



Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE®) Newsletter

The *GACE® Newsletter* is intended to be a resource for Educator Preparation Program Providers to gain access to all the important information and changes happening in the GACE program. The *GACE® Newsletter* includes important dates, information about tests and policies, reminders about testing windows and more. The latest GACE program information can always be found at www.gace.ets.org.

Upcoming/Important Dates:

- ETS closed Monday, September 5

- Read [past issues](#) of the GACE® Newsletter.
- [Subscribe](#) to the GACE® Newsletter.

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PROGRAM UPDATES

2016–17 Annual Updates

Information on the [GACE website](#) will be updated for the 2016–17 testing year on September 1, 2016. Updates include new and updated policies regarding registration, testing windows, test day procedures, identification documents, and score reporting dates.

2016–17 GACE® Registration Bulletin

The policies and procedures contained in the 2016–17 GACE® *Registration Bulletin* go into effect September 1, 2016. If you download and print a copy of the *Bulletin*, be sure to occasionally go to the copy posted on the GACE website and check the “last updated” date on page 2. If program policies change during the testing year, the *Bulletin* will be updated. There is a summary of all changes available on the “Bulletin and Reference Documents” page at www.gace.ets.org/about/bulletin.

ETS Cognitive Lab for GACE Ethics Assessments

A cognitive (cog) lab is a method used by researchers and test developers to help ensure the validity and fairness of a test item. Held in fall 2015, the overarching goal for the GACE Ethics assessments cog lab was to support the ongoing development/refinement of these assessments. The study addressed questions in five broad areas:

- Clarity of the information presented
- Authenticity of scenarios and options
- Engagement, relevance
- Navigation and ease of use
- Outcomes

Results of this study showed that:

- Most participants did not have any problems navigating through the modules.
- Activities were engaging and/or interesting. Most students, when asked which part of the module they found most interesting, chose the activities.
- Scenarios were realistic and/or presented realistic dilemmas and the perspectives helped to understand the dilemmas better.
- Nine out of 11 participants agreed that, on a scale of 1–5, with 1 being not relevant at all and 5 as very relevant, the relevance of the information presented in the modules to the work of a teacher was a 5. The other two participants rated it a 4.5.
- All of the participants agreed that the learning objectives of the modules were met and relevant to their lives.

GACE Computer Science

Beginning with the 2015–16 school year, computer programming courses were offered to satisfy core requirements in math, science, and foreign language. A computer science pathway will be developed in the 2016–17 school year. In order to accomplish this work, there must be educators qualified and certified to teach computer science courses. The GACE Computer Science assessment (Test Code 554) and certification field were developed to meet this critical need. Professionally certified teachers may now add the field of computer science to their certificate by passing the GACE Computer Science assessment. Information about registration, taking the test, and scoring is available on the GACE website at www.gace.ets.org. The GACE® *Computer Science Study Companion* is available in the Test Preparation Resources section of the GACE website at www.gace.ets.org/prepare/materials.

GaPSC plans to develop program standards for the field of Computer Science in the near future. For information about certification requirements, contact the GaPSC.

Engineering and Technology Education Replaces Technology Education

The new GACE Engineering and Technology Education assessment launches on October 7, 2016, replacing the GACE Technology Education assessment (combined test code 548). The new assessment consists of two subtests: Test I (052) and Test II (053). A combined version of the test will also be offered (552). Candidates can take each test separately at a different administration, or they can take the combined version that includes all of the tests within the assessment at a single administration. A study companion for the Engineering and Technology Education assessment is available in the Test Preparation section of the GACE website.

As communicated in March 2015, state-approved Engineering and Technology Education programs were given until **July 1, 2016**, to adjust their programs to the new Engineering and Technology standards.

Tests at a Glance

Tests at a Glance are available for all GACE assessments, with the exception of the GACE Teacher Leadership assessment and the Georgia Ethics assessments. Each *Test at a Glance* gives a quick overview of the assessment, including the test name, grade level, test code, length of test session, number and types of questions, subareas and the approximate percentage of the tests for each one, and the test objectives. A link to each assessment's *Test at a Glance* can be found on the [GACE Assessments Offered](#) page under the title of each assessment listed.

GEORGIA ETHICS ASSESSMENTS

Scores for the Georgia Ethics Assessments

Program-Entry Levels (350 and 370)

Candidates receive a percentage correct and a status of complete or not complete for each end-of-module test. Although they do not receive an overall test score, they do receive an overall status of "Completed" or "Not Completed" for the assessment. Candidates must complete all training modules and end-of-module tests to receive credit.

Program-Exit Levels (360 and 380)

Candidates receive a percentage correct and a status of completed or not completed for each end-of-module test and the summative test. Although candidates do not receive an overall test score, they do receive an overall status of "Passed" or "Not Passed" for the assessment.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT

Fall 2016 Registration and Submission Window

Registration	January 2, 2016–December 16, 2016
Submission Window	May 23, 2016–December 30, 2016

Spring 2017 Registration and Submission Window

Registration	January 2, 2017–April 14, 2017
Submission Window	January 23, 2017–April 28, 2017

What Qualifies as a Passing Score?

In order to pass the Teacher Leadership assessment, candidates must submit a scorable response and receive a valid score (non-zero) for each task. **A scorable response is one that addresses the guiding prompts/questions, is not determined by certified raters to be off-topic or missing a required artifact, and receives a score greater than “0.”**

The total number of points possible for all six tasks combined is 48. Candidates must receive a minimum of 31 total points to pass the assessment.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Testing with Accommodations

It is important to remind educator certification candidates that they can apply for testing accommodations if they meet ETS requirements. ETS is committed to serving test takers with disabilities or health-related needs by providing services and accommodations that are reasonable and appropriate given the purpose of the test.

The 2016–17 *GACE® Registration Bulletin* and *Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities and Health-related Needs* are available on the GACE website. The supplement contains procedures for requesting testing accommodations and registration forms. The supplement should be used in conjunction with the information in the 2016–17 *GACE® Registration Bulletin*.

Candidates requesting accommodations must have their testing accommodations approved by ETS **before they can register to test**. Test takers requesting testing accommodations are encouraged to apply as early as possible, as the approval process may take six weeks or longer to complete. See the [Accommodations for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-related Needs](#) page of the ETS GACE website for more information.