

## **Regents' Testing Program**

Students enrolled in Associate of Arts or Associate of Science programs of study shall pass or exempt the Regents' Reading Skills (RGTR 0198) and Regents' Writing Skills (RGTE 0199) courses as a requirement for graduation. Passing or exempting RGTR 0198 or 0199 is not a requirement for an Associate of Applied Science degree or a certificate. RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199 are offered for institutional credit.

An AA or AS student who is not enrolled in Learning Support English or reading must take each part of the Regents' Test not previously passed or exempted in each semester of enrollment (after graduation from high school). Students in Learning Support English and/or reading must take the Regents' Test in the semester after they have exited Learning Support English and/or Learning Support reading.

When possible, students required to take the Regents' Test should sign up for English 1101 in their first semester of attendance or immediately upon completing their reading and English Learning Support requirements.

Students whose native language is not English or who have learning disabilities or other special documented needs must see the Regents' Testing administrator in the Testing and Career Center to request special testing accommodations. Regents' Test accommodations for students with learning disabilities are granted only by the Regents' Center for Learning Disorders.

Students may be permitted to take the Regents' Test during a semester in which they are not enrolled as long as they are not required to take a Regents' course.

### **Regular Regents' Skills Classes**

Students enrolled in a Regents' course must pass the corresponding Regents' Test in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Those passing receive a grade of S. Students not passing the course receive a U and must repeat the course until they pass. In addition, students who are required to be in a Regents' course must be passing the course in order to be allowed to take the Regents' Test.

#### **Low-Failure**

If the score on the Regents' Test is sufficiently low to be flagged at the low-failure level, the student will be *required* to enroll in the appropriate regular Regents' Skills course(s) in the next semester of attendance.

#### **Above Low-Failure**

After the second and any subsequent failure of the Regents' Test, students *must* take the regular Regents' Skills course(s) in each semester of enrollment. **A non-appearance for testing is treated administratively in the same way as a failure of the test.** No differentiation is made for part-time students or transfer

students. Therefore, a student will be *required* to enroll in the appropriate Regents' Skills course(s) who enters his or her third semester as an AA or AS student (without Learning Support English and/or reading requirements) who has not yet passed or exempted the Regents' Test.

A student who fails the Regents' Test at the first attempt, but who scores higher than the low-failure level, may elect to take the appropriate Regents' Skills course(s) as a volunteer.

No remedial work is required for out-of-system transfers in the initial semester of enrollment. For subsequent semesters, transfer students will be *required* to enroll in the regular Regents' Skills course(s) if they do not pass the Regents' Test in their first semester of enrollment as they will be classified as a third-semester student.

### **Specialized Regents' Skills Classes**

A student who has twice completed the regular Regents' Skills course to the satisfaction of the instructors and institution, but who is still unsuccessful on the Regents' Test, will enroll in a specialized Regents' Skills course section that offers more personalized instruction than is afforded in the regular Skills courses.

A student who has completed both the regular Regents' Skills courses twice and the more personalized Skills courses twice to the satisfaction of the instructors and institution, but who is still unsuccessful on the Regents' Test, will enroll in an even more individualized Regents' Skills course section that offers more personalized instruction than is afforded in the first tier of specialized Skills courses. All students enrolled in this level of Skills course are encouraged or required to be evaluated at a Regents' Center for Learning Disorders (RCLD) or a similar campus facility for specific reading and writing impediments.

### **Exemption from Regents' Skills Classes**

Students may exempt these courses through examination by passing the Regents' Test or an approved alternative test in reading comprehension and in writing. A student holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education will not be required to complete the Regents' Test.

**Reading Exemption:** Students may exempt the Regents' Reading class, RGTR 0198, by scoring at or above specified scores on the following examinations:

- Regents' Reading Test exemption score: 61
- SAT-I Verbal exemption score: 510
- ACT Reading exemption score: 23 (SAT or ACT scores must be from a national administration. Scores from institutional SAT or residual ACT tests will not be acceptable for this purpose.)

**Writing Exemption:** Students may exempt the Regent's Writing class, RGTE 0199, by scoring at or above specified scores on the following examinations:

- Regents' Essay Test exemption score: 2
- SAT Reading of 510 AND SAT Writing 500
- SAT Writing: 560
- SAT II English Writing exemption score: 650
- College Board Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition exemption score: 3
- ACT combined English/Writing score of 25
- ACT combined English/Writing score of 22 AND ACT reading score of 23
- International Baccalaureate (IB) higher-level English exemption score: 4

### **Regents' Test Appeals**

Each year, each USG institution is permitted to appeal the results of the Regents' Test for between one and four students, depending on the number of non-exempt students who enroll at the institution. Which student is allowed to appeal to be tested in an alternate format is decided through documentation that this student must have successfully completed each level of the relevant Regents' Skills courses. In addition, this student must be recommended by the Division Chair of Learning Support as having the required level of reading and writing skills even though the student is unable to demonstrate that skill through the regular method of examination. Students appealing will not be exempted from the Skills requirement but will be able to go through an alternative assessment process designed to measure the same knowledge and skills at the same level as the Regents' Test. Except in unusual circumstances, each student is allowed only one such appeal. The appeal process is coordinated by the University System of Georgia Regents' Testing Program Office.

**Writing Appeals:** The alternate assessment for writing for a student who appeals is a composition developed by the student over three sessions. The writing will be done in a secure setting; students will not be allowed to take materials out of the testing environment but will be allowed to make revisions to the composition during the second and third sessions. The criteria for evaluating these works are established by the Testing Subcommittee of the Academic Committee on English and are based on what a student with the minimum college-level writing skill produces. Students will be required to write compositions of sufficient length and complexity to ensure that they have acquired the level of writing ability established for the Regents' Writing Skill requirement. The drafts produced during each of the sessions will be part of the students' work to be evaluated.

**Reading Appeals:** The alternate assessment for reading requires a student to read several passages extracted from commonly available reading material (similar to those included in the Regents' Reading Test) and produce written or oral analyses of those passages. The analyses will be student-constructed with little or no

prompting so that the student can show his or her level of understanding of the written material. The resulting work will be compared by USG raters to the work produced by students who have been shown to have the minimum level of reading ability established for the Regents' Reading Skill requirement.

### **Regents' Skills Waiver**

In very rare circumstances, the Board of Regents may allow waivers of the Regents' Skills Requirement when, after enrollment, a student develops documented medical conditions that make all testing methods inapplicable.

To be eligible for the medical waiver, a student must prove to the institution's satisfaction that a medical condition with onset after the student's initial enrollment in college resulted in reduced capacity to the point that the student cannot demonstrate the required level of reading and writing skill.

This waiver is restricted to students who have completed all coursework for graduation.