

GETTING STARTED

To obtain more information on how to earn a GED or HSED contact your local technical college for further assistance.

MORE INFORMATION

Once you earn a GED certificate or HSED, employers or educational institutions may require you to forward certified transcripts as proof you have graduated. You may access our order form through the DPI website at: <http://ged-hsed.dpi.wi.gov> or request an order form using the contact information on the back of this brochure.

The GED/HSED office does not receive partial records from GED testing. The office only keeps transcripts of those who have passed all the GED/HSED tests and received a Wisconsin credential.

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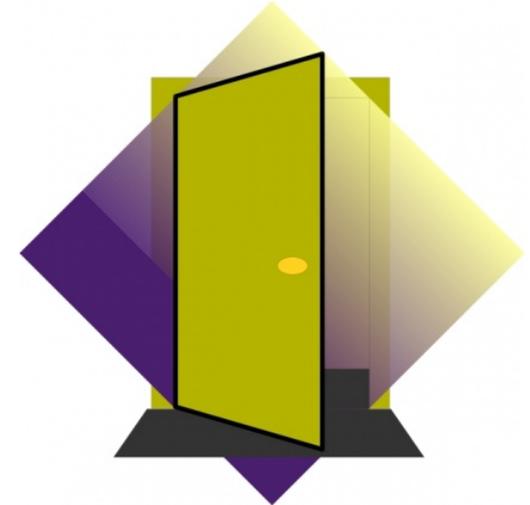


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August 2014

OPENING DOORS

High School
Equivalency Diploma
Or
GED Certificate



Wisconsin Department of Public
Instruction

Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent

PROGRAM CHOICES: GED or HSED?

If you have not completed high school and want to seek more education or a better job, you have at least two options that can open the doors to your future.

Your first option is to take and pass the tests of General Educational Development (GED) and you will then be issued a Certificate of General Educational Development.

You may expand your options by choosing a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). There are five different options to earn an HSED. About 10,000 Wisconsin adults will decide to earn an HSED this year.

The five options available to earn an HSED are:

- Pass the GED tests, complete the health, citizenship, and employability skills and career awareness counseling requirements
- Document 22 high school or college credits
- Finish 24 semester credits or 32 quarter credits at a university or technical college, including instruction in any area of study you didn't cover in high school
- Complete a foreign degree or diploma program
- Complete a competency program offered by a technical college or community based group that has been approved by the state superintendent of public instruction as a high school completion program

A high school diploma or HSED is a minimum requirement for most jobs today. For all branches of the military, the University of Wisconsin System and a growing number of

employers, the GED certificate is not the same as a high school diploma or HSED.

The best option for earning an HSED is to enroll in a technical college or participate in a program offered by a community based group. A counselor will test your reading skills and talk about your career interests and working skills in a counseling session. In the counseling session, you will learn which of the high school equivalency diploma options are available to you.

DIPLOMA or CERTIFICATE?

Remember: You may pass four GED tests and receive a GED certificate, but *it is not the same as a high school equivalency diploma*. You should think carefully about whether this is a good choice for you, or whether you should go on to earn an HSED.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

While the GED certificate can help show that you have reached a certain level of education, please keep in mind it may not be as helpful as an HSED:

- With an HSED, you can expect to make an average of \$100,000 more in lifetime income than someone without a high school credential.
- Nearly all local, state, and federal civil service jobs and apprenticeships (plumber, electrician, and other trades) require or highly recommend a high school credential.
- Without a high school diploma or HSED, you are more likely to be out of work and for longer periods of time than someone who has earned a high school credential. Many employers screen out applicants who do not present a high school credential.

- If you are planning a military career (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard), you often can not enlist or re-enlist without some form of a high school credential.

- Most colleges and universities and many technical colleges recommend that students wishing to enter their programs have some form of high school credential.

- Federal financial aid requires proof of high school completion.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To earn a GED or HSED in Wisconsin, you must meet certain requirements:

Age—Provide proof that you are at least 18.5 years old or that your 9th grade class has graduated. Students age 17 to 18.5 years may only be served through a school district or special program.

Residency—Provide proof that you have resided in Wisconsin for at least 10 days.

Application—Complete an application form at the initial meeting, provide your social security number and pay a testing and credential fee.