



WACE Achievement Data 2017

2017 Outcomes

Set out below is achievement data from the second cohort of students (2017) who completed the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) under the requirements introduced for 2016 onwards.

Year 12 population

- 25 954 Year 12 students undertook studies towards the WACE, an increase of 2.02 per cent on the 25 441 students in 2016.
- In addition, 3272 (3642 in 2016) 17-year-olds not enrolled in schools were engaged in apprenticeships, traineeships, employment and/or training.

Secondary WACE achievement

- Of the 25 954 Year 12 students (25 441 in 2016), 24 332 full-time students were eligible to achieve a WACE (23 360 in 2016).
- In 2017, 22 174 (91.1 per cent) of eligible Year 12 students achieved a WACE. This compares to 21 473 (91.9 per cent) in 2016. It should be remembered that the WACE is now significantly more rigorous as a result of the requirement for students to demonstrate minimum literacy and numeracy standards, attain a minimum numbers of 'C grades' and the completion of a Certificate II or higher for students not enrolled in ATAR courses.

ATAR course examinations

- There were 13 299 Year 12 students (54.7 per cent of Year 12 students who undertook full time studies towards the WACE) who sat four or more ATAR course examinations in 2017. In 2016, there were 13 540 Year 12 students (58 per cent) who sat four or more ATAR course examinations. Students who sit four or more ATAR course examinations may be eligible for an ATAR.

VET

- In 2017, 14 774 Year 12 students achieved at least one VET qualification at Certificate II or higher in Year 10, 11 or 12, compared with 13 547 in 2016.
- In 2017, 3692 students achieved a Certificate III and 957 students achieved a Certificate IV. The respective numbers in 2016 were 3408 and 674.

The increased focus on VET as an element of the WACE requirements for students who are not on an ATAR pathway has resulted in an increased number of completions of VET certificates by Year 12 students.

Literacy and numeracy (excluding international students)

- 22 757 (93.5 per cent) of **WACE eligible** students demonstrated all three numeracy, reading and writing standards by the end of Year 12.

Growth in literacy and numeracy achievement: second cohort – Year 9 (2014) to Year 12 (2017)

The table below indicates the numbers and percentages of 2017 Year 12 students who:

- (i) prequalified on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results
- (ii) qualified in a subsequent ONLA assessment in Years 10, 11 or 12.

The data includes only those full-time students who were registered with schools and were eligible for a WACE (i.e. they had completed the required number of units (including list A and list B unit enrolments), and completed either four Year 12 ATAR courses or a Certificate II or higher.

Table 1: Year 12 full-time WACE eligible students who achieved the literacy and numeracy standard (excluding international students)

Population 24 332	Pre-qualified (number)	Pre-qualified (per cent)	Achieved through OLNA (number)	Achieved through OLNA (per cent)	Achieved the standard (total number)	Achieved the standard (per cent)
Reading	13 284	54.6	10 485	43.1	23 769	97.7
Writing	10 985	45.1	12 553	51.6	23 538	96.7
Numeracy	13 444	55.2	9 917	40.8	23 361	96.0
All components	7 982	32.8	14 775	60.7	22 757	93.5

The data indicates that for the **WACE eligible** students:

- the percentage of students demonstrating the reading standard increased from 54.6 per cent in Year 9 to 97.7 per cent by the end of Year 12
- the percentage of students demonstrating the writing standard increased from 45.1 per cent in Year 9 to 96.7 per cent by the end of Year 12
- the percentage of students demonstrating the numeracy standard increased from 55.2 per cent in Year 9 to 96.0 per cent by the end of Year 12
- the percentage of students demonstrating all three standards of literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy increased from 32.8 per cent in Year 9 to 93.5 per cent by the end of Year 12.

This data is consistent with that reported for the 2016 Year 12 cohort in and indicates that schools and their teachers are continuing to respond very positively to the need to ensure that their students are able to demonstrate the required standards of literacy and numeracy (*Australian Core Skills Framework*, Level 3).

STEM Enrolments 2017¹

Students enrolled in four or more ATAR examinations – 13 299 students

Table 2: Students with Mathematics courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
Mathematics ATAR	10 128	76.2%	1 844	13.9%	11 972	90.0%
Mathematics (but not ATAR mathematics)	464	3.5%	0	0.0%	464	3.5%
Mathematics – at least one mathematics course	10 541	79.3%	1 895	14.2%	12 436	93.5%

Table 3: Students with Science courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
Science ATAR	4 661	35.0%	5 237	39.4%	9 898	74.4%
Science (but not ATAR science)	117	0.9%	1	0.0%	118	0.9%
Science – at least one science course	4 669	35.1%	5 347	40.2%	10 016	75.3%

Table 4: Students with STEM courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
STEM ATAR	3 193	24.0%	9 512	71.5%	12 705	95.5%
STEM (but not ATAR STEM)	272	2.0%	8	0.1%	280	2.1%
STEM – at least one STEM course	3 181	23.9%	9 804	73.7%	12 985	97.6%

Students enrolled in ≤ three ATAR examinations – 11 035 students

Table 5: Students with Mathematics courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
Mathematics ATAR	922	8.4%	4	0.0%	926	8.4%
Mathematics (but not ATAR mathematics)	8 993	81.5%	5	0.0%	8 998	81.5%
Mathematics – at least one mathematics course	9 868	89.4%	56	0.5%	9 924	89.9%

¹ Tables include all full-time Year 12 students eligible to achieve WACE in 2017.

Table 6: Students with Science courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
Science ATAR	341	3.1%	24	0.2%	365	3.3%
Science (but not ATAR science)	3 075	27.9%	252	2.3%	3 327	30.1%
Science – at least one science course	3 335	30.2%	357	3.2%	3 692	33.5%
Science-related Cert II or higher (but not ATAR nor General science)	1 671	15.1%	0	0.0%	1 671	15.1%
Science – at least one science course or science-related Cert II or higher	5 006	46.0%	357	3.2%	5 363	48.6%

Table 7: Students with STEM courses in their enrolment

Course enrolments	1 course only		≥2 courses		Total	
Course type						
STEM ATAR	964	8.7%	169	1.5%	1 133	10.3%
STEM (but not ATAR STEM)	6 564	59.5%	2 688	24.4%	9 252	83.8%
STEM – at least one STEM course	7 080	64.2%	3 305	30.0%	10 385	94.1%
STEM-related Cert II or higher (but not ATAR nor General STEM)	72	0.7%	0	0.0%	72	0.7%
STEM – at least one STEM course or STEM-related Cert II or higher	7 152	64.8%	3 305	30.0%	10 457	94.8%

Note:

- Science: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Human Biology, Earth and Environmental Science, Integrated Science, Engineering Studies, Marine and Maritime Science, Applied Information Technology, Computer Science
- Science-related VET Certificate II or higher: VET Certificate II or higher in science, engineering, health and ICT
- STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.