GENERAL

parkland college ged program

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Parkland College GED Program: A Pathway to Higher Education and Career Success

For many students in the Midwest, the high school diploma is not the only route to a bright future. The **Parkland College GED program**offers a proven alternative for those who have not completed traditional high school but are ready to pursue college credits, career training, or a new skill set. Located in the heart of the Twin Cities, Parkland College blends rigorous academic preparation with real world experience, making the GED a stepping stone to a wide range of opportunities.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore every aspect of the program—from eligibility and enrollment to test preparation, student support, financial aid, and post GED outcomes. Whether you're a high school graduate looking to deepen your knowledge, a working adult seeking a career change, or a parent researching options for your teen, this article will provide the information you need to make an informed decision.

About Parkland College

Parkland College is a public community college serving the western suburbs of Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities area. With a student body of over 10,000, the college offers more than 200 courses across 30 academic departments. Its mission is to provide quality, affordable education that empowers students to achieve personal and professional goals.

Key strengths that make Parkland College a standout choice for GED students include:

- Accreditation and Quality Assurance: Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, ensuring rigorous academic standards.
- Comprehensive Support Services: Dedicated academic advisors, tutoring, and career counseling.
- Flexible Learning Options: Traditional, hybrid, and online courses to accommodate diverse schedules.
- Industry Partnerships: Collaborations with local businesses for internships, apprenticeships, and job placement.
- Student Success Focus: Programs designed to help students transition from high school equivalency to college readiness.

What Is the GED?

The **General Educational Development (GED) test**is a high school equivalency credential that demonstrates mastery of core academic skills. The test covers four subject areas: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. Scoring well on the GED opens doors to:

- College enrollment and credit toward a degree.
- Entry into vocational training programs.
- Improved employability and higher wages.
- Eligibility for federal financial aid.

Parkland College's GED program is designed to help students master these subjects while also preparing them for

the rigors of college coursework.

Program Overview

Program Structure

The Parkland College GED program follows a structured pathway that includes:

1. Pre Assessment: Identifying knowledge gaps and strengths.
2. Core Coursework: Four courses aligned with GED subject areas.
3. Test Preparation Workshops: Intensive review sessions and practice tests.
4. GED Examination: Taking the official test at a certified testing center.
5. Post GED Transition: Guidance for college enrollment, credit transfer, and career planning.

Eligibility Criteria

Prospective students must meet the following requirements to enroll in the GED program at Parkland College:

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Reside in the state of Minnesota or have a valid student ID from another state.
- Provide a valid government identification (driver's license, passport, or state ID).
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent is not required.
- Complete the admission application and submit any required documentation (e.g., transcripts, proof of residency).

Enrollment Process

Enrollment is straightforward and can be completed online or in person. The steps are:

1. Complete the Application: Fill out the online application form on the Parkland College website.
2. Submit Required Documents: Upload or bring in any necessary paperwork.
3. Meet with an Academic Advisor: Discuss your goals and create a personalized study plan.
4. Register for Courses: Enroll in the four core GED courses.
5. Schedule the GED Test: Choose a testing center and date that fits your schedule.

Course Offerings

The GED curriculum at Parkland College is delivered through a combination of online and in person classes, allowing students to balance work, family, or other commitments. Core courses include:

- English Language Arts (ELA): Focus on reading comprehension, writing, and critical analysis.
- Mathematics: Covers arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.
- Science: Integrates biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science.
- Social Studies: Explores history, geography, economics, and civics.

Each course is designed to align with the GED test content, ensuring that students master the skills needed for success.

Test Preparation Resources

Parkland College offers a robust suite of test preparation resources to help students feel confident and ready for the GED exam. These resources include:

1. Practice Exams

Students can access full-length practice tests that simulate the actual GED exam environment. These tests are

timed, include multiple choice and extended response questions, and provide detailed feedback on performance.

2. Study Guides and Workbooks

Comprehensive study guides cover all four subject areas. Workbooks provide step by step explanations and exercises designed to reinforce learning.

