The Future Starts Here


The HiSET® Exam
Take charge of your future

If you didn’t finish high school, you know opportunities are limited. Even with talent and drive, the lack of a high school diploma can keep doors from opening for you.

The HiSET® exam is a test that leads to a state-issued high school equivalency credential that you can use to advance your career, join the military or continue your education.

How does high school equivalency work?
High school equivalency credentials are awarded by your state. If you left high school without graduating, you need to pass a test. Your passing test scores are reported to the state — and then you receive your high school equivalency credential.

Many states offer a choice of three high school equivalency tests — the HiSET exam, the GED® test and the TASC™ test — and they let the test taker decide which one they wish to take. Some states offer a single test. What’s important to remember is that all three allow test takers to earn their high school equivalency credential from their state.

The HiSET exam is the fastest-growing test option in the country because it is:

- **Affordable.** The HiSET exam is the least expensive high school equivalency test on the market.

- **Accessible.** The HiSET exam is offered at thousands of test centers, so you can choose the one that’s convenient for you.

- **Flexible.** The HiSET exam is offered in English and Spanish, and in most states it is offered in both paper-and-pencil and computer formats, so you can take the test whichever way works best for you.
Four steps to a high school equivalency credential

1. **See if the test is right for you** — Get started by seeing if you are eligible to receive a high school equivalency credential in your state. Each state has its own rules. Some states or jurisdictions require you to be a minimum age or resident of that state, or to take a preparation course.

2. **Prepare for the test** — There are many ways to prepare for the test. Some people, such as those who have recently left high school in their junior or senior year with a good academic record, can prepare with a test prep book. But most people need to take courses at an adult education center.

3. **Sign up for the test** — You can easily schedule or reschedule your test by calling toll free or through the HiSET website.

4. **Get your results** — Your scores will be available on your personal HiSET website account within approximately one week of testing. A passing score will be sent automatically to your state, which will send you your equivalency credential.
# What’s on the HiSET exam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts – Reading</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>The section measures your ability to understand, interpret and analyze a broad range of literary and informational texts. The selected texts range in length from approximately 400 to 600 words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Arts – Writing (2 Parts)</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice questions and one essay prompt</td>
<td>The section measures your skill in recognizing and producing standard American English and is in two parts. The multiple-choice section measures your ability to edit and revise written text. The essay section measures your ability to generate and organize ideas in writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>The section measures mathematical knowledge and competencies. Questions are presented as practical problems and are solved by numerical operations, measurement, estimation, data interpretation and logical thinking. Some questions test abstract concepts such as algebraic patterns and probability. You may use a calculator for this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>The section measures your ability to use science content knowledge, apply principles of scientific inquiry, and interpret and evaluate scientific information. Graphs, tables and charts are used to present information and results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>The section measures your ability to analyze and evaluate information from a variety of content areas such as history, political science, psychology, sociology, anthropology, geography and economics. Primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts and reading passages are used in questions.</td>
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The HiSET exam can expand opportunities — but it does require preparation

Test-taker facts

74% of test takers passed the HiSET exam in 2015

Over 50% dropped out in grades 11 or 12
91.6% report some high school as their highest level of education

Average age: 26

77.6% complete the battery within a year

91.6% report some high school as their highest level of education
How did they prepare?

- 61.1% took classes or a prep course
- 23.5% used online prep tools
- 22.9% used test prep books

Why?

- 18.3% wanted to attend a 4-year university
- 18.1% wanted to attend a 2-year college
- 3% wanted to join the military
- 14.7% were looking for a job
- 14.1% were seeking admission to a technical school

Free and low-cost resources to help you prepare

The HiSET program offers a variety of free and low-cost resources to help familiarize you with both the exam questions and the computer-delivered testing experience.

**Tutorial Video** — Learn more about the HiSET exam and the computer-delivered test, including information about the computer screens and navigation.

**Study Companion** — Use the Study Companion to familiarize yourself with the test content, test question formats and available study resources for each subtest.

**Practice Tests** — Experience what it is like to take the HiSET exam by taking free and low-cost practice tests. Each practice subtest is approximately half the length of the actual test and includes directions as well as an answer key. You can find out how ready you are and where you might need additional preparation.

**Interactive Practice Tests** — Experience what it is like to take the HiSET exam on a computer. These free, 30–45-minute interactive practice tests provide the same questions you would find in the HiSET free practice tests, but in a computer-delivered format. You can not only become familiar with the test, but with the computer as well.

When you take the interactive practice tests, you receive immediate feedback on the correctness of your responses, an estimate of your level of readiness for the actual test. You can then review the questions together with explanations for the correct answers.

**Sample Questions** — You can prepare even further by seeing examples of the types of questions that will be found on each of the subtests along with the correct answers and the explanation of each answer.

**Tips for Getting Ready** — Nervous about test day? Review these helpful tips and strategies to help you get ready for the exam, including how to organize your time both before and during the exam.

Visit our website for in-depth information about all of the resources available to help you prepare and to do your best on the HiSET exam.
Moving forward with confidence

When you’ve passed the HiSET exam, you have the state-issued credential you need to advance your career or enter college. But how do you start?

**Employers**

Prepare yourself with the tools you need to make smart decisions about your future. If, during an interview, you are asked about your educational status, you can be confident that your knowledge and skills are on the same level as any traditional high school graduate.

**Community College**

If you took adult education classes through a community college, it’s easy to continue there. If you transfer to another college or program, remember your high school equivalency credential is portable — that means every state honors the credential.

**Training Programs**

Keep learning! Make your high school equivalency credential a starting point for your career. A competitive workforce depends on people with developing skills. Taking continuing-education classes, attending industry-related seminars and earning certifications will serve you well and make a lasting impression on employers.
How one test can change a life

Growing up for me was really rough. At an early age, I got involved with a gang. I got sent to jail at 18 and have been incarcerated ever since. School has never been my thing … I didn’t do the work and constantly procrastinated. It took me some time to come to my senses and realize it is the first step toward bettering myself and changing my life. The HiSET exam was the first of many steps I have to take. If I can do it coming from where I came from, anyone can do it.

— Ethan Ayers, Iowa

I went back to school because I knew by getting my diploma I had a better chance of having a career, not just a job. I also went back to school to set a good example for my kids … to show them the importance of having an education and being able to follow your dreams. Now that I have my diploma, I am preparing to start taking phlebotomy classes at community college. I never in my life imagined that I would get a second chance at my education. I’m taking this chance and running with it!

— Michelle Corum, Tennessee

In the beginning of 2015, I rarely attended school for almost three months. After talking with my mom, we decided that I should drop out. We found out about the HiSET classes at Dawson Community College, and I chose to attempt it. I worked hard to get to my goal; I studied almost every day for about six months. At first, I didn’t feel like I could do it and a lot of the time doubted myself. After I had passed, I felt like I could do anything I wanted.

— Summer Bird, Montana

The HiSET exam can change your life, too.

To discover how, visit hiset.ets.org/test_takers or contact us at 1-855-MyHiSET (1-855-694-4738) or hiset@ets.org.
Take your first step toward a brighter future

Visit hiset.ets.org or contact us:

**HiSET Test-Taker Services**

Provides assistance to test takers who are creating accounts or have questions about registration, procedures and policies

1-855-MyHiSET (1-855-694-4738)

hiset@ets.org

Fax: 1-866-387-2602

**HiSET Disability Services**

Provides assistance to test takers who request accommodations for testing

1-855-802-2748 (toll-free)

hisetssd@ets.org