



FAQs About HiSET at NCC

The questions and answers below are specific to NCC.

1) What is HiSET?

HiSET tests give adults a chance to earn their jurisdiction's or State's High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma, which certifies they have attained the educational level of a high school graduate.

2) What is the value of the diploma?

It is nationally recognized by employers, unions, and institutions of higher learning as the equivalent of a high school diploma.

3) Who awards the diploma?

In Iowa, the Department of Education awards the diploma.

4) Who is eligible to receive the diploma?

***If you are 19 years of age or older**

1. Present a valid government-issued picture ID (e.g., driver's license) at each session.
2. \$50 testing fee or authorization for payment from sponsoring agency and \$10 Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma fee.

***If you are 18 years old**

1. Present an official drop slip from your high school.
2. Present a copy of your high school transcript for verification of graduation date.
3. \$50 testing fee or authorization for payment from sponsoring agency and \$10 Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma fee.
4. Present a valid government-issued picture ID (e.g., driver's license) at each session.

***If you are 17 years old**

1. Present an official drop slip from your high school or testing form/letter from a government-sponsored program for out-of-school youth.
2. Present a copy of your high school transcript for verification of class graduation date. If no transcript is presented, the diploma is issued at age 19.
3. Present a note of consent from parent or guardian (except those who are married, divorced, or have a dependent).
4. Present a valid government-issued picture ID (e.g., driver's license) at each session.
5. \$50 testing fee or authorization for payment from sponsoring agency and \$10 Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma fee.

***If you are 16 years old**

You must present a copy of your court order.

***If you are Home Schooled**

If you are 17 years old, you will need a letter from a parent stating that your education is home based. If no transcript is provided, the diploma is issued at age 18. Present a valid government-issued picture ID (e.g., driver's license), the \$50 testing fee, and \$10 Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma fee.

5) How is it earned?

1. Sign up for an orientation (see schedule below) by calling (712) 324-5061 ext 137.
2. Attend the orientation where you will learn more about NCC's free HSED preparation classes and take an entry test to determine your skill level.
3. You will speak to or meet with an instructor to discuss your scores and your options for classes.
4. You will begin attending class (most classes are on an 8 week schedule).
5. Depending on the class you attend and your improvement, you will either move up to another class or take the one or more of the five subject practice tests.
6. After you pass a subject practice test, you may schedule and take the final test for that subject.
7. Once you have taken and passed all five subject tests you will have earned your Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma.

6) What is the purpose of High School Equivalency classes?

The classes are an opportunity for you to brush up on your math, reading, and English skills and, as a result, be better prepared to take the HiSET tests.

7) Are the classes required?

Orientation is required and may indicate a need for basic skill instruction. You **MUST** attend an Orientation at NCC. Orientation is offered every two weeks. During Orientation, you will take a basic skills pretest which will identify your skill level. Your instructor will register you for a the appropriate level class. These classes generally meet several times each week over an eight-week cycle. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** If your pretest scores do not indicate a need for basic skill instruction, you may qualify to attend office hours to learn about and practice the HiSET test format. In order to officially test a subject, you must be verified as ready to officially test by a NCC HiSET instructor.

8) Can I do my HiSET online?

There is no option for taking official practice tests or final tests for the HiSET online; however, you may qualify to study for the HiSET online. NCC has 14 electronic seats available for the program i-Pathways. Please indicate during the orientation that you are interested in i-Pathways.

Students must meet the following qualifications to request a seat on i-Pathways:

1. The student must score above 235 on one or both of their entry tests.
2. The student must have a valid reason that they cannot attend face-to-face classes. They may need to provide verification of this (such as a work schedule).
3. The student will need to agree to spend at least 4 hours (8 is recommended) and complete a given number of lessons each week. If the student does not meet this requirement two weeks in a row, their seat will be given to someone on the waiting list.
4. If there are no open seats on i-Pathways, the student will be put on a waiting list.

9) How do the classes help?

The Orientation and HiSET classes help you in at least five important ways:

Evaluation: The pretest administered during the Orientation can help you discover which subjects you need to study.

Instruction: Your HiSET class will organize your studies and guide you in your preparation for the specific HiSET tests.

Test Orientation and Practice: The instructor can give you practice tests similar to the HiSET at the end of the 8 week class. These will help you understand more about the nature of the HiSET tests.

Readiness for the HiSET testing: Your HiSET instructor can help you determine readiness to take and pass the official HiSET tests.

Preparation for Career Training: The basic skill instruction delivered in the HiSET classes will assist you in developing skills needed to continue career training after you've earned your HiSET.

10) What is the cost of the HiSET test?

The testing fee for the HiSET is \$50 for a battery of all five tests or \$15 per subtest. Testing must be completed within one year of the purchase date. There is no charge for a retest if the battery is purchased and the retest is taken within the year. There is a \$15 charge per retest if the subtest is purchased. There is an additional High School Equivalency Diploma fee of \$10 that will be charged at the time of the last subject test. (The retest fee, if necessary, is \$5 per test.) If a student has started official HiSET testing at a location outside of NCC, they will need to pay a \$10 transfer fee.

11) Where and when can the HiSET tests be taken?

HiSET testing is provided at various times and places. Call Sarah Breems-Diekevers, the Adult Literacy Coordinator at NCC for more information—(712) 324-5061 extension 137

12) Are the tests multiple choice?

Yes. For each test question you are asked to select the correct answer from four or five choices. The Writing portion includes an essay. A calculator may be used on the entire Math test. An on-screen calculator is embedded in the computer-based version of the HiSET.

13) In what order must the tests be taken?

The Iowa Department of Education recommends that you complete Math and Writing in the middle of the testing process. Research supports this recommendation that you do not leave Math and Writing as the last tests. In addition, you cannot take the final subject test without having successfully completed the other four tests.

14) If a test is failed can it be taken again?

You should successfully complete four of the five HiSET subject tests prior to taking the final (fifth) test. If you fail to pass a subject test, you will have to attend a HiSET class and have an instructor authorize you for a retest. There is a maximum of three attempts to pass any subject test within a calendar year; so it is important that you adequately prepare before attempting to retest in a subject area.

15) Are practice tests required?

Yes. You will have to score a minimum score on a subject pre-test prior to taking an actual HiSET subject test. A HiSET instructor can help you with the pre-test and issue an authorization to take the actual HiSET subject test. Pre-testing will help you determine your readiness to take and pass the HiSET test. Pre-testing is completed during HiSET classes that are held over eight-week cycles at various DMACC sites.

16) How do I obtain an official transcript of HiSET test results?

You can acquire your HiSET transcript via your HiSET account. You will receive your Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from the Iowa Department of Education.

17) Does Iowa recognize online high school degrees?

Persons can ONLY take the Official HiSET Test Battery at an approved Iowa HiSET test center. The only way to receive an Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma is to successfully pass the Official HiSET Test Battery by Iowa state standards. Please contact the Iowa Department of Education at 515.281.3640 for further information. Persons seeking to meet the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma requirements should be aware of companies that claim to offer the Test of General Educational Development (GED) or HiSET over the Internet or through correspondence courses. There are NO on-line or correspondence testing programs recognized by the state of Iowa.