

The GED Academy Online Accelerated Learning Program

The GED Academy Accelerated Learning Program is a computer-based instructional program providing a personal tutor learning experience in core subject areas and skills for ABE and GED test preparation. The distinguishing feature of this program is its ability to carry the whole weight of basic instruction with built in assessments, learning feedback loops, digital textbooks, and engaging learning activities.

Learning is accelerated because:

- Each student is given a personalized learning plan that maximizes instruction time and engagement.
- The learning experience is richer and more involving for the student because it uses captivating and engrossing audio/visual elements that provide for a deeper degree of interest and immersion in the learning.
- Like a personal tutor experience, the program adapts constantly to the learning needs of the student, filling in gaps in the student's knowledge base and maximizing the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

The GED Academy Accelerated Learning Program can provide a complete distance learning solution with minimal instructional supervision, or it can supplement the face-to-face classroom teaching model. The core features of the program are:

- 1) Assessment of students' skills and needs with built-in online GED assessment
- 2) Individualized learning plans to meet all students' needs
- 3) Continuous feedback as students make progress through their learning plans
- 4) Continuous teacher awareness of student performance and teacher notification of needs for intervention
- 5) Time on task for funding verification and teacher intervention.
- 6) Student progress tracking and modification of the learning plan to meet students' changing needs
- 7) Evaluation of students' achievements in relationship to their goals

The GED Academy Accelerated Learning Program covers six content areas: Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing; Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Digital Literacy (available soon).

Research Based Instruction

The GED Academy Online Classroom and Distance Learning Program deploys a rigorous evidenced-based development process in the creation of assessments, lesson activities, and user interfaces. New lessons and practice tests are created through an exhaustive development process that is designed to maximize student achievement. After a lesson

assignment is deployed in the program we monitor student achievement to ensure that the lesson design succeeds in delivering maximum results on student progress. The GED Academy Accelerated Learning Program builds an Active Learning Instructional Model into the development process that ensures the following:

- Every student is engaged in active inquiry and discovery to maximize the understanding of big ideas and overriding concepts.
- The lessons elicit prior understandings and background knowledge in order to connect with the concepts to be learned.
- The lessons define what authentic performance criteria will be used to measure student achievement over short- and long-term time periods.
- The lessons include questions that elicit student questioning, self-evaluation, and consideration for metacognition.
- Lessons are designed to specifically maximize student interest and engagement.

Student Experience

The GED Academy Program is a student-centered program. The student navigates through a HomeRoom website designed to give maximum feedback and support. The following are the elements of the student experience:

- 1) **Introduction and Assistance:** The student is provided with introductory movies to provide guidance through each step of the program.
- 2) **Goal Setting and Progress Feedback:** The student chooses learning goals that will drive study. Students' progress through the program is shown as a progress meter, so the student can see continuing progress toward their goal.
- 3) **Commitment and Time on Task Feedback:** The student commits to a personal study schedule and sees a weekly comparison of time on task and their study commitment.
- 4) **Initial Assessment and Feedback:** As the student begins working toward a goal, he or she is given an assessment to evaluate the student's skills and needs. The student is given easy-to-comprehend feedback on their performance.
- 5) **Assignments and Feedback:** Based on the initial assessment in a goal area, the student is assigned a learning plan in that goal area. The learning plan is a series of assignments designed to fill the gaps in the student's knowledge to meet the student's learning goals. The student receives a recommended assignment and an alternative assignment. Assignments include instruction, practice, and assessment. Students receive immediate feedback on their performance and continuing feedback on their HomeRoom page.
- 6) **Resources:** Students receive recommendations of resources for further study and investigation relating to the assignments they are working on. Students also have continuous access to the *GED Smart* study guide.

- 7) **Adaptation:** Based on the student's performance, the program makes adaptations to the student's learning plan and assigns lessons based on the student's changing needs.
- 8) **Evaluation:** When the student has completed a learning plan, he or she is given an assessment to determine the student's progress and needs. Based on the assessment, either the student's goal is met, or a new learning plan is created.

Teacher Experience

The teacher is given controls to manage students' learning and track students' progress. The following are the elements of the student experience:

- 1) **Manage and Track Goals and Learning Plans:** Teachers can assign and view student goals, see progress and performance, view assignments in any lesson plan, and modify lesson plans as necessary. When viewing the learning plans, teachers can see whether an assignment is not started, in progress, assigned for review, or completed.
- 2) **Track Assessments:** Teachers can see immediate results from student assessments and drill down to specific student answers.
- 3) **Get Notifications:** Teachers are notified of students that require teacher intervention.
- 4) **Manage Students and Classes:** Teachers can easily add and deactivate students, manage student accounts, and organize students into class groups.
- 5) **Track Time on Task:** Time on task is easy to see for a single student or a full class, and is selectable by date.
- 6) **View Learning Content:** Teachers can view assessments and assignments in depth.

Assignment Correlations

Assignments are correlated to GED and TABE[®] skills, and correlations are easily available to instructors and administrators. Existing GED Test or GED Practice Test scores, TABE[®] scores, NRS Grade Equivalents, CASAS scores, GAIN scores, or WorkKeys[®] scores can be input to automatically generate a student learning plan in place of the initial assessments.

