

History of Wisconsin GED Test Score Standards

Background: The Department of Public Instruction has been the state administrative entity for the national GED Testing Service since 1968. Over the course of years, the tests have been revised approximately every eight to ten years. The most recent change took place with a new testing battery and scoring system effective January 1, 2002, which replaced all previous scoring standards.

The following chart details Wisconsin's history of state score standards in comparison to the national standard established by the GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education.

Time Period	GEDTS Standard	Wisconsin Standard
Pre 1978	35 minimum on each test; 45 average on all 5 tests	Use GEDTS Standard
1978-86	30 minimum on each test; 225 Total in aggregate	35 minimum on each test; 45 average on all five; No counseling provision; Only offered HSED
7/1/87	30 minimum on each test; 225 Total in aggregate	Adopted 40 minimum on each test; 50 Average on all five tests; Added GED certificate
Fall, 1988		Wisconsin introduced State Health and Civics Tests. Minimum passing scores: Health = 63, and Civics = 40
8/1/94		Kept 40 minimum on each GED test; Changed to 46 average based on 1993 (retroactive to 1987) Norming Study done with GEDTS; Counseling requirement added
1997	40 minimum on each test	Stayed the same as in 1994
1/1/00	Revised State Health and Civics tests adopted	Minimum Test scores changed to: Health = 55 Civics = 50 All old versions of tests to be returned and cannot be used for future HSED attainment after 1/1/02
1/1/02	New tests introduced with 410 minimum on each test and 450 average on all five as GEDTS standard.	Adopted GEDTS standard
1/1/04	Revised Spanish Language tests distributed throughout GED system with same 1/1/02 English-language test scoring standard	Wisconsin allows combining of English and Spanish language tests to complete GED or HSED requirements

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