



THE WACE

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS STARTING YEAR 11 IN 2015

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

To achieve a WACE you will need to meet:

1. Depth and breadth
2. The achievement standard
3. The literacy and numeracy standard.

You can select from a range of course units to suit your skills and post-school aspirations. If you think you will be heading to university, you should enrol in at least four ATAR courses to be eligible for an ATAR. More information about the ATAR is available at www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/atar-about.tisc?cid=12862

The Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) is issued to all Year 12 students at the completion of their secondary schooling. It documents every course unit and program you have completed.

The depth and breadth requirement

You will be required to complete at least 20 course units (or the equivalent) to meet the depth requirement for a WACE.

WACE unit equivalents can be obtained through VET qualifications and/or endorsed programs. A maximum of eight unit equivalents can contribute

towards the depth requirement of the WACE (with a maximum of four unit equivalents from endorsed programs).

Course units can be chosen from ATAR, General, Foundation and VET industry specific courses. Preliminary course units are reported on the WASSA, however they do not contribute to the achievement of WACE requirements.

Each course has four units – Unit 1 and Unit 2 (Year 11 units) and Unit 3 and Unit 4 (Year 12 units). Unit 1 and Unit 2 are typically studied as a pair (except VET industry specific which are paired), Unit 3 and Unit 4 must be studied as a pair.

WACE courses are grouped into List A (arts/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology). To meet the breadth requirement for WACE you are required to select at least one Year 12 course from each of List A and List B. VET industry specific courses can not be used to meet the breadth requirement.

Achievement standard

You will need to achieve 14 C grades (or equivalents) in Year 11 and Year 12 course units, including at least six C grades in Year 12 course units (or equivalents).

Also, if your educational program does not include four ATAR courses in Year 12, you will need to complete a Certificate II qualification or higher to meet the minimum requirement for WACE. A partial Certificate III or higher may meet

the Certificate II minimum requirement if a pre-determined criteria is met. Ask your VET coordinator for more details.

Literacy and numeracy standard

To demonstrate competence in literacy and numeracy:

1. complete two Year 11 units from an English course and a pair of Year 12 units from an English course
2. demonstrate that you have met the minimum standard for literacy and numeracy, which is based on skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work.

You can achieve the minimum standard:

- through the Online Literacy Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), or
- if you demonstrate Band 8 or higher in your Year 9 NAPLAN, Reading, Writing and Numeracy tests.

The OLNA is compulsory for those students who have not prequalified in one or more of the components through Year 9 NAPLAN and want to achieve the WACE. If you have a language background other than English, and arrived from overseas in the past year, you may be able to delay sitting the OLNA.

Disability provisions are available for students with significant conditions which may severely limit their capacity





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to participate in the OLN. These students, after discussions with parents/carers and the school, may choose not to sit the OLN. However, this would mean that these students could not achieve the WACE. If you feel that this may apply to you then you should discuss your options with your school.

Assessment and standards

Teachers use the requirements of the course unit syllabus to assess the achievement of students. Your school's assessment policy requires that your teachers provide you with a copy of the syllabus for each course. This will provide you with information about what you can expect to learn and help you prepare for your assessments and examinations.

ATAR examinations

The Authority sets, administers and marks ATAR examinations for ATAR Units 3 and 4 in all courses.

Each ATAR examination assesses the specific content, understandings, knowledge and skills described in the syllabus for the pair of units studied. Each syllabus is available on the relevant learning area page of the Authority website at <http://wace1516.scsa.wa.edu.au>

All ATAR examinations have written papers and some also include practical, oral, performance or portfolio examinations. The practical ATAR examinations are held in the first week of the Term 3 school holidays, on weekends and the Queen's Birthday public holiday and during the second and third weeks of Term 4. Written examinations will start on the first

* Partial Certificate III may meet the Certificate II minimum requirement if all predetermined criteria are met.

Monday in November.

ATAR examinations provide students and the wider community with confidence about the standards achieved at the end of Year 12. They also make it possible to compare the achievement of students, regardless of the school attended.

Enrolling in examinations

When you enrol in a Year 12 ATAR course, you will be automatically enrolled to sit the ATAR examination in that course.

If you are applying for university admission, you should check that your course selections meet the entry requirements. University admission information is available on the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre website at www.tisc.edu.au.

Special examination arrangements

Special arrangements may be made if you have a permanent or temporary disability that may disadvantage you in an examination situation. If your disability prevents you having reasonable access to an examination, your school must submit an application on your behalf. Information about how to do this will be made available to your school at the start of Year 12.

Vocational education and training

Vocational education and training (VET) is recognised across Australia.

Undertaking a VET qualification can give you the opportunity to gain core skills for work and, in some cases, complete training in industry through workplace learning.

VET opportunities for students do vary between schools. You should discuss these with your VET coordinator.

VET can be used towards your WACE either as a VET industry specific course or as VET credit transfer. VET credit transfer counts towards the WACE as unit equivalence and VET industry specific courses count towards the WACE as a course. You can study a combination of these arrangements to incorporate a significant amount of VET into your senior secondary program and have it contribute towards your WACE.

Each VET industry specific course requires you to access the industry through workplace learning and contains one or more training package qualifications.

Endorsed programs

An endorsed program is a learning program that has been developed by the Authority, a school or private provider and endorsed by the Authority. Endorsed programs are allocated unit equivalence. All endorsed programs successfully completed and reported to the Authority will be listed on your WASSA. ■

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Full details are available from the Year 10 Handbook at:

http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/Senior_Secondary/The_WACE/WACE_Requirements/Year_10_WACE_info

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