

Glossary of Terms

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| <p>ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking</p> | <p>The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student’s position relative to all the students in their age group (ie all 16 to 20 year olds in NSW). So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).</p> <p>The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.</p> <p>Universities use the ATAR to help them select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments). Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students (eg a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test).</p> <p>The average ATAR is usually around 70.00.</p> <p>If every school student went on to achieve an ATAR, the average ATAR would be 50.00. But because some students leave school early and the ones who stay on to receive an ATAR are a smaller, more academically able group, the average ATAR is higher.</p> |
| <p>Curriculum Courses</p> | <p>Curriculum Courses are General and ATAR courses that are part of the West Australian Curriculum. https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/</p> <p>Curriculum courses can be either ATAR, Foundation or General Courses.</p> <p>General courses are not externally examined. However, they each have an externally set task (EST) which is set by the Authority (see sub-section 3.4.2). General courses are for students who are typically aiming to enter vocationally based training or the workforce straight from school. General courses may be used for alternative entry to some university courses. Information about alternative entry should be sought directly from universities.</p> <p>ATAR courses are examined by the Authority (see Section 6). Student results in ATAR courses are used by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to calculate a student’s Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). The ATAR is used to determine eligibility for university entrance. Students seeking to achieve an ATAR will need to complete a minimum of four Year 12 ATAR courses, excluding unacceptable combinations (see Undergraduate Admission Requirements for School Leavers on the TISC website at www.tisc.edu.au). ATAR courses are typically for students who are aiming to go to university directly from school.</p> <p>Foundation Courses These courses provide a focus on functional literacy and numeracy skills, practical work-related experience and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Foundation courses are not designed, nor intended, to be an alternative senior secondary pathway. Foundation courses are for students who have not been able to demonstrate the minimum standard for literacy and/or numeracy (see sub-section 1.8) before Year 11 and are unlikely to do so before the end of Year 12 without significant levels of support.</p> |
| <p>Endorsed Programs</p> | <p>These programs provide access to areas of learning not covered by WACE courses or VET programs and contribute to the WACE as unit equivalents (see Section 5). Endorsed programs are for students wishing to participate in programs which are delivered in a variety of settings by schools, workplaces, universities, and community organisations.</p> |

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| SCSA - School Curriculum and Standards Authority | <p>The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) is responsible for the Kindergarten to Year 12 curriculum, assessment standard and reporting for all schools in Western Australia.</p> <p>Students must stay in school, a training organisation or approved work (or in a combination of approved options) until the end of the year in which they turn 17 and 6 months, or they have reached the age of 18 years, whichever happens first</p> |
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| VET - Vocational Education and Training | <p>VET (Vocational Education and Training) is a system of learning that is characterised by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning is classified by Industry areas and according to the Australian Qualifications Framework where level I qualifications are entry level training. Most trade qualifications are at Certificate III level. • Industry currency and relevancy are key features of VET qualifications. This is to ensure that the training, delivery and qualifications meet current benchmarks so that they remain relevant to industry needs. This is managed in the following ways: • Course content is reviewed regularly and constantly updated by industry representatives to make sure that the training remains relevant and up to date with changes that occur in industry. • RTO's who deliver the training are required to have up to date equipment and resources that reflect industry benchmarks. • RTO's are required to work with industry and employers to ensure that their course materials reflect what is current in the workplace • Trainers must interact with industry to ensure that their knowledge and experience is up to date with current industry benchmarks. • Courses are nationally accredited, and qualifications can only be issued by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) who are regularly audited by National and State regulators to ensure that they are compliant. TAFE is the most well-known RTO, but there are many other private RTO's as well. Qualifications must have this logo on them. • Courses are broken down into units of competency, including both core (required) units and elective units which, when packaged together according to the packaging rules for the industry, result in successful completion of the qualification and a certificate being issued. • Completion of certificates are based on a measure of "competent" or "not yet competent" for each unit, rather than an A, B, C type grading method. • People who deliver and assess students for VET courses are known as "Trainers" not "Teachers". Teachers who deliver VET courses at schoolwork are approved and monitored by RTO's to deliver and assess |
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| | <p>the learning. Teachers who deliver VET have a dual qualification as a Trainer that they must maintain to ensure it is up to date with industry standards.</p> <p>School age students have an opportunity to complete a vocational course while still attending school and participation in VET qualifications can contribute up to 8 C grades towards completion of the WACE. Students can participate in VET while at school in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a course selection like any other course at school, delivered by school staff at school. (This is known as auspicing, because the school has a contract with an RTO to deliver VET on site). • As part of the External Training Pathway, where students attend school 4 days per week and one day per week with an External Training Provider/Registered Training Organisation. • As part of a school based or part time traineeship or apprenticeship. This is an employment arrangement where students are paid to work and obtain a VET qualification at the same time. Training and assessment for these VET qualifications are often “on the job” but still delivered and assessed by a Trainer who works for a Registered Training Organisation. |
| WACE - West Australian Certificate of Education | <p>The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) is the certificate that students in Western Australia receive on successful completion of the WACE requirements at the conclusion of their senior secondary education. It is recognised nationally in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), by universities and other tertiary institutions, industry and training providers. While students typically complete a WACE in their final two years of senior secondary school, there is no specified time limit for completion. Study towards achievement of the WACE can be undertaken over a lifetime. It should be noted that the WACE requirements may change over time. Individuals continuing to work towards achievement of the WACE after they leave school will need to meet the WACE requirements current at that time.</p> <p>https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/further-resources/wace-manual</p> |
| WASSA - West Australian Statement of Attainment | <p>The Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) is provided to all Year 12 students at the completion of their senior secondary schooling. The WASSA provides a formal record of what students leaving school at the end of Year 12 have achieved as a result of their school education in Western Australia.</p> |
| ADWPL/WPL - Authority Developed Workplace Learning Program | <p>ADWPL is an Endorsed Program, meaning it is endorsed by SCSA to contribute towards the WACE of learning with a specific focus on developing employability skills.</p> |