

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics

Program Title:	High School Equivalency Program
Program Status:	Active from 2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)
Department:	NC Basic Education
Award Type:	Non-Credit Certificate of Competency (Non-Credit)
Program/Catalog Description	The High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency Program provides individualized prescriptive instruction in preparation for a high school equivalency exam (GED). The curriculum prepares students for a pathway to other non-credit and credit programs. Instruction focuses on language arts (reading, writing, and comprehension), mathematics, science, and social studies. Students also gain knowledge in college and career readiness, including career exploration and study skills. Other topics include: test-taking strategies, hands-on computer practice testing, academic counseling, individualized follow-up plans, and easy access to a local GED testing center. The High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency recognizes student achievement in GED preparation. Students must pass the GED exam issued by the State of California to receive the high school equivalency distinction. This is an open entry program.
Control Number:	43203
Credential ID:	No value
Transferability:	No value
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	4930.62
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	Secondary Education (Grades 9-12) and G.E.D.
(SP02) Student Program Award:	Non-Credit award requiring from 288 to fewer than 480 hours
Maximum Hours:	288
Minimum Hours:	288
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	12/11/2025
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	01/13/2026
External Review Approval Date:	01/13/2026

Proposal Details

Proposal Start:	2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)
What changes have been made to the program:	Updating the names of the courses required for the course from the NBE prefix to the GED prefix
Program Justification:	Enhanced non-credit program

Submission Rationale

- Change to Content

Program Requirements

Required Courses (Total 0)

Complete all of the following

GED031 - GED Math Preparation	0
GED032 - GED Language Arts Preparation	0
GED033 - GED Science Preparation	0
GED034 - GED Social Studies Preparation	0

Recommended Sequences

New Sequence

Term 1 (Total 0)

Required Courses	GED031 - GED Math Preparation	0
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Term 2 (Total 0)

Required Courses	GED032 - GED Language Arts Preparation	0
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Term 3 (Total 0)

Required Courses	GED033 - GED Science Preparation	0
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Term 4 (Total 0)

Required Courses	GED034 - GED Social Studies Preparation	0
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Program Outcomes

High School Equivalency Certificate Program

PSLO	Performance
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Demonstrate foundational knowledge and comprehension of natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities	70
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Demonstrate proficiency in core math concepts from arithmetic to geometry.	70
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Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

Program Learning Outcome: Many employers, post-secondary institutions, vocational training programs, and government agencies accept a General Educational Development (GED) as an alternative to a high school diploma, thereby increasing students' opportunity at obtaining gainful employment. At the completion of this program, students – English speakers and non-native English speakers - will be prepared to attempt and achieve high school equivalency when taking the GED exam. Specific topics covered in the program are as follows: language arts (reading, writing, and comprehension), mathematics, social studies, and science. The official GED Certificate is issued by the State of California. This program aligns with Palo Verde College's mission, in its entirety:

"Palo Verde College provides opportunities for personal and professional growth to a unique community of learners in an academic environment committed to student success, diversity, equity, and inclusion by supporting student achievement of basic skills, certificate, degree, university transfer, and career goals."

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency Program provides individualized prescriptive instruction in preparation for a high school equivalency exam (GED). The curriculum prepares students for a pathway to other non-credit and credit programs. Instruction focuses on language arts (reading, writing, and comprehension), mathematics, science, and social studies. Students also gain knowledge in college and career readiness, including career exploration and study skills. Other topics include: test-taking strategies, hands-on computer practice testing, academic counseling, individualized follow-up plans, and easy access to local GED testing center. The High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency recognizes student achievement in GED preparation. Students must pass the GED exam issued by the State of California to receive the high school equivalency distinction. This is an open entry program.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

Requirements	Dept. Name/#	Name	Hrs.	Sequence
Required Core	GED 031	GED Math Preparation	72	Yr 1, Fall/Spring
Required Core	GED 032	GED Language Arts	72	Yr 1, Spring/Fall
Required Core	GED 033	GED Science Preparation	72	Yr 2, Fall/Spring
Required Core	GED034	GED Social Studies	72	Yr 2, Spring/Fall
		Total required	288	

Proposed Sequence

Fall		Spring	
Year 1:			
GED 031	72 hours (in-class) 72 hours (out-of-class)	GED 032	72 hours (in-class) 72 hours (out-of-class)
Year 2:			
GED 033	72 hours (in-class) 72 hours (out-of-class)	GED 034	72 hours (in-class) 72 hours (out-of-class)

Year 1: Fall 72 hours lecture, 72 out-of-class hours

Year 1: Spring 72 hours lecture, 72 out-of-class hours

Year 1: Total = 288 hours

Year 2: Fall 72 hours lecture, 72 out-of-class hours

Year 2: Spring 72 hours lecture, 72 out-of-class hours

Year 2: Total = 288 hours

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning

At the minimum, a GED is required for many employment positions and to transition to college level programs. In addition, basic skills are necessary to maintain most sustainable jobs. Many students over the age of 18 in the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley (Riverside County) and in Needles (San Bernardino) are in need of a high school diploma or an equivalent. Located in rural, southern California, both sites are at least 100 miles from the nearest GED testing center that issue the official state of California certificates.

Students in both communities have limited resources to travel or pay for GED preparation and testing. Many of these individuals are low-income, single income households, rely on public assistance, unemployed, or underemployed. Completing this program and earning a GED will increase their chances of obtaining gainful employment and make livable wages.

The district's student population includes U.S. residents of all ethnicities and backgrounds, lifetime residents, recently relocated, immigrants, direct matriculated, returning, retired, formerly incarcerated, unemployed, part-time/full-time employees, underserved communities, and underrepresented communities. Many students qualify for EOPS (must be CCPG-A/B), CalFresh, CalWORKS, and the Pell Grant.

In addition, the Blythe location borders Arizona and the Needles location borders both Nevada and Arizona. The non-credit, tuition-free, open entry, focused program will benefit residents in surrounding areas who also have limited opportunities to earn a GED.

Providing this program assists students with being able to successfully earn a GED, the first time, by providing instruction in the areas needed to excel. Possessing a GED or a high school diploma is essential to the Blythe and Needles communities where the major industries include health care, hospitality, agriculture (food and cannabis), light manufacturing, utilities, school districts, and local government. The non-credit High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency enhances students' probability of being hired in these and other industries.

Earning a High School Equivalency Certificate of Competency increases the self-efficacy, self-esteem, and confidence in students while encouraging them to complete the GED exam and continue on to non-credit or credit programs where they can earn additional certificates, degrees, or transfer to a 4-year university.