

Earning Your GED

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Montana's General Education Development (GED) Testing Program is a battery of tests that measure a student's academic skills as compared to a high school graduate. The Montana High School Equivalency Diploma, once issued is accepted by higher education and employers as an equivalent to a regular high school diploma.

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To earn your GED, you must take five tests in the areas of writing skills, social studies, science, literature and the arts, and mathematics. The questions in each of these tests require your general knowledge and thinking skills. Very few questions will ask about facts, details and definitions. The tests are designed to measure the important knowledge and skills, usually learned during four years of high school, that you may have obtained in a different manner.

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With the exception of Part II of the Writing Skills Tests, which requires you to write an essay, all of the questions on the GED Tests will be multiple choice with five possible answers given. The questions cover a wide range of subjects and range in difficulty from easy to hard.

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In order to take the GED Tests you must be at least 17 years of age and provide the Test Center with one of the following documents:

- Official School Withdrawal Document
- Official School Withdrawal Document with approval to take the GED (This is only required for applicants who have been out of school less than 90 days.)
- An original Letter of Approval indicating your high school class has graduated
- Or an original Letter of Approval indicating that you have not attended school out of state and you've been advised of the local in-school options.

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You can apply to take the GED tests at your local official GED Testing Center; make sure you bring your photo ID and proof of age when you apply. You must meet the minimum age and residency requirements in order to take the tests.

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Many adult education programs sponsored by local school districts, colleges and even community organizations, provide the instruction you may need for the tests. You can talk to the teachers at these adult education programs to decide whether you need to study for all of the tests. Libraries and books stores also carry GED study materials.

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Testing at an official GED Testing Center is \$55.00; if for some reason you need to retake a section the cost is \$14 for Language arts/writing (this includes the essay component); and \$7 for the language arts/reading, mathematics, science and social studies sections.

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To locate a testing center near you or for more information on how to obtain your GED call 1-800-231-9393 or click the link listed on this web page.