The Future Starts Here


The HiSET® Exam
The HiSET® Exam —
A path to college and career
In 2014, Educational Testing Service (ETS) broke new ground in adult education with the HiSET® exam — an affordable, accessible high school equivalency test option.

Built on the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education, the HiSET exam gives out-of-school youth and adults an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge and earn a state-issued high school equivalency credential.

Why choose the HiSET program?

Now the fastest-growing exam in the market, the HiSET exam offers:

• the lowest-cost test option on the market
• exceptional customer service and program support to ensure success
• a choice of paper- or computer-delivered formats that enable candidates to work in their optimal test environment
• a secure, web-based reporting portal to provide quick test results and other actionable data
• a Spanish-language version to address the needs of candidates who are more comfortable testing in that language
How the test was developed

The HiSET exam was created by ETS along with critical input from states and adult educators. This collaboration ensured that the test composition was consistent with the emphasis found in high school curricula and aligned to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) College and Career Readiness Standards.

The HiSET exam certifies that a candidate’s academic knowledge and skills are equivalent to those of a high school graduate. It also helps identify areas in which candidates are college and career ready, as well as areas that need improvement.

ETS — uniquely qualified to design the HiSET exam

ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including those for K–12 assessments, the Advanced Placement® (AP®) program, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), SAT® exams, the GRE® General and Subject Tests, the TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests, as well as The Praxis Series® for teacher licensure.

Our approach to implementing the HiSET program includes:

- **Implementation Plan**: We help your testing centers provide a secure and fair test environment.
- **HiSET Program Management Team**: We offer a fully staffed program management team with a dedicated project manager.
- **HiSET Test Development and Operations Team**: The HiSET Program team provides guidance for test development and best practices for technical implementation.
- **ETS Corporate Resources**: Our dedication to the HiSET Program and its stakeholders is supported by ETS’s corporatewide resources.

The ETS report *Choosing Our Future — A Story of Opportunity in America* explores the forces driving growing disparities in opportunity for individuals today and for future generations.
What the test covers

Comprehensive in scope, the HiSET exam tests candidates in five core content areas: Language Arts – Reading, Language Arts – Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Knowledge and Skills Tested</th>
<th>Test Features</th>
<th>Evidence of Proficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts – Reading</td>
<td>Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis and evaluation involving:</td>
<td>Reading passages with accompanying questions</td>
<td>Test takers draw conclusions, deduce meanings, infer relationships, make predictions, determine the main idea or theme, identify major points and make generalizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Literary Texts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Informational Texts</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts – Writing</td>
<td>Proficiency in persuasive and informative writing; analysis, synthesis and evaluation of:</td>
<td>Essay question and writing samples with accompanying questions</td>
<td>Test takers recognize correct and effective use of standard English in the context of a variety of written materials and are asked to make revisions. The essay question measures proficiency in the generation and organization of ideas through a direct assessment of evidence-based writing. Written responses are evaluated on the candidates’ abilities to develop positions or claims supported by evidence from the materials provided as well as their own experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of Central Position or Claim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Organization of Ideas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Language Facility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conventions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis and evaluation involving:</td>
<td>Stimulus-based materials and discrete items</td>
<td>Test takers demonstrate understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures, analyze and interpret information, and synthesize data and solve problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Numbers and Operations on Numbers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Measurement/Geometry</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Data Analysis/Probability/Statistics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Algebraic Concepts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis and evaluation involving:</td>
<td>Stimulus materials present investigations and research studies. Graphs, tables and charts present experimental results.</td>
<td>Test takers demonstrate their ability to use science content knowledge, to apply principles of scientific inquiry, and to interpret and evaluate scientific information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Science as Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Life Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Earth Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis and evaluation involving:</td>
<td>Primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts and reading passages may be used to present information.</td>
<td>Test takers demonstrate their ability to analyze and evaluate various kinds of social studies information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• History</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Civics and Governments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Geography</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Economics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
See how the HiSET exam presents questions in a real-life context

The HiSET exam is designed for adult learners. The test items reflect that goal by using practical, real-world examples, which are relatable and relevant — and still aligned to standards and curriculum.

