



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEducation

## General Information

The GED is an American High School Equivalency Certificate. It is internationally recognized as a high school leavers equivalent or Grade 12 equivalent in South Africa. Internationally, the United States GED is the number one most recognized higher secondary certificate. The GED certificate is the United States equivalent of the UK A-level test, HSC, New Zealand's NCEA, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and other higher secondary qualifications

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) evaluates each submission of a foreign qualification on a case-by-case basis. SAQA has evaluated the GED and found the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC) as its closest comparable qualification on an NQF 4 (National Qualifications Framework Level 4 (same as the National Senior Certificate)).

### **Which subjects do I write?**

Although it seems like there are less subjects than the SA CAPS curriculum, the subjects are arranged differently to what we are used to with CAPS. Subjects cover wider learning areas. So it often is more than one subject combined. Please see the details below. The subjects are:

### **Mathematical Reasoning**

The mathematics subject covers measurements, equations, and applying Math concepts to solve real-life problems. Students will be provided with a formula sheet and therefore do not have to memorize them. Students can make use of on-screen calculators.

*Topics: Basic Math, Geometry, Basic Algebra, Graphs and Functions*



# EduExcellence

PRIVATE PERSONAL EDUCATION

## General Information

### **Science**

In this subject students, will revise various scientific concepts (not only pure Science as we understand it from the CAPS perspective), how to read graphs and charts, how to display scientific data, and use reasoning skills to interpret information. The Science exam is not about memorization. For Example: students will not need to memorize the periodic table of elements but will need to recognize names and symbols of key elements in answering some questions. This is science in a broader term and covers some topics that the CAPS curriculum might see as Natural Science (Biology) or Geography as well.

### **Reasoning through Language Arts**

This covers only the English language and no additional language is needed. There are three main categories covered in this subject. They are:

- Language Arts Reading
- Language Arts Language
- Language Arts Writing (One argumentative essay)

*Some of the topics covered are Reading for Meaning, Identifying and Creating Arguments, Grammar and Language*

### **Social Studies**

Students are not required to memorise dates and facts. Students are given information regarding American Social Studies and are required to interpret information including graphs and charts and use reasoning skills to draw conclusions. The social studies portion of the exam requires you to answer a broad range of questions about US history, world history, government, geography and economics. This subject will help you fill the gaps to ensure you can read and interpret charts, graphs and maps as this comprises a significant portion of the exam.



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEducation

## General Information

### **How do we intend to prepare our students:**

Students who choose the GED option will start in Grade 10 and follow the curriculum for a year and write exams prepared by the school at the end of the first year (Equivalent to the Grade 10 year in CAPS).

During the Grade 11 year we will focus more in depth on principals studied in Grade 10 and learners will do mock tests at the end of the school year in which they turn 17. If a learner can show at the end of this year that he can pass the the Mock Tests, he/she will then be registered to take the official GED tests. Should they not pass all the mock tests, they can go write the official GED Tests for the mock tests that they passed and continue to study the other subjects in the third year.

Basically it gives learners the option to stretch getting their GED over two to three years. (Two compulsory years, the equivalent of grade 10 and grade 11) and then one year extra if the learner is struggling and needs extra assistance on certain and/or all subjects.

### **Where do you write the final GED exams?**

The GED exams are booked through the school when learners are at the end of Grade 11 (if they would have followed CAPS when they are 17 years old) and will be written at Pearson VUE testing centers at Boston City campuses. There are about 45 centers across South Africa. The exam format tends to be more multiple choice and much less essay type memorization questions like in the CAPS curriculum. Please note that this does not mean that the GED is easier by any stretch of the imagination. It is just different in that it sets out to test practical understanding rather than rote memorization.

### **What do I receive after I pass the tests?**

On successful completion of all 4 tests, you will be issued an electronic version of your GED High School Equivalency Credential issued by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington, DC as well as one printed certificate at the cost of shipping. Additional certificates and transcripts can also be purchased. as well.



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEDCATION

## General Information

### **How to use your GED for further study purposes.**

Many students with a GED have studied successfully at universities and colleges. USAf (Universities of South Africa) have unfortunately clamped down on the regulations relating to the issuing of Foreign Conditional Exemption. They will no longer consider applications for Foreign Conditional Exemption from South African GED graduates from 2020 (except if you are a citizen of another country). Graduates are needing to find an alternative to meet the requirements should they want to study towards a degree at a tertiary institution. Boston City Campus is accepting South African GED students for many of their Degree programs, provided that the student achieves the required GED scores. Boston will apply for the student. As they are recognizing the GED for acceptance, they meet certain requirements and this has been agreed with USAf.

GED graduates can also apply to study for a Higher Certificate at many tertiary institutions. A Higher Certificate is registered at NQF level 5 and after completing a Higher Certificate, can apply for an undergraduate (Bachelors) degree. Progressing from a Higher Certificate into a Degree, students could potentially transfer up to 50% of their credits.

Many overseas universities accept the GED for admission purposes and offer highly regarded degree programs. South African GED graduates who wish to enroll for degree study have the option to consider overseas universities or online overseas universities.

We have compiled a short list (which is by no means comprehensive) of where our students have been accepted recently. Of course there are many other institutions not mentioned here that may be willing to accept a GED as well or you can study internationally as well! We suggest that if you have your heart set on a certain Tertiary Institution that you contact the institution directly before doing your GED to be sure of their requirements.



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEUCATION

## General Information

Some institutions might ask you to evaluate your GED with SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority). SAQA provides a letter to confirm that it is equivalent to the NQF (National Qualifications Framework) level 4, which is the same level as the South African National Senior Certificate issued by Umalusi. The cost of getting your SAQA letter is a total of R2020 which includes an application fee of R320 and the fee of applying which is R1700.

