

Section B: High School/College Information

High School Graduation Tests

Eighth-grade students should know about the tests they will have to take to prepare for graduation and to realize postsecondary career plans. All public high school students must take and pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) to receive a high school diploma.

The Georgia High School Graduation Test includes reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. The law requires that the new tests “include processes and application skills as assessed in a range of academic content, and shall exceed minimum and essential skills by extending the assessments’ range of difficulty.” Georgia educators, including high school teachers and curriculum specialists, selected the knowledge and skills assessed on the graduation tests. The tests are based on the learning objectives specified in the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) for grades 9-12.

The test subjects are:

- * *English/Language Arts*
- * *Mathematics*
- * *Science*
- * *Social Studies*
- * *Writing*

The test is administered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, usually in the 11th grade. A student must achieve a minimum score of 500 in each subject to pass and may take the test as many times as necessary to receive a passing score. Make-up tests in different subjects are scheduled throughout the year.

Postsecondary Admission Testing

Most two-year and four-year colleges and universities require student scores from the Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT) or from the American College Testing Assessment Program (ACT). The Board of Regents’ requirements for gaining admission into the state’s public colleges and universities will change in the year 2001. The new requirements are tougher than the existing ones. The key differences between the old and the new admissions requirements are:

- The addition of one College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) unit of credit in mathematics, for a total CPC requirement of 16 units.
- A new formula called the Freshman Index.

The Freshman Index will be based on a combination of a student’s SAT (or ACT) score and his/her high school grade point average. This formula will provide a better look at a student’s potential for college success than do SAT scores or a high school grade point average considered separately.

The Freshman Index = SAT Verbal + SAT Math + High School Grade Point Average x 500. For example, the maximum Freshman Index possible is 3600, which equals a 1600 maximum SAT score (800 on verbal + 800 on math) plus the maximum high school grade point average of 2000 (a 4.0 grade point average multiplied by 500).

Minimum System Admissions Standards for 2001 Freshmen

Research Universities

For example, the University of Georgia

16 CPC units
+ 4 additional academic units
Freshman Index of 2500

Regional Universities

For example, Georgia Southern University and Valdosta State University

16 CPC units
+ 2 additional academic units
Freshman Index of 2040

State Universities and Colleges

For example, Georgia College and State University and Southern Polytechnic State University

16 CPC units
+ 2 additional academic units
Freshman Index of 1940

Two-Year Colleges

For example, DeKalb College or Coastal Georgia Community College

16 CPC units
Freshman Index of 1830

Taking the PSAT

Students can gain testing experience for the SAT by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT). Ninth- and tenth-grade students should be encouraged to take the PSAT for practice. For eleventh graders, the PSAT is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. High school juniors taking the PSAT are eligible to compete with other juniors throughout the nation for scholarship money from the National Merit Scholarship Program. The results of PSAT scores during a student's junior year are used to determine National Merit Scholars, Achievement Scholars, and National Hispanic Scholars.

Students must register with the guidance counselor to take the PSAT, which is offered once a year in October. Taking the PSAT is *required* for all students who wish to compete for the Governor's Honors Program, an academic summer program for tenth- and eleventh-grade students.

Student costs for taking the PSAT are funded by the Georgia Department of Education.

Taking the SAT

The SAT I Reasoning Test measures verbal and mathematical ability. Scores from each section of the test are reported on a scale from 200-800. For the most part, results from this test are required to determine postsecondary admission. SAT II, Subject Tests, measure achievement and ability to apply knowledge in five subject areas: English, history and social studies, mathematics, sciences, and foreign languages. Many selective colleges and universities require scores from these tests for admission.

Share with students information found in the bulletin for the SAT program on registration for the test and provide the College Board School Code (a six-digit number that identifies your school) for them. Dates and locations of testing centers are listed in the bulletin. Students are responsible for filling out the registration, sending a check or money order to cover the costs, and mailing the form to the appropriate address before the deadline. Booklets available from the College Board, such as *Taking the SAT I Reasoning Test* and *Taking the SAT II Subject Test*, should also be available for students.

To help students prepare for the SAT, the Georgia Department of Education has placed the Stanford Study Guide for SAT Success software and print material in 98 percent of the high schools throughout the state. The program includes school software for self-directed study, a student disk for home study, and blackline masters of all study material.

For information on the SAT or PSAT, contact: College Board, P.O. Box 6720, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6720; phone (690) 771-7300. Visit their website at <http://www.collegeboard.org>. For information on ACT, contact: ACT Registration Department, P.O. Box 414, Iowa City, Iowa 52243-0414; phone (319) 337-1270.

Technical Institutes

The Department of Technical and Adult Education sets the standards for admission to the technical institutes in Georgia. ASSET is the state-mandated test for entrance into these technical institutes. SAT and ACT scores are also accepted for admission. Applicants are accepted under regular, provisional, or developmental status and may exempt ASSET testing with the SAT or ACT scores specified by each technical institute. Additional criteria may be set by individual institutes.