Language Arts – Reading Sample Item

How Will These Changes Affect the Employees?
To: All Employees
From: Dwayne Callahan, Director of Human Resources

As you are aware, our company has recently come under new management changes will be taking place as a result of this restructuring. Many of these changes will affect our product lines. There will also be several changes that will affect employees.

First, a new evaluation system will be put in place. In this new system, employee performance will be reviewed each quarter and rated with five being the highest score. Employees receiving an exemplary rating may experience an increase in hourly wages.

Another change will be the implementation of a bonus system. Surveys conducted by the human resources department will be rewarded individually. Each employee in the department will receive a bonus for every hour worked during their time period. This is a fantastic new perk we are excited to share with you all.

The final change that we are pleased to share with you is the additional paid vacation days each year. Current guidelines for requesting time off in these days are available immediately. We appreciate your dedication dedication to the change of management.

This informational text item from the Language Arts – Reading section draws upon a common workplace situation.

Language Arts – Writing Sample Item

Read this welcome letter to new employees at an electronics company:

Bridgewater Electronics
Expanding the Future—One Byte at a Time

1. Hello, and welcome to your future at Bridgewater Electronics.
2. When founder and engineer Markus Whaley brought Bridgewater Electronics into existence in 1975, he had ambitious ideas and planned to employ a creative, forward-thinking team to assist him in his mission to create innovative electronics in every form. As a leader of the fast-paced consumer electronics industry, Bridgewater Electronics upholds its mission by employing smart group of visionaries and providing them with the tools they need to dream and make their ideas. With your knowledge and expertise, Bridgewater Electronics continue to impress its customers and lead the industry for generations.

Support
3. The in-house training, professional development opportunities, and support program will be helpful in further developing your skills and learning the company. As a new employee, you are encouraged to take advantage of the onboarding experience, attend monthly networking lunches. Attending these lunches will allow you to meet your new staff at all levels, help you get to know our coworkers, and gain insight into the work we do.
4. You will be paired with a seasoned mentor to monitor and support you as you learn your role within the company. You and your mentor will discuss work flow, assignments, and processes. Your mentor will also help you determine which resources will benefit your personal and professional development.

In the Language Arts – Writing subtest, test takers are asked to construct an essay based on evidence drawn from the passages they are provided, which align to common situations in the workplace.

Mathematics Sample Item

A solution of salt water is made by dissolving 2 grams of salt in 1 liter of water. Which of these would yield a solution with the same concentration?

A Dissolving 1/2 gram of salt in 2 liters of water
B Dissolving 1/2 gram of salt in 1/2 liter of water
C Dissolving 1 gram of salt in 1/2 liter of water
D Dissolving 1 gram of salt in 2 liters of water
E Dissolving 2 grams of salt in 1/2 liter of water

This item about ratio and proportion is illustrated using a scenario that could occur in medical, mechanical, horticultural or culinary occupations.
How the HiSET exam aligns to national standards

Adult learners may cover the same content as high school students, but they have different needs. Adult learners bring a wealth of real-world knowledge to their educational experience — and they have greater urgency to maximize their time.

The College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for Adult Education, developed by OCTAE, were designed to reinforce the critical knowledge and skills used on a regular basis in the workplace. It is crucial that adult education programs provide learners with opportunities to acquire skills to pursue their career aspirations and educational goals. It is also crucial for the exam that leads to a high school equivalency credential to mirror the adult learner’s needs, including preparation to enter into first-year college courses.

The HiSET exam supports adult learners by measuring essential components of the CCRS. Content experts, test developers and measurement experts conducted a thorough review of the HiSET exam in relation to the CCRS. ETS will continue to use the CCRS as a blueprint for HiSET exam development.
How the HiSET exam can inform the future

Score Reports

Passing scores are automatically transmitted to the state agency, which issues a high school equivalency credential. The two reports provided are:

- **Individual Test Report**: provides information of passing criteria for each test and a clear indication if the test taker is ready for credit-bearing, college-level courses. A performance summary section provides content areas that are in need of improvement.