3. Tutoring Services

One on one tutoring sessions are available for students who need extra help. Tutors are certified educators with experience in GED instruction.

4. Study Groups

Students can join or form study groups to collaborate, share resources, and motivate each other.

5. Online Learning Modules

Interactive modules offer video lessons, quizzes, and real time feedback. These modules are especially beneficial for students who prefer self paced learning.

Student Support & Services

Academic Advising

Academic advisors at Parkland College work closely with GED students to design a personalized study plan, set realistic goals, and monitor progress. Advisors also provide guidance on course selection, scheduling, and time management.

Career Counseling

Career counselors help students identify their interests, assess job market trends, and develop a career plan. They can connect students to internships, apprenticeships, and job placement services.

Financial Aid Assistance

Students who pass the GED and enroll in college courses are eligible for federal financial aid, including Pell Grants and work study programs. The college's financial aid office assists with FAFSA completion and scholarship applications.

Learning Resources Center

The Learning Resources Center offers tutoring, writing support, technology assistance, and access to study materials. Students can also use the library's research databases and e book collections.

Student Success Programs

Parkland College runs several initiatives aimed at ensuring GED students succeed, such as:

- Bridge Program: Helps students transition from high school equivalency to college coursework.
- Mentorship Program: Connects students with alumni mentors who share career insights and academic advice.
- Peer Support Groups: Encourage collaboration and community building among GED students.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

One of the biggest advantages of the GED is that it unlocks eligibility for financial aid. Parkland College offers multiple pathways for students to secure funding:

Federal Aid

After completing the GED, students can apply for federal aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Eligible students may receive Pell Grants, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loans.

State Grants

Minnesota offers state grants such as the Minnesota College Grant and the Minnesota College Access Grant. These are awarded based on financial need and academic merit.

College Specific Scholarships

Parkland College provides a range of scholarships for GED graduates, including:

- Parkland College Academic Excellence Scholarship: Awarded to students with a high GPA and strong test scores.
- Career Pathway Scholarship: Supports students pursuing technical or vocational training.
- Community Service Scholarship: Recognizes students who demonstrate leadership and community involvement.

External Scholarships

Students can also search for scholarships offered by private organizations, corporations, and foundations that support GED graduates.

Success Stories

Here are a few examples of how the GED program at Parkland College has transformed lives:

Maria R., 23 – Healthcare Administration

Maria earned her GED through Parkland College and immediately enrolled in the Associate of Applied Science in Healthcare Administration. She completed the program in two years and secured a position as a medical office manager, earning a 20% salary increase from her previous role.

David T., 31 – Electrical Engineering Technician

David had been working as a maintenance technician but wanted to advance his career. After obtaining his GED, he joined a technical certificate program in Electrical Engineering Technology. Within a year, he was promoted to senior technician and received a company scholarship for further studies.

Jasmine L., 19 – Digital Marketing Specialist

Jasmine used her GED to enroll in an online digital marketing certificate program. She completed the coursework while working part time and landed a full time role at a marketing agency. She credits Parkland College's flexible learning options for her success.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How long does the GED program at Parkland College take?

The program typically takes 12 to 18 months, depending on the student's pace and course load. Students can complete the program faster by taking additional courses or attending intensive summer sessions.

2. Do I need to pay for the GED test?

Yes. The official GED test fee is $120 per test session, which covers all four subject areas. Parkland College offers a fee reduction program for students who qualify based on financial need.

3. Can I take the GED test online?

As of the latest policy updates, the GED test must be taken in person at an authorized testing center. However, the preparation materials and courses are available online.

4. Will I receive college credit for passing the GED?

Passing the GED does not automatically grant college credit. However, it qualifies you for admission to Parkland College's associate degree programs and other post secondary institutions.

5. How does the GED program help with college admissions?

Students who complete the GED program receive a recommendation letter from their advisor and a certificate of completion. These documents strengthen college applications and demonstrate readiness for academic rigor.

6. What support is available if I struggle with a particular subject?

Students can access tutoring, study groups, and additional resources through the Learning Resources Center. Advisors can also recommend remedial courses if

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