Program Assessments

In each GED subject area, the program includes a suite of GED assessments. A focused and directed abbreviated GED Practice Test evaluates students' preliminary competency to determine an initial learning plan. Two complete half-length GED Practice Tests gauge students' progress and preparation for the GED exam. We have normed our GED Practice Tests to the Official GED Practice Tests to give your students real experience with the GED exams. The online tests are ADA compliant and can even be used on mobile devices such as cell phones. Answers are randomized on all program assessments.

Program Content

The program content is divided into skill areas, which encompass multiple related learning objectives. Assignments, including a variety of instructional lessons, learning activities, practice questions, and *GED Smart* assignments, develop student capabilities in the skill area. GED Academy assignments are developed specifically for the adult education environment and the unique learning needs of adult ed students. No repurposed K–12 content is included.

Student performance on assignments is continuously assessed based on student responses during the assignments. Depending on the student’s performance, the upcoming assignments in a skill area may be modified, to respond to the student’s needs.

In most cases, an entire skill area is taught by means of a group of assignments, before the student moves on to the next skill area. This is particularly true in subjects like math, where future learning builds on past knowledge. In some appropriate instances, skill areas are subdivided, and delivered to students in more than one section at different times, which provides reinforcement of learning.

Students have the ability to explore and adjust their own learning, in addition to the structured feed of assignments in the learning plan. All assignments are available, for students who want to move ahead or explore a different topic.

The following table provides an overview of program content.

Goal Area	Initial Assessment	Skill Areas	Assignments*	Evaluation Assessments
Language Arts, Reading	Abbreviated GED Practice Test	Comprehension—Summarize; Comprehension—Main Ideas; Comprehension—Restate or Paraphrase; Comprehension—Explain Implications; Comprehension—Words in Context; Comprehension—Recall Information; Application; Analysis—Character; Analysis—Inferences; Analysis—Evidence and Conclusions; Analysis—Evaluate Meaning; Synthesis—Compare and Contrast; Synthesis—Tone, Perspective, and Effect; Synthesis—Integrate Information	124	2 half-length GED Practice Tests
Language Arts, Writing	Abbreviated GED Practice Test	Organization; Writing a Timed Essay; Mechanics—Spelling; Mechanics—Capitalization; Mechanics—Punctuation; Structure and Usage—Sentence Recognition; Structure and Usage—Subject-Verb Agreement; Structure and Usage—Fragments and Run-ons; Structure and Usage—Verb Tense; Structure and Usage—Subject and Verb Review; Structure and Usage—Advanced Sentence Structure; Editing, Proofreading, and Finalizing	114	2 half-length GED Practice Tests with Essays

Goal Area	Initial Assessment	Skill Areas	Assignments*	Evaluation Assessments
Mathematics	Abbreviated GED Practice Test	Number Sense and Operations—Unit One; Number Sense and Operations—Unit Two; Measurement; Data Analysis; Probability & Statistics; Patterns, Functions, & Algebra; Geometry & Spatial Sense	96	2 half-length GED Practice Tests
Social Studies	Abbreviated GED Practice Test	Construct Meaning—Comprehension; Words in Context; Application; Analysis; Interpret Graphic Information; Evaluate/Extend Meaning; Recall Information	97	2 half-length GED Practice Tests
Science	Abbreviated GED Practice Test	Comprehension; Application; Analysis; Evaluation; Synthesis	91	2 half-length GED Practice Tests
Digital Literacy (available soon)	Authentic Tasks in a Digital Environment	Understanding and Using Technology; Digital Citizenship; Identifying Needed Information; Finding Information; Organizing Information; Interpreting and Showing Information; Evaluating Information; Creating Digital Content; and Communicating in a Digital Environment	52	Authentic Tasks in a Digital Environment

*Assignments include internal assessments of student learning in the form of practice and quizzes.

Presentation in Multiple Learning Styles

Assignments incorporate animated movie sequences, including text, graphics, and dialogue, where relatable characters present information in multiple ways to engage and motivate students.

Accessibility

Assessments are ADA compliant and accessible on multiple Internet-capable devices, including tablets and smart phones.

Hours of Instruction

Actual number of hours of instruction depends on the student’s performance, methods of interacting with the material, and specific learning plans. Learning time varies greatly for assignments, based on the nature of the assignment.

Estimated total instruction hours are in the table on the following page.

	Formal Assessments*	Assignments*	Total
Language Arts, Reading	3–4 hours	20–24 hours	23–28 hours
Language Arts, Writing	6–7 hours	27–32 hours	33–39 hours
Mathematics	4–5 hours	34–40 hours	38–45 hours
Social Studies	3–4 hours	18–22 hours	21–26 hours
Science	3–4 hours	12–16 hours	15–20 hours
Digital Literacy (coming soon)	3–4 hours	17–20 hours	20–24 hours
			150–182 hours

*Assignments include internal assessments of student learning as practice and quizzes.

**Assessments include review of results and feedback on answer choices.

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Please let us know if your program has special requirements. We will work with you to put together the program that best suits your needs.

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Small Program	blocks of 5	\$500 per block
Single Class	up to 50	\$2,500
Multiple Class	up to 125	\$5,500
Site	no limit	\$12,500
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