



**Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE®) Newsletter
November 2013**

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 around the GACE program. The Newsletter will include important dates, information about tests and policies, reminders about testing windows, and more. *Latest On GACE* program updates can be found on www.gapsc.com.

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TEST ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

First GACE Test Administrations Complete

The first administrations of the new GACE content assessments began on October 5, and the first Paraprofessional assessment was first administered on October 1. All of the assessments were successfully administered in the new computer-delivered format.

Registration for all ETS-delivered GACE assessments is now available. Assessments are offered during specific testing windows throughout the year.

Test Administration Windows

A complete listing of the 2013-14 testing windows for GACE assessments is available for download in PDF format on the [Test Centers and Dates](#) page of the ETS GACE website.

In the coming weeks, the Test Centers and Dates page will also feature a new way to look up testing windows specific to each test title. Visit the ETS GACE website soon to see the new developments.

PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT

Paraprofessional Assessment Tutorial

About the Paraprofessional Assessment is a step-by-step tutorial available on the [ETS GACE website](#) that covers all the screens a test taker will encounter during a computer-delivered administration of the GACE Paraprofessional assessment.

In addition to showing examples of the screens a test taker will encounter during the test, the tutorial also includes helpful tips for answering different types of questions, explains score policies, and walks test takers through different functions of the computer-delivered assessment that they will see on test day.

Paraprofessional Assessment Retake Policy Changes

As of October 3, 2013, Paraprofessional test takers can retake the GACE Paraprofessional assessment 28 days after their last test administration. This is a change from the 30 days required between tests for other GACE assessments.

The adjustment from 30 days to 28 days allows test sites (school districts, RESAs, and other agencies) to schedule their administrations more effectively.

SCORING UPDATE

Passing Scores Announced

The minimum passing standards for the GACE assessments have been established by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) with input from committees of Georgia educators and educator preparation faculty. These passing standards are the result of the GaPSC's initiative to raise the passing standard for educator content knowledge in Georgia.

All GACE test results, with the exception of Test II of the American Sign Language assessment (Assessment of Sign Communication – American Sign Language), are reported as scaled scores on a scale of 100 to 300. The Assessment of Sign Communication – American Sign Language is assigned ratings of 1 to 5.

The total raw test score on a test is a combination of the total number of scored questions answered correctly on the selected-response section of the test and ratings received on any constructed-response questions as assigned by two independent raters. The total raw test score is then converted to the scaled score scale for reporting.

The passing standards for GACE assessments have been set as follows:

- The passing standard for the Program Admission and Paraprofessional assessments is 250.
- The passing standard for Test II of the American Sign Language assessment (Assessment of Sign Communication – American Sign Language) is Level 3.
- The passing standard at this time for all other GACE assessments is 220.

For assessments composed of more than one test, test takers must pass all tests for that assessment to meet the certification requirements. If a test taker passes one test within an assessment composed of more than one test, they do not have to retake that part of the assessment again.

More information about scores and score reporting, including minimum passing scores (or “passing standards”) for all GACE assessments, can be found in the [Understanding Your GACE Scores](#) section of the ETS GACE website and in the GACE Registration Bulletin.

Delay of Scores for Program Admission Assessment

All GACE assessments go through a rigorous test development, bias review, and standard setting process. Part of the standard setting process is ensuring the raw cut scores have been set appropriately. As a final quality control step, ETS and the GaPSC have decided to conduct additional standard-setting activities for the GACE Program Admission Assessment (formerly Basic Skills Assessment) before finalizing the raw cut scores. Therefore, the GACE Program Admission Assessment scores for the first testing window (October 5–25, 2013) will be delayed until November 29.

Examinees who took the GACE Program Admission Assessment during the first testing window will be notified by ETS of the later score release date.

Score Reports

Beginning in the 2013–14 testing year, a passing score for any GACE content assessment can fall into one of two categories:

- passing at the **induction level**
- passing at the **professional level**

The passing score for induction-level certification is also known as the “passing standard.” At this time, candidates passing at either the induction level or the professional level have met the Georgia Special Requirement to pass the content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to their field of certification.

Score reports for GACE test takers who have completed a GACE content assessment on or after October 1, 2013, will show whether the test was passed at the induction or professional level, or not passed. Score reports for the GACE Program Admission and Paraprofessional assessments will only indicate a “Passed” or “Not Passed” status.

TEST PREPARATION RESOURCES

ETS is committed to providing valuable test preparation resources to its test takers, and continually develops and enhances test prep offerings year after year to empower its test takers and encourage a positive test preparation and test-taking experience. Candidates preparing for a GACE assessment now have access to a wide variety of test preparation materials via the [ETS GACE website](#).

