

Adult Education/GED Preparation

Information Packet

Lawson State Community College

Adult Education Program

(205) 929-6476

(205) 929-6471 FAX

Adult Education Study Programs

What is the GED?

GED stands for the General Educational Development Program. The GED test offers people who did not finish high school the opportunity to earn high school credentials.

If your scores on the GED test are satisfactory, you will be awarded an official High School Equivalency Diploma by the State of Alabama. This credential is considered equivalent to a high school diploma and is recognized as such by employers, the military, and colleges.

How do I know if I should take the GED test now--or enroll in a class first?

Remember that the GED diploma is equivalent to a high school diploma. If you do not have the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school senior, you should enroll in a study program (see the page 7 of this booklet for classes available). As you advance in your work, trained instructors will be able to accurately gauge your readiness for the test. When you are ready, the instructors can administer a free GED practice test. This does two things: provides you practice for the actual GED test, and accurately predicts your readiness to pass the GED test.

Are Adult Education study programs like the classes I attended in school?

Adult Education classes operate differently than a traditional classroom. Because we have students of different ages and different stages of study, our class structure must be flexible enough to meet the needs of each individual within the classroom.

Will the teacher be standing in front of the class lecturing and calling on students to answer questions?

No. Each learner is given a written individualized plan of instruction. Each learner works independently on that plan--making progress at his/her own rate. The instructor is available at all times to assist when needed. Students are responsible for asking for help. The instructor is always circulating throughout the class, helping all learners as they work on different subjects, at different functioning levels.

What about books?

We provide all books, computer access and other instructional materials. Our instructional materials can be checked out at the discretion of the instruction, instructional materials cannot be written in. We have exercise sheets available up on request.

What is the cost for the study programs that you offer?

There is no charge for classes or for the study materials. We do ask that you bring your own paper and pencils.

When can I enroll in an adult education class?

Our classes are ongoing and year round. Please check enrollment schedule.

How do I get started?

You may contact the Adult Education offices at Lawson State Community College Birmingham Campus (205) 929-6476 or 929-2133 Bessemer Campus (205) 929-3486 or 929-3501.

We are located on the Birmingham (East Campus) and the Bessemer Campus, One Stop Career Centers. The hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Policies may vary for getting started. The most important thing is to take that first step—tell someone you are interested and get information on the class that best meets your needs.

How long can I expect to be in the class before I am ready to take the GED test?

It varies greatly depending on the individual. You might ask yourself, what was the last grade I completed? How were my grades? How long have I been out of school? Have I had access to learning experiences—a job, reading the daily newspaper, travel, etc.? Can I attend class four hours a week or twenty hours a week? Do I tend to learn quickly or does it take me longer than others? All these variables will determine if it will take you weeks, months, or years to finish.

Remember—you cannot make it in today's world without a high school diploma or GED.

Therefore, you should focus on achieving this goal, no matter how long it takes. Regardless of your present academic level, we can help you work up to a successful GED testing level. See page 6 of this booklet for a listing of classes available.

The GED Test

What are the eligibility requirements for taking the GED test?

GED examinees must be:

- 18 years of age
- Not enrolled in school
- A resident of Alabama

Are there any provisions for 16 and 17 year olds to take the test?

Yes. A 16 or 17 year old may test. However, students from this group are required to submit documentation from a public or private school, as appropriate, verifying that the applicant has withdrawn. In addition, the student should submit a notarized letter of permission from a parent or legal guardian. The required format for this letter may be obtained from a GED examiner.

If you are enrolled in a GED preparation program, your teacher will assist you. If not, ask the GED test administrator for guidance through this process.

What does it cost to take the GED test?

The cost is \$50 to take the entire test. The cost is \$10 per subject to repeat any individual subject test.

What subjects are tested on the GED exam and what are the time limits?

Language Arts, Writing	1 hour, 15 minutes	Tests sentence structure, usage, mechanics and organization.
Language Arts, Essay	45 minutes	Requires an original essay that adequately develops the topic provided.
Language Arts, Reading	1 hour, 5 minutes	Requires comprehension and analysis of selections from popular and classical literature, business documents, etc.
Social Studies	1 hour, 10 minutes	History, geography, civics, government and economics. Includes maps, charts, tables, cartoons and photographs.
Science	1 hour, 20 minutes	Life science, earth and space science, physical science.
Mathematics	1 hour, 30 minutes	Covers number sense, geometry/ measurement, data analysis/ statistics, and algebra/functions. Some use of calculator required. Includes graphs, charts, tables and diagrams.

