

Motion re New Regents' Test Policy
Passed by Admissions and Standards, October 2, 2008

Effective Spring 2009

Additions ~~Deletions~~

To demonstrate competence in reading and writing, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia requires that students pass RGTR 0198, Regents' Reading Skills, and RGTE 0199, Regents' Writing Skills. Students will demonstrate their competence in reading and writing by passing the Regents' Reading Test and the Regents' Writing Test. The Regents' Reading Test and the Regents' Writing Test are the final exams for RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199 respectively. Students must pass the Tests to pass the courses. The courses do not count toward the 120 hours requirement (See Section 1470). Students with certain SAT, ACT, AP or IB scores, nonnative speakers of English, students who hold a baccalaureate degree, and students with documented disabilities are subject to modified rules regarding these requirements. (See below.) After reading this material, students with questions should contact the Student Advisement Center, <http://www.gsu.edu/es/advisement.html>.

Students taking classes at Georgia State before graduation from high school and transient students are not subject to the Regents' requirements.

Rules Governing Regents' Tests

Students who have not met the Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements prior to enrollment must take the Regents' Tests each semester of enrollment until the test(s) are passed. In addition, students may take the Regents' Tests during a semester in which they are not enrolled in any classes. If a test administration occurs after acceptance and before enrollment, newly admitted students may take the test before their first semester of enrollment.

Students who have not met the Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements are required to register for an administration of the Regents' Test(s) before they register for courses.

Students who do not take a required test(s) will be treated as if they have failed the test(s). In addition, they will incur a fee of \$75. Students may be granted hardship waivers of this fee when non-academic emergency situations occur which prevent them from taking a test for which they have registered (e.g., a sudden and serious medical problem, a traffic accident on the day of the test, etc.).

~~Initially,~~ Students must take both tests at the same time. *However, if a student has met one Regents' requirement passed one test but not the other, the student will retake only the one test that was failed.*

The Regents' Tests are given during the semester at a time specified by the Board of Regents. The tests may be taken only once per semester.

~~Students are encouraged to take the Regents' Tests upon completion of Engl 1101.~~

Students who have earned a grade of U at least two times in the relevant preparation course will be allowed two hours each test. To take advantage of this option, students must bring a current copy of their academic evaluation to the Testing Office at least seven days prior to the date scheduled for the extended time test.

Students who are participating in an official Georgia State University study abroad program at the time the Regents' Tests are not required to take the Regents' Test in that semester.

Rules Governing Regents' Courses

Students who fail the Regents' Test(s) must take the relevant RGT course(s) in their next semester of enrollment and in every semester of enrollment until the Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements are met. *They are required to register for the relevant RGT course(s) before they register for other courses. If they subsequently drop their registration for the RGT courses, their other courses may be dropped.*

Students who have failed the Regents' Test three or more times will be required to enroll in special sections of the RGT course that provide more intensive support.

Description of the Tests and the Courses

The Regents' Reading Test is a multiple-choice test taken in one hour. This test consists of a series of reading passages with five to eight questions about each passage. The passages cover a variety of subjects (for example, social science, math, natural science, humanities, etc.).

The Regents' Writing Test is a one-hour essay exam in which students are asked to write an essay on one of four topics. Students are allowed to use dictionaries during the last 15 minutes of the Writing Test. Both tests are taken at one time with the Writing Test coming first.

RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199 are designed to help students gain the reading and writing competence necessary to pass the Regents' Tests and be successful in college-level work. The Regents' Tests are the final exams for the courses. The courses are graded S/U. Students will be awarded an S if they pass the test and a U if they do not pass the test.

~~———— **Students entering Georgia State University with no transfer credits:** If they have not met the Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements, students must take the tests or enroll in both preparation courses in their first semester of enrollment after earning 30 semester hours. Students who have earned 45 college-level semester hours and who have not passed the Regents' Tests must take RGTR 0198 and/or RGTE 0199 in each semester of attendance until they have passed both tests. Students who have not passed the Reading Test must take RGTR 0198, students who have not passed the Writing Test must take RGTE 0199, and students who have not passed either test must take both courses. Students who have not passed both tests before earning 75 hours will have a hold placed on their registration that will be lifted after speaking with a Student Advisement Center staff member.~~

~~———— **USG transfer students:** All students transferring from University System of Georgia (USG) programs leading to the baccalaureate degree must follow the rules for students with no transfer credits.~~

~~———— **Non-USG transfer students:** Students with 30 or more semester credit hours transferring from outside of the System are strongly encouraged to take the tests during their first semester of enrollment in a program leading to the baccalaureate degree. Those who have not met the requirement before their third semester at Georgia State are subject to the remediation requirements for students entering Georgia State University with no transfer credits.~~

~~—————Students entering Georgia State with AP/CLEP/IB/JE credits: Students entering with Advanced Placement, College Level Examination Program, International Baccalaureate, and/or Joint Enrollment credit are not required to take RGTR 0198 or RGTE 0199 until they have earned at least 45 hours and been enrolled at least two semesters.—————~~

Criteria for Exempting the Regents' Tests

SAT, ACT, AP, and IB Scores

RGTR 0198: Students who have a score of 510 or better on the SAT I Verbal Test or a score of 23 or better on the ACT Reading Test (given on a national examination day) have automatically passed RGTR 0198.