Taking the ASSET

Students will be required to take the ASSET test if a) they have not taken the SAT or ACT and/or do not meet the required scores set by the institution; b) they have not had any college English or math courses; or c) they have a General Educational Development diploma (GED).

The ASSET test consists of 36 writing skills (English) questions, 24 reading questions, and 32 math questions. The technical institutes will provide a study guide to students upon request.

College Admissions Testing

SAT I and II and ACT registration booklets are kept in the counseling center, along with *Preparing for the ACT Assessment, Using your ACT Assessment Results, Taking the Sat II Subject Test, and Taking the SAT I Reasoning Test*. When working with students:

- Remind them that if they have previously registered for any test in the SAT program, they may register by phone. The number is (609) 771-7600. They will need specific information when calling. (Refer students to the SAT registration booklet.)
- Remind them to check with the postsecondary institute to determine if they need to take an admission test.
- Remind them to code 9999 if they are planning to participate in Division I or II athletics. This will ensure that the clearing house receives the scores. Other scholarship programs may require coding. (Check the SAT and ACT registration booklets.)
- Remind them to include the College Board/ACT six-digit school code. This will ensure that the scores will be sent to the local high school. These scores are placed on the transcript as a courtesy to the postsecondary institution and the student.
- Remind them of the registration deadline.
- Remind them that they **MUST** take personal identification, two number-two pencils, and a calculator to the testing center.
- Remind them that if the SAT II Subject Test is required by the postsecondary school, a score choice is available. However, if a student chooses not to have the College Board send scores to the postsecondary school, they will have to release them in writing at a later time.
- Fee waivers are available at the local school. The College Board and ACT have specific guidelines.

Postsecondary Options

Rule 160-4-2.34

Through the Postsecondary Options program, Georgia public school students earn both Carnegie units for high school graduation and postsecondary credit at eligible public colleges, universities, or technical institutes. Students may enroll in eligible private, nonprofit colleges or universities only if degree-granting public colleges and universities are not located within a 25-mile radius from the students' residences.

For eligible PSO students, the tuition costs are paid from the Secondary Options Grants Account, administered by the Georgia Department of Education, upon notification from postsecondary institutions that students have completed the required course requirements.

Eligible students are at least 16 years old or are classified as juniors or seniors, have not received a high school diploma, are eligible for enrollment based on state law (20-2-150), and have been accepted by eligible colleges, universities, or technical institutes.

To participate in the PSO program, students must:

- Complete high school diplomas within the time normally required, beginning with initial enrollment in the program.
- Receive minimum Scholastic Aptitude Test re-centered scores of 970 on combined verbal and mathematics sections (for students attending colleges and universities).
- Have a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 3.0 in academic subjects (for students attending colleges and universities).
- Meet the entrance criteria of their selected postsecondary institutions.
- Enroll in fall, winter, and/or spring courses based upon 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours (summer excluded).
- Provide their own transportation unless the students' IEPs call for transportation as a related service.
- Complete the Georgia Postsecondary Options Program Tuition Grant Form, authorizing the colleges, universities, or technical institutes to notify school systems of the students' grades in the postsecondary courses.
- Pay for items not ordinarily included in tuition and fees, such as calculators, books, and specialized tolls that are normally required for the course and remain the property of the students. (Fees not included: athletic, registration, parking, security, activity.).
- Exclude enrollment in other state student financial aid programs.
- Meet state assessment requirements for graduation (Rule 160-3-1-.07).

Local school systems accept toward state and local graduation requirements the postsecondary credit of eligible students who successfully complete approved courses at eligible institutions. The students' grades, courses, and amounts of credit are recorded on their transcripts based upon

local board of education policies that correlate grades earned at postsecondary institutions and the secondary cumulative grade point average. Additionally, local boards of education establish PSO policies on enrollment and on student reentry to the high school program if they fail to complete the PSO course in which they were enrolled.

NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse Information for Division I and Division II institutions

In January 1993, NCAA Division I and II voted to establish an Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse to simplify the initial eligibility certification process. This process certifies the academic requirements for student athletes entering college and is designed to:

- Streamline the certification process.
- Eliminate the duplication of work by counselors and campus administrators.
- Provide a level playing field since only one Form 48-H will exist for each high school and trained, unbiased certification specialists will make certification decisions.

To communicate with the NCAA Clearinghouse, write to:

NCAA Clearinghouse
2255 North Dubuque Road
P.O. Box 4044
Iowa City, IA 52243-4044

Students can receive information about the status of their certification documents and their certification decision, if one has been made, by calling the clearinghouse from a touch-tone phone and entering their Social Security number plus the personal ID number (PIN) provided on their Student Release Form. If a student loses the PIN number, contact the clearinghouse to establish a new PIN.

Students should:

- Get a registration booklet from the guidance center.
- Fill out the release form, mail the white copy to the clearinghouse, and give the pink and yellow copies to the guidance counselor.
- Code 9999 on the SAT/ACT form when registering to take the SAT/ACT.
- Provide all previous schools attended (9-12) with a release form.
- See the guidance counselor for answers to any questions about this procedure.