Average	572	X	

*Pass or Non-Pass as determined by jurisdictional policy.

** Standard Score: The scores on this report are the highest scores achieved by the candidate in the test. If test scores are lower than scores previously achieved, the real scores are not reported.

TOTAL BATTERY

You have demonstrated the 21st century skills of

- Communication
- Information Processing
- Problem Solving
- Higher-Order Thinking

in the five test areas (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) to perform as effectively in the workplace or in higher education as the top 20% of traditional high school graduates.

Language Arts, Reading
Your score meets or exceeds the GED passing score requirement. You demonstrated essential reading skills in the following areas: comprehending, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing workplace and literary texts.

Language Arts, Writing
Your score meets or exceeds the GED passing score requirement. You demonstrated essential skills in the following areas: using the elements of standard English to edit workplace and instructional documents and to generate well-organized and developed written text.

Science
Your score meets or exceeds the GED passing score requirement. You demonstrated essential skills in the following areas: understanding, interpreting, and applying concepts of life, earth and space sciences, physics, and chemistry; visual and written text from academic and workplace contexts.

Social Studies
Your score meets or exceeds the GED passing score requirement and the 80% of all graduates who earned superior skill in the following areas: understanding and interpreting mathematical concepts in algebra, data analysis, statistics, geometry, and number operations applied to visual and written text from academic and workplace contexts.

Mathematics
Your score exceeds the GED passing score requirement and the 80% of all graduates who earned superior skill in the following areas: understanding and interpreting mathematical concepts in algebra, data analysis, statistics, geometry, and number operations applied to visual and written text from academic and workplace contexts.

Standard Score Total — In this example, 2860 is the sum of all the standard scores from all the tests.

Battery Average — In this example, 572 is the average of all the standard scores from all the tests.

If your scores do not meet the required passing score, the "NON-PASS" box is marked. ** If you have not taken all five tests, "INC" (incomplete) appears.

**If you do not pass, you can retake the GED Tests in order to raise your scores. The local GED Examiner can provide information about retesting. If you earn a standard score of 350 or lower, GED Testing Service generally recommends further study in those subject areas. You may also consider contacting local adult education programs for information about instructional classes.

Adults who pass the GED Tests earn scores that meet or exceed the performance of that demonstrated by 40% of graduating high school seniors. If your scores meet or exceed the required passing score, the "PASS" box is marked.