Interactive Practice Tests

Interactive practice tests are full-length practice tests that include correct answers and an automatic score summary report. A chart listing the [release dates](#) of the GACE interactive practice tests is now available on the ETS GACE website. GACE interactive practice tests are released no later than the end of the month indicated on the chart.

Candidates can find the interactive practice test specific to the test they are studying for by visiting the [GACE Test Prep Materials](#) page and selecting their test title from the drop-down menu. Interactive practice tests are being developed on a rolling basis, and will be released at various times between now and May 2014.

The following GACE interactive practice tests are currently available:

- Biology Test I (026)
- Biology Test II (027)
- Chemistry Test I (028)
- Chemistry Test II (029)
- Early Childhood Education Test I (001)

- Early Childhood Education Test II (002)
- Health and Physical Education Test I (115)
- Health and Physical Education Test II (116)
- Health Education Test I (113)
- Health Education Test II (114)
- Mathematics Test I (022)
- Mathematics Test II (023)
- Media Specialist Test I (101)
- Media Specialist Test II (102)
- Middle Grades Language Arts (011)
- Middle Grades Mathematics (013)
- Middle Grades Reading (012)
- Middle Grades Science (014)
- Middle Grades Social Science (015)
- Physics Test I (030)
- Physics Test II (031)
- Program Admission Assessment – Mathematics (201)
- Program Admission Assessment – Reading (200)
- Program Admission Assessment – Writing (202)
- School Counseling Test I (103)
- School Counseling Test II (104)
- Science Test I (024)
- Science Test II (025)

Program providers seeking to purchase interactive practice tests for their educator candidates may do so in one of two ways:

- **Online:** Interactive practice tests are available for purchase by credit card or PayPal® through the [ETS Store](#). Visit the [GACE Test Prep Materials](#) page and select the test title you wish to purchase from the drop-down menu. On the resulting page, links will be present for any practice tests available for purchase. Once you have made your selections, you will be able to click the Continue Shopping button to add additional practice test titles to your order, if desired.
- **Purchase order:** If you wish to purchase bulk quantities of GACE interactive practice tests but do not have an electronic form of payment, an order form can be downloaded on the [Resources](#) page of the ETS GACE website. **Note: The order form is only for program providers not using an electronic form of payment. Program providers using an electronic form of payment and all candidates ordering practice tests must do so by making their purchases through the ETS Store.**

Faculty Workshop Video

A prerecorded video customized for educator preparation program providers is available free of charge in the [Preparing Educator Certification Candidates](#) section of the ETS GACE website.

The workshop video is narrated by Rick Cullors, Client Relations Director for the GACE program. The video discusses important details about the GACE program including the transition to ETS as test supplier, tips on preparing teacher candidates, an overview of the ETS GACE website and how to navigate it, providing eligibility for examinees, and much more.

Live Webinars

The GACE webinars walk candidates and educator preparation faculty through the different parts of the GACE assessments, inform participants about available test preparation resources, and give them the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered in real time by ETS-certified trainers.

The first two GACE Study Plan Development Webinars were conducted on September 12 and October 10 and were attended by 139 and 187 educator certification candidates and program providers, respectively.

Pre-registration for these webinars is required, and the registration form becomes available on the [Webinars](#) page of the ETS GACE website approximately two weeks prior to each webinar date. Upcoming webinar dates are available below:

Title	Date	Time
GACE Study Plan Development Webinar	November 15, 2013	2 p.m. ET
GACE Study Plan Development Webinar	January 16, 2014	1 p.m. ET
GACE Study Plan Development Webinar	April 16, 2014	1 p.m. ET
GACE Study Plan Development Webinar	July 10, 2014	1 p.m. ET
GACE Study Plan Development Webinar	September 16, 2014	1 p.m. ET

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Program Updates and Alerts

Important updates having to do with test registration, ETS Store purchases, or other functions of the ETS GACE website can be found on the [GACE home page](#).

Alerts will be posted in either of the two areas of the home page outlined below:



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 [2013–14 Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-related Needs \(PDF\)](#) contains procedures for requesting testing accommodations and registration forms. The *Supplement* should be used in conjunction with the information in the [2013–14 GACE® Registration Bulletin \(PDF\)](#).

Candidates requesting accommodations must have their testing accommodations approved 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.

