In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result of the “stay at home” order issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom, all in-person testing has been suspended until further notice. SDSU continues to monitor the evolving situation around COVID-19 and follow the guidance of our national, state and local government officials as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The California Government Exam is now available online for August and December 2020 graduates only. Please read the information below for how to complete the exam online.

Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Article 5, Section 40404 requires that all students demonstrate an understanding of American history, the United States Constitution, and California state and local government. According to the SDSU General Catalog, a student may elect to complete the California state and local government portion of the American Institutions requirement by either:

1. Taking the California Government Exam available online through SDSU Testing Services for August and December 2020 graduates only,

   or

2. Completing one of the SDSU courses listed in the appropriate section in the American Institutions Requirement section of the SDSU General Catalog.

Please note, if you register for the exam and you have not filed for August or December 2020 graduation, you will not be given access to the exam and you will not receive a refund.

General Exam Information

The online California Government Exam is composed of 50 multiple-choice questions worth two points each. A score of 60% or more will be necessary to pass. The assessment is 45 minutes in length, and there is no penalty for guessing. (updated June 2020)


Fee, Registration and Transfer Information

Currently the California Government Exam is only available in an online format and only for students who have filed for August or December 2020 graduation. The exam fee is a non-refundable $20.00 and may not be transferred to another individual or to a different exam.
If you were registered for a March or April 2020 exam that was cancelled, please send an email to staar@sdsu.edu with your RedID and the test date you would like to take the exam. If you have filed for August or December 2020 graduation, and you were not registered to take the exam in March or April, go to testing.sdsu.edu to register for the exam.

To transfer to a different date or time please email staar@sdsu.edu no later than 2 business days prior to your test and indicate the date and time to which you wish to transfer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Date</th>
<th>Exam Time</th>
<th>Exam Location</th>
<th>Registration Deadline*</th>
<th>Scores Released by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, June 26</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Online in Blackboard</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 23</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, July 17</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Online in Blackboard</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 14</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 14</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Online in Blackboard</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 11</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Sessions will be closed when testing capacity is reached regardless of registration deadline or posted dates.

**How to Access the Online Exam**

Once you have registered for the exam, you will be given access to the exam in Blackboard by SDSU Testing Services. Please read through the following information very carefully to make sure you are prepared in advance of your test date and time.

1. **Required Respondus Monitor** – This will record you during an online, non-proctored exam. You will be required to take a photo of yourself and your valid identification, and take video of your testing area. **Your computer must have a functioning webcam and microphone to use Respondus Monitor.** If you need a webcam and/or microphone, you can contact the [SDSU Emergency Crisis Response Team (ECRT)](#) for assistance. **Mac users must have Adobe Flash Player installed to Safari, even if a different browser is normally used. A broadband connection is also required.**
2. **Required Respondus LockDown Browser** - This version of the Respondus LockDown Browser is required for the online California Government Exam [http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=469641291](http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=469641291). LockDown Browser is a browser to replace what you may currently be using (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc). It locks down your screen so that you will not be able to access other resources on your computer during the exam. **You cannot use Respondus LockDown Browser on a Chromebook, cell phone or tablet and cannot take the exam using these devices.**

3. **After Downloading Respondus Lockdown Browser** - After downloading the version of Respondus LockDown Browser from the link above, double click on the LockDown Browser shortcut icon on your desktop. You will be asked which server. Click the dropdown menu and select Blackboard. If you have any programs open, you will be asked to close them. Click the Close Process button. Please note that you may have to click multiple times to move forward. Next, click the Agree & Continue button. You will then be asked to log into Blackboard with your SDSUid. Follow the instructions listed below in "Accessing and Starting the online exam."

4. **Recommended Practice Prior to the Exam Date** - It is highly recommended that you test Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor the **DAY PRIOR** to your actual exam date. You will not want to run into any technical issues the day of the exam as problems could affect your performance on the exam. You can practice using Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor by completing the three (3) question “Practice Test to Make Sure You Can Utilize Respondus LockDown Browser & Monitor.” Log into Blackboard and click on the link under Exam Instructions on the top left. Be proactive and check your system in plenty of time to troubleshoot issues if you have any and to make sure you feel comfortable with the tools.

5. **SDSU Instructional Technology Student Resources** - It is recommended that you review the [Respondus LockDown Browsers Student Guide](https://virtual-academic-help.sdsu.edu/). If you need additional technology assistance please click on the Technology tab on this website [https://virtual-academic-help.sdsu.edu/](https://virtual-academic-help.sdsu.edu/)

6. **Exam Restrictions** – Once you start the exam, you must complete the exam in one sitting. You will have no longer than 45 minutes to submit your exam responses. You must take the exam alone and without assistance. You may not access, view, or use the following items throughout the test: dictionaries, notes, reference materials, books and reading materials, scratch paper, cameras other than your webcam, electronic devices including calculators, cellphones, fitness trackers, and music players.

7. **Accessing and Starting the online exam** - Log into Blackboard ([blackboard.sdsu.edu](http://blackboard.sdsu.edu)). Under “My Courses”, click on SDSU-Testing Services California Government Exam HR.
Click on California Government Exam on the left side under Exam Information. Click on the folder with the date of your exam. Next click on the test. Read the instructions and click Begin. You will have 45 minutes from the start of the exam to complete the exam and submit your responses.

**Students with Approved Accommodations**

Students with accommodations already authorized by the SDSU Student Ability Success Center (SASC), and placed on the SDSU Testing Services reservation system by SASC, should contact Testing Services at staar@sdsu.edu 48 business hours in advance of their test date and time to allow for approved accommodations to be arranged. SASC information can be found at [http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/)

*Information contained herein is subject to change without notice.*