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# BASIC SKILLS EDUCATION

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## **BASIC SKILLS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Butler Basic Skills Department offers a number of special programs to assist adult students 18 years of age or older in attaining fundamental educational skills. The department is housed on the second floor of the Warren Student Center. In addition to structured classes, the Butler Basic Skills Department provides a learning lab and computer-assisted instruction for basic skills.

Basic Skills education is designed to increase the level of adult literacy within the community and to assist adults in high school completion. The program provides students with foundation skills that will enable them to enter the work force, skills training programs, or post-secondary education. The curriculum emphasizes the personal and academic development of each student, stressing individual awareness of abilities and opportunities.

The college offers two programs designed for adults who have not completed high school: the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and the General Education Development (GED) program. These programs provide instruction ranging from courses to meet the needs of individuals requiring basic literacy to those designed to improve the equivalent skills of high school graduates. The college also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) for non-English speaking students to learn conversational English. These courses are offered on the college's main campus and at several sites throughout the county. No registration fee is charged for these classes.

In addition, the Butler Basic Skills Department provides learning labs and computer-assisted instruction. There are no fees charged for use of these resources. Students may participate in a program of individualized study using teacher-recommended materials supplemented by computer-based resources.

Web-based Basic Skills instruction is available to help prepare students for the GED Tests, improve employment opportunities, and build confidence. On-line instruction is available anytime and anywhere there is Internet access. The learning environment is private, friendly, and supportive. A link to "GED Online" can be found on our campus website at [www.sampsoncc.edu](http://www.sampsoncc.edu).

## **ENROLLMENT OF MINORS**

The Basic Skills Education programs are designed to serve adults. A student must be at least 18 years old to participate in any component of the program. Upon receipt of written recommendation of the superintendent and principal of the last school attended, a student between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age may be admitted as a student with special needs provided that the

following criteria are met:

- The referral and/or enrollment form for minors must be completed, signed, dated, and received by mail.
- Minors must also submit a school transcript and disciplinary report from the last public school attended.

## **REGISTRATION AND PLACEMENT**

Individuals may enroll in the Basic Skills Education programs on the main campus during registration periods published in the college's academic calendar and included in various college announcements. The college also provides class sites throughout the county for all programs. Department staff can provide information concerning class sites, times, and registration dates for these classes.

All students enrolling in these programs are required to take an orientation class and placement tests. The tests are used to determine the level at which a student will enter the curriculum. There are no specific score requirements for enrollment in Basic Skills programs. Structured classes at the appropriate level for each student are recommended by the student's advisor. Student progress is monitored periodically to determine course planning for the next enrollment period and to document progress.

## **GED TESTING**

The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) are designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course of study. The five subject area tests which comprise the GED test battery are Mathematics; Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing (including essay); Science; and Social Studies.

The college serves as the Official GED Testing Center for Sampson County. Testing opportunities are scheduled six times a year as well as by appointment. Instruction and pre-testing are available at no charge and can help ensure success on the tests. All examinations are administered on the main campus. Students who obtain satisfactory scores are awarded the General Educational Development (GED) Diploma. The GED examiner may schedule additional testing sessions for individuals with extenuating circumstances. GED candidates will be assessed a nominal testing fee. Successful candidates are invited to participate in the college's annual commencement exercises.

## **NORTH CAROLINA DRIVER'S LICENSE LAW**

Effective August 1, 1998, a statewide coordinated effort to motivate and encourage minors to complete high school was voted into law. This law requires that students under the age of 18 who have not completed high school remain in school making adequate progress toward their diploma or equivalency or lose their driving permit or license. Sampson Community College is mandated to assist in the enforcement of this law.

Minors who are under the jurisdiction of the law (having been granted a license or permit on or after December 1, 1997) will be required to attend a minimum of 60 hours per month and progress in the program according to the definition of progress set forth by the State Board of Community Colleges. Progress will be evaluated at the end of each six-month period, and any warning of revocation of license or permit will offer a ten-day period for response or appeal. For further information, contact the Director of Basic Skills.