Do I have to take the entire test in one day?

Candidates taking the GED for the first time are expected to complete the test in a one-day sitting. However, there are exceptions. See Chief GED Examiner for any special accommodations. The entire test must be completed within a ninety days period.

Contact the testing center for testing options.

Are there special test accommodations for those with disabilities?

Yes, test candidates may not have the ability or test-taking skills required to complete the test under standard conditions because of physical, psychological, or learning disabilities. In these cases, the student can be tested under special conditions and/or with special editions of the test (Braille, large print, etc) at no additional cost. However, you must inquire about this option in advance at your test center, fill out special forms and receive certain approvals.

What score is required to pass the GED test?

In Alabama, your total score on all five tests must add up to 2250 points (the essay is not included in this scoring system). The required minimum score on each individual test is 410. Remember, this is the minimum. To achieve the total, you must have an average score of 450.

Is this score based on a 0 to 100 point scale?

No, the scores used on the GED have a different range. The lowest score you can earn on each test is 200 and the highest is 800.

How long will it take me to receive my test scores and find out if I passed?

It usually takes two to four weeks before you receive your official test results by mail.

After the GED Test

What happens if I do not receive passing scores on the GED test?

You must retake all test subjects with scores less than 410. If all scores are at least 410, but your total is less than the required 2250, a retest is required; but you may choose which test(s) you will take to increase your overall score.

Is there a waiting period before I can retest?

Yes, you may retest after six weeks. However, you may retest only three times in one year.

Do employers and colleges consider the GED to be as good as the high school diploma?

The level of difficulty of the GED test has been set high. A GED diploma truly documents that you have high school-level skills. Employers and colleges accept the GED as a credential equal to the traditional high school diploma.

Will I be able to enter college with a GED?

Absolutely! About 95% of colleges and universities in the U.S. accept GED graduates in the same manner as high school graduates.

In Alabama, all two-year and four-year colleges and universities accept GED graduates into their programs if they have completed the other requirements for acceptance. Some Alabama four-year colleges may require higher than minimum scores on the GED test and/or additional tests for acceptance and/or placement. Each college has its own application process and requirements. You should contact the admissions office of your school of choice to obtain this information. If you meet entrance requirements, you should also be eligible for financial aid and all other services available to traditional high school graduates.

What if I lose my GED certificate, or what if a college requests an official transcript of GED scores, where can I obtain additional copies of my record?

If you have passed the GED test within the previous year, you can send a written request to the GED test center where you took the test. They will mail it directly to the college(s) to which you are applying.

The Department of Postsecondary Education permanently maintains the records of all those who passed the GED test in Alabama. The GED Office is in charge of these records. If you passed your GED years ago and need official documentation, you may call the department's toll-free number to obtain copies of these documents: 1-800-392-8086.

Lawson State Community College - Adult Education Program GED Preparation / ESL Classes

Serving Western Jefferson County

Site	Times Class Meets	Contact Number
Lawson State Birmingham	Day and Evening Classes Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Monday – Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	929-6476
Lawson State Bessemer	Day and Evening Classes Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Monday – Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	929-3501
Career Center	Day Classes Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	214-1483
Family Guidance Center	Day Classes Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	945-6000
Edgewater United Methodist Church	Evening Classes Monday and Tuesday 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	780-3050
Fairfield Board of Education	Day Classes Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	783-6764
Bessemer Probation and Parole	Day Class Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	424-3537
Glen Iris Elementary School <i>English as a Second Language (ESL)</i>	Evening Classes Monday – Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	929-6476

GED Test Centers

GED test centers are completely separate from GED classes. They have their own offices, staff, and procedures. To find out when these centers give the GED test, and what the registration procedures are, call the following.

Lawson State - Community College – Birmingham Campus	Delores Martin - 929-6385
Jefferson State Community College – Jefferson Campus	Mr. Shannon Ginn - 856-7896
Jefferson State Community College – Shelby Campus	Mr. Phillip Guin - 520-5908
University of Alabama – Gadsden Center	Joan Hennigan - (256) 546-2886
University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa	Susan Kinard - (205) 348-6760