



Certification of senior secondary schooling achievement in 2023

At the end of 2023, Year 12 students who had completed a course unit, vocational education and training (VET) unit of competency or endorsed program were issued with a folio of achievement.

The folio of achievement consisted of the following:

- Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) – a statement of student achievement was issued to all Year 12 students who completed at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program.
- Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) – Year 12 students must have met the WACE requirements to receive this certificate.
- Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) course report – an ATAR course report was issued to all students (excluding non-school candidates) who sat an ATAR course examination in that course.

In 2023, students had **three** options for the course completion requirement to achieve the WACE. The first option is the completion of at least four Year 12 ATAR courses, the second option is the completion of at least five Year 12 General courses (or a combination of Year 12 General and up to three Year 12 ATAR courses) or equivalent, and the third option is the completion of Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification, in combination with ATAR, General or Foundation courses.

In 2023, the recording of the VET skill set was introduced. A skill set is a single unit of competency or combination of units of competency from one or more training packages that links to a licence or regulatory requirement, or defined industry need. Industry plays a critical role in identifying relevant skills required and in responding to the need of skill sets. Achievement of Department of Training and Workplace Development (DTWD) funded VET skill set units will appear on the student's WASSA but will not contribute towards the WACE requirements. Students were required to have a Unique Student Identifier provided by the Australian Government for the VET skill sets achievement to be recorded.

Students who were enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course pair of units were required to sit the ATAR course examination in 2023. Students who did not sit an ATAR course examination and did not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course, did not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). This means, the grades for the ATAR Year 12 course **did not** contribute to the:

- completion of a minimum of 20 units, including 10 Year 12 units
- completion of at least one pair of Year 12 units from an English course (if the ATAR Year 12 course was either English, Literature or English as an Additional Language or Dialect)
- completion of one pair of Year 12 units from List A (arts/languages/social sciences) or List B (mathematics/science/technology) {depending on the list of the ATAR Year 12 course}
- achievement of at least 14 C grades or higher, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units
- completion of at least four Year 12 ATAR courses
- completion of a combination of Year 12 General and up to three Year 12 ATAR courses.

Previously in 2016, the grades for the pair of units completed in that year did not contribute to meeting the achievement standard, but they could count in the breadth and depth requirement. From 2017, this was no longer the case.

Student portal

As introduced in 2020, students were able to download digital copies of their folio of achievement as the Authority no longer provided students with paper copies of documents and certificates contained in the folio of achievement.

To download digital copies of documents and certificates, students needed to log in to the student portal.

On Monday, 18 December 2023, Year 12 students were able to log in to the student portal to obtain their results. In addition, Year 10 and Year 11 students and non-school candidates could download their results from the student portal.

By the mid-January 2024, Year 12 students could download electronic versions of their WASSA, WACE and ATAR Course Report via the student portal.

Western Australian Certificate of Education

To achieve a WACE in 2023, a student must have met the following requirements:

- Breadth and depth requirement
 - completed at least 20 units or the equivalent. This requirement must include at least:
 - a minimum of ten Year 12 units or the equivalent
 - four units from an English learning area course, post-Year 10, including at least one pair of Year 12 units from an English learning area course
 - one pair of Year 12 units from each of List A (arts/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology).
- Achievement standard requirement
 - achieved at least 14 C grades or higher (or the equivalent) in Year 11 and Year 12 units, with a minimum of six C grades or the equivalent in Year 12 units
 - completed:
 - at least four Year 12 ATAR courses, **or**
 - at least five Year 12 General courses (or a combination of General and up to three Year 12 ATAR courses) or equivalent, **or**
 - a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification.
- Literacy and numeracy standard requirement
 - demonstration of the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

The WACE was issued to 22 943 Year 12 students who met the above requirements in 2023 (comprising of 11 058 males, 11 858 females and 27 others).

Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement for Year 12 students

A statement of student achievement was issued to each Year 12 student who had achieved at least one course unit, VET unit of competence or endorsed program. The statement of student achievement was issued to 26 201 Year 12 students in 2023 (comprising of 12 765 males, 13 394 females and 42 others).

Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

The statement of student achievement recorded whether or not the WACE requirements had been met. If WACE requirements had not been achieved, the statement for student achievement recorded 'not achieved' under the Western Australian Certificate of Education section.

The statement of student achievement also recorded:

- achievement of exhibitions and awards
- school grades, school marks and combined scores in ATAR courses (Units 3 and 4)
- school grades and school marks in ATAR (Units 1 and 2), General and Foundation courses
- completed Preliminary units
- completed VET industry specific units
- VET units of competency successfully completed
- completed DTWD funded VET skill set
- endorsed programs successfully completed
- number of community service hours completed
- results in subjects and WACE courses from previous years.

Details relating to each item which appeared on the statement of student achievement are given below.

Western Australian Certificate of Education

This section listed whether or not the WACE had been achieved by the student.

Literacy and numeracy standard

This section listed whether or not the standard was demonstrated for literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy. The literacy and numeracy standard could have been demonstrated either:

- through the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), **or**
- by achieving the required level in the associated components of reading, writing or numeracy in the Year 9 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

Exhibitions and awards

This section listed any of the exhibitions and awards achieved by the student. The Authority may grant the following awards:

- Beazley Medal: WACE*
- Beazley Medal: VET*
- General Exhibition*
- General Exhibition (ATSI)*
- Subject Exhibition*
- Special Subject Award*
- VET Exhibition*
- Subject Certificate of Excellence
- Special Subject Certificate of Excellence
- VET Certificate of Excellence
- Certificate of Distinction
- Certificate of Merit.

* These awards were issued to award recipients at the Awards Ceremony, which was held on Thursday, 15 February 2024.

On Monday, 19 February 2024, students could download electronic versions of their award certificates from the student portal.

Achievement in WACE course units

This section listed students' school-based achievement of school grades (A, B, C, D and E) and school marks (out of 100) in ATAR, General and Foundation courses. Details relating to these courses are as follows:

Courses	General features
ATAR courses	These courses are examined by the Authority. Student results in ATAR courses are used by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to calculate a student's ATAR. The ATAR is used to determine eligibility for university entrance. ATAR courses are typically for students who are aiming to go to university directly from school.
General courses	These courses are not externally examined. General courses are for students who are typically aiming to enter vocationally based training or the workforce straight from school.
Foundation courses	These courses provided 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 for students who had not been able to demonstrate the minimum standard for literacy and/or numeracy before Year 11 and were unlikely to do so before the end of Year 12 without significant levels of student support.

A student school-based achievement for a Year 12 course was recorded for a pair of units (i.e. one mark and one grade).

A student's school-based achievement for a Year 11 course was recorded for each pair of units (i.e. one mark and one grade), or for each unit completed (i.e. two marks and two grades).

Student achievement in VET industry specific courses was recorded as 'completed' upon completion of all course requirements.

The grade assigned described the overall achievement of a student for the completed pair of units (or unit, where a single Year 11 unit was studied).

Grades

The Authority moderated the grades in course units to ensure comparability of grades from school to school. This was achieved through the conduct of grading review and/or consensus moderation meetings.

The grades assigned at the conclusion of a course were based on each student's performance as judged (by the teacher) via reference to the grade descriptions, and the Authority provided work samples.

The grades may be interpreted as follows:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent achievement
B	High achievement
C	Satisfactory achievement
D	Limited achievement
E	Very low achievement

School achievement in subjects

If a student completed at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program and had achieved a grade of achievement for a subject in a previous year, then these grades were listed on the statement of achievement.

Achievement of endorsed programs

This section listed the endorsed programs successfully completed by students in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools where external certification **was not** required.