- **Comprehensive Score Report**: tracks the cumulative record of the highest scaled score for each test with information on how well the test taker met passing criteria for each subtest.

ETS transmits HiSET exam results to the state as they become available, within three business days for multiple-choice tests and five business days for essay tests. With these reports, test takers and their instructors understand what next steps to take academically.

College and Career Opportunity Report

Many HiSET test takers are working adults on a nontraditional educational path. A nontraditional path can be difficult to forge, and the HiSET® College and Career Opportunities Report provides a map to this new future. Based on their test performance and their geographic location, this report provides targeted information about job opportunities in the local economy and program opportunities in colleges and universities that match their academic level.

Jobs with a future

The first page features jobs in the local economy, including:

- job types that are a good fit based on their HiSET performance
- number of job openings per year
- average hourly wage in their area

College choices

The second page identifies two colleges within a 75-mile radius of their home that offer programs of possible interest based on their HiSET performance, including:

- college contact information
- program offerings
- average net cost
- contact link for student aid
College and Career Opportunity Report

Promising Careers for Susan Example
Peabody, Massachusetts

2,176 Jobs in Peabody Each Year For People with a High School Equivalency Credential, Your Strengths, and No Previous Experience

Jobs You May Qualify For Pay from $9.56 to $28.80 per Hour

Peabody is projected to have 1,562 new job openings annually. Considering your strength on the HiSET, you may qualify for many jobs in the region.

Pay attention to the jobs in: those are a good fit for you based on your HiSET scores and also have a high number of job openings in your area. The jobs towards the top of the list pay the most.

For example, you show potential for the job of Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers, which pays relatively well: $28.80 per hour on average. As the graph shows, Peabody projects 44 new jobs per year in this profession.

Of course, if you continue with your education, you are likely to make more money. As you will see below, people with your level of education in the Peabody area make about $31,550 a year. However, those who earn a community college degree make approximately $56,000 a year and those who earn a four-year degree make close to $67,500 a year.

On the next page, we list some colleges that could be a good fit for you. To learn more about these colleges, you can contact them by phone or on the Internet.

Sample Jobs In Your Area Each Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Jobs</th>
<th>Annual Job Openings</th>
<th>Average Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police and Sheriff's Officials</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$28.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighters</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$28.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line Cooks</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$16.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chefs</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$15.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and Cleaners, Except Mail and proportioning Cleaners</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>$14.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>$13.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters and Waitresses</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>$11.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock Clerks and Order Fillers</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>$12.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>$11.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test takers are provided a list of local nearby colleges that may fit well for the test taker based on their performance on the HiSET exam.

More Education
Median Earnings
$31,500

HiSET (High School Equivalency Credential)

College Options Near Peabody, Massachusetts

Here Are Two Nearby Colleges With Programs For High-Potential Jobs

Programs Can Be as Short as One Year and Up To Four Years

We have identified two colleges that could be a good fit with your performance on the HiSET.

Bunker Hill Community College offers a range of programs. Some of the programs take less than a year to complete. Others take two years, but offer an associates degree, which offers higher wages.

Suffolk University is also close to you and offers programs that may be of interest. On average, Suffolk University costs more for students to attend than Bunker Hill Community College.

While college offers a great investment, the costs to attend can be discouraging. However, financial aid is available. The first step in obtaining financial aid is to complete the FAFSA form online. Just go to http://fafsa.ed.gov and click on "Start a new FAFSA".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(A) Bunker Hill Community College</th>
<th>(B) Suffolk University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact info</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bunkerhill.edu">www.bunkerhill.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance learning available?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of 2 years or less</td>
<td>Business, Management, Marketing, and Support (113 - 893.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Related Programs (988 - 835.64)</td>
<td>Education (196 - 824.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degrees</td>
<td>Public Admin. and Social Service Professions (125 - 846.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal and Culinary Services (255 - 135.30)</td>
<td>Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies (144 - 850.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degrees</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources and Conservation (196 - 601.07)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Net Costs</td>
<td>$6,870 (excluding tuition, rent, food, and less financial aid grants and loans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student services offered</td>
<td>Academic Advising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling services</td>
<td>Employment center for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement services for students</td>
<td>Placements services for employers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test takers in California will not receive this report at this time.
The Future Starts Here

