

Purpose: To provide information about the DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST) Student Testing Center at Ashford's locations in San Diego, CA; Clinton, IA; and Phoenix AZ.

1. What is a DANTES or DSST exam?

The [DSST prior learning assessment](#), formerly known as the DANTES test, allows an individual to turn their experience into college credit. On-the-job training, independent study, and military service are just a few examples of experience that can be applied to the DSST exam. The program is approved by the [American Council on Education \(ACE\)](#).

2. Why is Ashford University opening a testing center?

Ashford University is always seeking to provide excellent customer service and opportunities for our students who are military affiliated, but also for the local Ashford communities of San Diego, Clinton, and Phoenix. The DSST Testing Center provides our students and community with additional means to pursue their goals through completion of exams that may result in credits toward degree completion.

3. Who is allowed to take a DSST exam at the testing center?

Anyone. The testing center is NOT limited to Ashford students or military.

4. What exams are offered?

You may choose from more than 30 exams offered by DSST. Categories range from business to the social sciences and include:

- Business Ethics and Society
- Business Mathematics
- Criminal Justice
- Human Resource Management
- Management Information Systems
- Organizational Behavior

For a complete list of exams, fact sheets, outlines, and practice exams, visit the [DSST website](#).

5. When is the testing center open?

The testing center is open based on appointments made. Appointments to take a DSST exam at Ashford's San Diego, Clinton, or Phoenix testing centers can be made by emailing testingcenter@ashford.edu. Appointments can be scheduled for the following days and times:

San Diego: Saturdays from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm PT

Clinton: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm CT

Phoenix: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm MT

6. How much does it cost to take an exam?

Cost varies by exam. For those paying out of pocket, exams start as low as \$80. Ashford will not exchange any cash or fees for exams. Test takers will need to pay for their exam with a credit card when they log into the DSST website at the testing center.

For Veterans: [The DSST exam is included on a list of tests](#) that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has approved for reimbursement. The agency's website provides a list of available benefits and instructions for veterans who plan to take the tests.

For Active Duty: Ashford's DANTES testing center is a fully funded military test center which means that active duty military can take their first attempt at each exam free of charge.

For Active Duty Spouses: The cost may vary by branch. Check with your branch of service for further information.

For Civilian: Varies by exam.

For additional information on funding and forms of identification needed, please visit the [DSST Funding Guide](#). For additional information for DSST test takers, please visit the [DSST Test Takers](#) page.

7. What is a typical experience for a candidate when they arrive at the Ashford University DSST Testing Center?

Upon arrival to the Ashford University DSST Testing Center, candidates will be greeted by a DSST test proctor. The proctor will verify the candidate's identification and escort the test taker into the lab. The test taker will be allowed to bring in only an ID and credit card into the lab. Within the lab, the candidate will be required to create a user account or log into their existing account and enter their payment information for exams they wish to take. The proctor will then enter his/her credentials. The candidate will then complete the exam. The proctor will be available to assist with any technology issues or questions during the examination period. Upon completion of the exam, the proctor will provide the candidate with a free printed copy of their DSST transcript, if applicable. Test takers can obtain additional copies of DSST transcripts, if needed, by calling 1.877.471.9860.