

## 1420 Regents' Reading and Writing Requirements

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, non-native 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>.

**Description of the courses:** 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.

**Description of the tests:** 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 (e.g., social science, math, natural science and humanities). 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.

**Administration:** Initially, students must take both tests at the same time. If a student has passed one test but not the other, the student will retake only the 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 may take the Regents' Tests during a semester in which they have not enrolled in any classes. Students who have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and 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 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.

**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.

**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 of enrollment are subject to the remediation requirements for students entering Georgia State University with no transfer credits.

### **SAT, ACT, AP and IB waivers:**

**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 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-I Verbal score of 530 or better and A in Engl 1101
- SAT-I Verbal score of 590 or better and B in Engl 1101
- ACT English exemption score of 23 or better and A in Engl 1101
- ACT English exemption score of 26 or better and B in Engl 1101
- SAT II English Writing Test score of 650 or better
- Higher level AP English Language and Composition Test score of 3 or better
- Higher level AP English Literature and Composition Test score of 3 or better
- International Baccalaureate English test score of 4 or better

Students who have earned these scores should request to have scores sent electronically directly from the testing agency.

**Nonnative speakers of English:** Nonnative speakers of English (NNS) will be certified as meeting Regents' requirements by passing RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199. However, NSS 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 a baccalaureate degree:** Students holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning have automatically passed RGTR 0198 and RGTE 0199.

**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 shall 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.