How We Help Everyone Succeed

While U.S. high school graduation rates continue to improve, there are still about 8,300 students who will leave high schools every day before earning a diploma. The occupational outlook for under-credentialed and undertrained individuals can be discouraging in our competitive, technology-driven, global economy.

The goal in creating the HiSET exam was to help out-of-school youth and adults set a new path to their future by supporting the first step — earning a high school equivalency credential. With the HiSET exam, ETS has not only constructed a reliable and valid exam, but has supported that exam with resources for test takers.

Support for Test Takers

- **MyHiSET Account** — Test takers can register and schedule their tests, receive scores and find the locations of test centers on this secure online portal.
- **Free tutorial video** — Test takers can learn more about the HiSET exam and the computer-delivered test, including information about the computer screen, navigations and accessibility with this video.
- **Online test prep tool** — Test takers can augment their adult education classes or prepare for the HiSET exam on their own with this low-cost, online subscription to the HiSET Academy.
- **Free and low-cost practice tests** — Test takers can familiarize themselves with the HiSET exam with annually updated practice tests available in English or Spanish in print or an electronic format.
- **Free test prep and resources** — Test takers can access a variety of free test prep materials and resources including our Interactive Practice Tests, providing test takers the opportunity to experience what it is like to take the computer-delivered HiSET exam.
- **Test-taker Support (1-800-MyHiSET)** — Test takers have an advocate that they can reach, toll free, to guide them through the test-taking process, including getting support for accommodation and accessibility requests.
We’re here to help

ETS’s experienced staff can help you with whatever you need to support test takers and administer the HiSET exam.

For Adult Education Centers
- Training material featuring standards-based curriculum and instruction
- Support for disabilities and accommodations
- Online test prep and free practice tests

For Test Centers
- Training materials including best practice for test administration and test security
- Training on state requirements and ETS policies
- Support for test takers requiring accommodations
- Technical support during the testing process

For Employers
- Programs designed to provide employers with solutions to help their employees earn a high school equivalency credential
- Personal support for the test taker including planning sessions and guidance
- Support for company leadership to understand the credentialing process
Read what Adult Education professionals are saying about their HiSET experience

“During a time in our history when the role and scope of our services has never been more important to the future of our communities and their economies, the true partnership that the ETS-HISET program affords, which is rooted in student success, is awesome! The undereducated and underemployed citizens of Louisiana deserve opportunities to earn their way into the middle class. And the customer service that the program provides is second to none. The HiSET team and Louisiana take great pride in providing the highest quality testing experience possible to each test taker.”

— Sean Martin, Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, Executive Director of WorkReadyU

“Working with the team at ETS-HiSET is one of the best experiences I have ever had. Starting the testing program was a relatively easy process with limited initial costs to our district. With prepaid shipping of test materials, we were testing within a few weeks. Their staff is unfailingly accessible and sensitive to the needs of test centers. They listen to and take action on issues expressed by test center staff. In the rare case a technical issue arises during computer-based testing, the technical support team is determined to resolve the issue immediately. As Test Supervisor for the largest test center in my state, I can honestly say their team is like an extension of my staff. I can always count on them for support.”

— Monica Balbuena, Chief Examiner, Los Angeles Unified School District

“HiSET is a true partner in Tennessee Adult Education. The HiSET exam offers our adult learners a rigorous, standards-based assessment leading to a High School Equivalency Diploma which represents an unquestionable academic achievement. When an employer interviews one of our students, they see someone who will be a contributor to the business on day one. Further, the HiSET team delivers unparalleled customer service to ensure that no student ever falls through the cracks.”

— Jason C. Beard, Administrator, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

For more information, visit hiset.ets.org