RGTE 0199: Students who fulfill one of the waiver options/combinations listed below have automatically passed RGTE 0199:

- SAT II English Writing Test score of 650 or better
- AP English Language and Composition Test score of 3 or better
- AP English Literature and Composition Test score of 3 or better
- International Baccalaureate English test score of 4 or better
- SAT Reasoning Test, Writing Section score of 560 or better
- *SAT Reasoning Test, Writing Section: 500 and SAT Reasoning Test, Critical Reading Section: 510*

Students entering before Summer 2008 may exempt RGTE 0199 with any of the following combinations of test scores and course grades:

- SAT-I Verbal score of 530 or better AND A in Engl 1101 or Engl 1102
 - SAT-I Verbal score of 590 or better AND B in Engl 1101 or Engl 1102
 - ACT English exemption score of 23 or better AND A in Engl 1101 or Engl 1102
 - ACT English exemption score of 26 or better AND B in Engl 1101 or Engl 1102
- Students who have earned these scores should request to have scores sent electronically directly from the testing agency.

Previous Baccalaureate Degree

Students holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning have automatically passed RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199.

Criteria for Modification to the Regents' Tests

Nonnative Speakers of English

Nonnative speakers of English (NNS) will be certified as meeting Regents' requirements by passing RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199. However, NNS students may demonstrate their competence in reading and writing and automatically pass these courses by passing the Reading and Writing Tests of the Georgia State Test of English Proficiency (GSTEP), taking the regular Regents' Test, or taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). NNS students who

have a TOEFL score of 23 or higher on the reading section of the computer-based TOEFL exam or a score of 57 or higher on the reading section of the paper-based TOEFL exam have automatically passed RGTR 0198. NNS students who have Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or higher have automatically passed RGTE 0199. NNS students may not take the GSTEP and the regular Regents' Test in the same semester.

NNS students who must take RGT courses may take the regular RGT courses or they may take RGT courses for NNS students that specifically address the GSTEP. ~~These courses are offered by the Department of Applied Linguistics & English as a Second Language.~~ For more information, contact the department, <http://www.gsu.edu/gstep>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities may arrange for appropriate administration of the Regents' Tests and for any necessary remediation. Contact the Office of Disability Services, <http://www.gsu.edu/disability>. Appropriate accommodation will be made based upon the student's functional limitations as presented in their documentation.

Appeal of a Failing Score on the Writing Test

A student may request a formal review of his or her failure on the Writing Test if that student's essay received at least one passing score among the three scores awarded. Students who wish to appeal should contact the Director of the Writing Studio in the Department of English. The review procedures will be as follows. A student should initiate the review procedure within the first three weeks of his or her first semester of enrollment after the semester in which the Writing Test was failed. If this deadline is missed, students may initiate an appeal within one calendar year from the semester in which the failure occurred.

The appeals review will be conducted by three members of the Department of English chosen by the Director of the Writing Studio. The review panel may (a) sustain, by majority opinion, the essay's failing score, thus terminating the review process, or (b) recommend, by majority opinion, the rescoring of the essay by the Regents' Testing Program central office. The student will be notified concerning the results of the on-campus review.

If the Georgia State University panel recommends re-scoring of the essay, that recommendation will be transmitted in writing, along with the essay, to the office of the system director of the Regents' Testing Program.

All applicable regulations of the Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements Policy remain in effect for students whose tests are under review, including those regulations relating to remediation and to retaking the test.

Regents' Tests (RGT) Rules

Current BOR and GSU Rules (greatly simplified)

General rule: Students who have earned 45 college-level semester hours and who have not passed/exempted the RGT Tests must take the RGT courses (RGTR 0198 and/or RGTE 0199) in each semester of attendance until they have passed both tests.

Transfer students who have transferred in 30 or more hours from non-USG institutions must take the RGT courses if they have not passed/exempted the RGT tests before their third semester of enrollment.

We currently require students to enroll in RGT courses before they have taken the RGT tests.

Proposed New BOR and GSU Rules (greatly simplified)

Students who have not passed/exempted the RGT Tests must take the tests in each semester of enrollment.

Students who fail an RGT test must take the appropriate RGT course in their next semester of enrollment.

We will no longer require registration in an RGT course for any student who has not attempted the RGT test.

Options That New BOR Policy Gives Us but Were Rejected by RGT Subcommittee

Offer non-credit workshops to some students.

Different rules for students who take < 12 hours in first semester of enrollment.

Different rules for students who transfer from non-USG institutions.

Rationale and Notes:

The BOR has changed its Regent's Test Policy and the motion above bring us into conformity with the new policy.

The BOR gave us some options that the Regents' Test Subcommittee does not recommend for adoption. (1) Non-credit workshops would be hard to implement in Banner and the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education, which offer the RGT courses, do not favor offering workshops that increase faculty workload but offer no compensation. (2) We are allowed to have different rules for students who take less than 12 hours or those who transfer from non-USG institutions, but the policy is complex enough as it is. A simpler rule will make for better advisement and less-costly implementation.

Making the changes in Banner required to enforce the new system with holds would be very costly. The IS&T Steering Group has placed these holds on the list of projects to be done. However, in the current budget situation, the new holds will not be in place when the policy is implemented. Until the new holds are in place, we will use the old holds. This means that for a period of time the new policy will be required but the penalties for failure to comply will kick in late.