A GED is more suited to further studies at tech and college, but students can apply for a degree with a GED if the institute will accept student for t studies depending on their GED scores. For overseas studies and/or even online overseas studies there are a lot more options.

List of institutes (not comprehensive) of institutions that have accepted GED students in South Africa:

- Academic Institute of Excellence has accepted students with a GED to do Electrical Engineering. They offer Draughting, Business Studies, Visual Design, Architecture and more.
- Hyperion Dev Fantastic opportunity to become a full stack Web developer, software developer or Data Scientist- Short online bootcamps in partnership with Edinburgh university. No SAQA letter is required to enroll.
- Boston City Campus & Business College are accepting GED graduates to study for a degree depending on their final GED scores. They have confirmed that a GED graduate can also apply to study a Higher Certificate or Diploma in one of their many specialisations as well, and that they do NOT require a letter of evaluation from SAQA anymore.
- Open Window are accepting students for certificates and undergraduate degrees ( depending on GED results ) in Visual Arts including photography, film and animation. etc.



# EduExcellence

PRIVATE PERSONAL EDUCATION

## General Information

- The South African Nursing Council, through discussions with Netcare Education, have confirmed that they will accept GED graduates together with the SAQA Certificate of Evaluation to study nursing.
- Eduvos recently accepted a student to do a Bachelors degree after he completed a Higher Certificate at Varsity College.
- Helderberg College of Higher Education has offered GED students options to study towards a degree in Psychology, Education, Accounting and Management etc.
- UNISA has offered students the opportunity to study for a degree after completing NBTs ( some universities will and some will not accept GED plus NBTs) Each one needs to be approached individually and a letter from USAf needs to be obtained.
- Pearson Institute have confirmed that a GED graduate can apply to study a Higher Certificate in one of their many specialisations, which is registered at NQF level 5 and after completing a Higher Certificate, can apply for an undergraduate Degree.
- Embury Institute for Higher Education has offered a degree in teaching for GED students with a SAQA certificate.
- AFDA is the School for the Creative Economy and has recently accepted GED students for a Bachelors degree.
- Varsity College offers the Higher Certificate and are happy to accept GED students with a SAQA certificate. ECD courses available as well.
- Sol-Tech has accepted GED students to study with a SAQA certificate.
- SACAP (the leading accredited institute specialising in Psychology) has accepted students with a SAQA letter and NBTs plus the SATs in addition for a BA degree.
- Two Oceans Graduate Institute in Cape town has accepted students for BA in Education with a GED plus a SAQA certificate.
- Lyceum College has accepted our GED students with a SAQA letter.
- MATA- Mega Aero Training Academy
- Beauty Therapy Institute has accepted a GED® student for a Level 3 Beauty Specialist course to become a certified therapist or a somatologist.
- Academic Institute of Excellence for IT Business Visual Design Draughting Engineering Civil works etc



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEDCATION

## General Information

- Beaulieu College for equestrian studies
- Inscape College for Interior Fashion and Graphic Design etc and many other courses offered.
- Getpix Creative College for Photography Video Makeup Tadoo Art Sound Engineering etc
- Cornerstone are accepting students for business, media and education studies.
- Northlink College for Engineering and Business Studies Finance Hospitality and Safety
- Isa Carstens Academy – Health and Wellness Academy
- AAA School of Advertising
- ETA College– Sport Fitness qualifications.
- The Animation School
- CTU College– Business, Design, IT etc
- City Varsity School of Media and Creative Arts
- Rosebank College– IT, Marketing, Graphic Design, Events, ECD
- South African College of Business– Accounting, Tourism, Hospitality.
- Boland College – Civil Engineering, Building Construction, Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Hospitality, Tourism, IT Agriculture, Security etc.
- Vega Cape Town – Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Digital Marketing, Photography, Digital Marketing etc

***\*Please note that all acceptances are based on individual application and merits of such application as well as the student's final GED Marks.***

### **International acceptance of GED:**

The GED is accepted at many universities around the world. Every university has international admission requirements to allow for the global mobility of students.

Most universities accept American credentials such as a GED plus a prescribed score on the SAT college admission test.



# EduExcellence

PRIVATEPERSONALEducation

## General Information

### For example:

- 98% of US universities accept students with a GED.
- 100% of universities in New Zealand accept students with a GED + prescribed score on the SAT or ACT tests.

The GED Testing Service will have a list available of international universities that accept students with a GED. Always check the international admission requirements and request confirmation from the university of your choice in advance.

### The advantages of the GED

- Learners can follow any curriculum of their choice up to the end of Grade 9 before the student starts preparing for the GED exams.
- Many overseas universities accept the GED for admission purposes and offer highly regarded degree programs. This is not to say that a South African University will not, but each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- South African GED graduates who wish to enroll for degree study do have the option to consider overseas online universities as well.
- Some English-speaking learners choose this option as the Afrikaans required for Cambridge and the Afrikaans second language subject as part of the NSC offered by curriculum providers is a problem.

### The disadvantages of the GED

- USAf no longer considers applications for Foreign Conditional Exemption for University entrance from South African GED graduates from 2020.
- It is not the best choice if your child is interested in pursuing a very specific field of study, for example, medicine, where there are strict admission requirements. I do have to mention that these fields tend to only be open to students who receive at the very least four plus A symbols in a mainstream school on the normal CAPS curriculum.
- The GED is just offered in English and maybe more difficult for students who do not have English as their home language.