Reporting Locations and Location Changes

The reporting location for each test administration can be found on the candidate's admission ticket, which they can access and print at any time from their [ETS GACE testing account](#). On occasion, weather conditions or other circumstances beyond the test center's or ETS's control may require a delayed start or the rescheduling of a test. If there is a change (e.g., a different building than originally scheduled, delayed start, or test cancellation/rescheduling), it will be updated in the candidate's testing account.

ETS will make every effort to contact test takers affected by reporting location and/or reporting time changes prior to the originally scheduled test administration. Please advise your test takers to check their testing account 24 hours prior to their test to ensure their reporting location and reporting time have not changed, and print a new admission ticket, if necessary.

Note for candidates taking the Paraprofessional assessment: A list of Paraprofessional test sites is available on the GACE website. The test sites listed are updated on a weekly basis and test sites can be added and removed without notice. Please tell your educator candidates to check back frequently to ensure the site they wish to test at is available.

Test Center Procedures Regarding ID Requirements

Test takers must bring valid and acceptable identification documents to be admitted to the test. Please remind your test takers to be sure to read and understand the ID requirements and test center procedures and regulations in the *Registration Bulletin* and on the [ETS GACE website](#) prior to the test administration. It is **not** the responsibility of the test centers to relay these policies to the test takers.

Cell Phone Policy

Test takers are not allowed to bring cell phones, smartphones (e.g., Android™, BlackBerry®, iPhone®), tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other electronic, listening, recording, scanning, or photographic devices into the test center. **Anyone found to be in possession of any of these devices inside the test center before, during or after the test administration will be dismissed, their test fees will be forfeited and their scores will be canceled.** Test administrators are not permitted to collect and hold cell phones. If test takers bring cell phones into the test center and then have to leave to store them in their vehicles, they must be back before the doors to the test center are closed. **Once the doors to the test center are closed, no one will be admitted,** even if they have already been in the test center and left to store a cell phone. If test takers are dropped off, they must not have their cell phones in their possession. If they do, they will not be admitted to test. Please remind your test takers of this policy.

Newsletter Mailing List

If someone you know would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list, you can direct them to www.gace.ets.org/program_providers to sign up. They will be added to the newsletter distribution list for the next issue.

If your email address has changed and you would like to receive the GACE Newsletter at your new email address, please visit the GACE Program Providers website at www.gace.ets.org/program_providers and sign up again with your new email address, using the sign-up links found on the right-hand side of the screen throughout the website.

You may also click the "Subscribe" button in any GACE Newsletter email to sign up again with your new email address.

CONTACTING THE PROGRAM

ETS Customer Service

ETS is committed to handling all inquiries related to the GACE program such as registration information, testing schedules, test costs, test codes, how to study, etc. It is important to let them provide this service. The GaPSC will still assist educators with certification questions related to which test they need for their certification. Calls about any aspect of GACE, not related to certification, should be directed to ETS Customer Service.

U.S. Mail

ETS–GACE
P.O. Box 6001
Princeton, NJ 08541-6001

Phone

1-855-225-7178 (U.S., U.S. Territories and Canada)
1-609-359-5161 (all other locations)
Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–6 p.m. ET

Overnight Mail

ETS–GACE
Document Processing
1425 Lower Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08618-1414

Fax

1-973-735-0156 or 1-866-484-5860

Email

gace_inquiries@ets.org

GaPSC Customer Service

If your educators have questions about which test(s) they need to take or about certification requirements, contact the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) or go to the [GaPSC website](#). Calls requiring assistance with certification or MyPSC questions should be directed to the GaPSC call center.

U.S. Mail

Georgia Professional Standards Commission
200 Piedmont Avenue
Suite 1702
Atlanta, GA 30334-9032

Fax

1-404-232-2560

Email

mail@gapsc.com

Phone

1-404-232-2500 (Metro Atlanta and long distance)
1-800-869-7775 (toll free outside Metro Atlanta area)

The GaPSC's toll-free Certification Call Center is available to answer your questions and provide assistance from 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, except on state holidays. The Call Center is closed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and all state holidays.

Test Center Comments

Every effort is made to ensure the success of all test administrations and minimize the possibility of distractions or problems. A test taker who has a comment about a test center or the conditions under which a test was taken should submit the comment **in writing by mail, email or fax directly to ETS** in order for it to be addressed properly. ETS will acknowledge receipt of the comment, launch an investigation and respond to the test taker with the status/results of the investigation within 15 business days. See contact information below. Comments must be **submitted or postmarked** no later than **two days** after the test date.

Mail

ETS–GACE
Computer-delivered Testing Comments
P.O. Box 6051
Princeton, NJ 08541-6051

Fax

1-609-530-0851

Email

gacetesting@ets.org