For the Workplace Learning program, the total number of hours completed in the workplace was also listed.

Programs endorsed by the Authority recognise significant learning that is not covered by WACE courses. Descriptors of achievement were not recorded on the statement of student achievement.

Achievement of Preliminary course units

This section listed any Preliminary course units completed and reported by the school to the Authority. Preliminary courses comprise of four units. Each unit was studied and reported separately.

Preliminary courses do not contribute towards the achievement of the WACE.

Community service

The statement of student achievement recorded the total number of hours of community service completed by students as reported by the school.

Community service supports the development of leadership skills, social responsibility and citizenship. Community service can be completed over Years 10, 11 and 12.

The following achievements and qualifications were listed below the ‘line’ as they were not awarded by the Authority. The ‘line’ refers to the following statement:

‘Achievements and qualifications listed below this line are not awarded by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and need to be verified by sighting the relevant certificate.’

Achievement of endorsed programs

This section listed the endorsed programs successfully completed by students in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools where external certification **was** required. Successfully completed programs were listed in the relevant category (e.g. Provider-developed and School-developed).

Achievement of vocational education and training qualifications

This section listed the units of competencies achieved by the student in vocational education and training programs in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools and the qualification the units of competency contribute towards. The name of the registered training organisation (RTO) that delivered the training was also recorded.

In 2023, there were 11 593 Year 12 students who achieved 14 867 VET qualifications. Of the VET qualifications achieved, 397 were achieved through traineeship or apprenticeship arrangements by Year 12 students. There were 5 884 Year 11 students who achieved 6 495 VET qualifications. Of the VET qualifications achieved, 108 were achieved through traineeship or apprenticeship.

Achievement of vocational education and training skill sets

This section listed the Department of Training and Workforce Development funded skill set completed through a registered training organisation (RTO). Verification of the achievements were made with the relevant RTO.

In 2023, there were three different skill sets that were achieved by 93 Year 12 students (comprising of 91 *First Aid skill set* (81 full skill set achieved and 10 partial skill set achieved), one *Introduction to Cyber Security skill set* (full skill set achieved) and one *Introduction to Early Childhood Education and Care skill set* (partial skill set achieved).

There were five different skill sets that were achieved by 105 Year 11 students (comprising of 87 *First Aid skill set* (full skill set achieved), nine *Introduction to Beauty skill set* (6 full skill set achieved and 3 partial skill set achieved), four *Introduction to Hairdressing skill set* (2 each full skill set and partial skill set achieved), two *Introduction to Early Childhood Education and Care skill set* (2 partial skill set achieved) and three *Work Safety in Construction skill set* (1 full skill set and 2 partial skill set achieved).

ATAR Course Reports

Students who were enrolled in Year 12 ATAR courses (Units 3 and 4) were required to sit the ATAR course examination in that course.

An ATAR course report was issued to students who sat an ATAR course examination. This report showed a student's achievement in relation to the achievement of other students of the course.

In 2023, 12 793 Year 12 students received at least one of the 52 828 course reports which were generated.

ATAR course reports were not issued for students who:

- did not sit the ATAR course examination and did not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course examination
- were non-school candidates in the ATAR course examination.

This report recorded:

- school marks*
- moderated school marks*
- raw examination marks*
- combined score
- standardised combined score

- state-wide distribution of course combined scores with indication of the individual's location in that distribution
- the total number of students who sat the ATAR course examination for the course
- means of the examination marks and combined scores for all students who sat the ATAR course examination for the course.

* A course that had a practical component had the written and practical marks reported separately.

Combined scores for ATAR courses used to calculate scaled scores

Combined scores for ATAR courses are also used by the TISC to calculate 'scaled scores' which are used for university selection purposes. The scaled scores from all courses are on a common scale, and as such, are used to calculate the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) and the ATAR for university admission purposes.

Scaled scores emphasise what students can do in relation to other students in the same course and in relation to other students in other courses.