

## Certification of senior secondary schooling achievement in 2013

At the end of 2013, Year 12 students who had satisfactorily completed a course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program were issued with a folio of achievement.

The folio of achievement consisted of the following:

- Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) – Year 12 students must have met the WACE requirements to receive this certificate.
- Statement of results – a statement of results was issued to all Year 12 students who completed at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program.
- WACE course report – a WACE course report was issued to all students who sat the WACE examination in either Stage 2 or Stage 3 in that course in that year.

### Western Australian Certificate of Education

To achieve a Western Australian Certificate of Education a student must have met the following requirements:

- **Breadth and depth requirement**
  - completed at least 20 units or the equivalent, of which at least 10 had to have been from WACE courses. The 20 course units must have included at least:
    - four different course units from English, Literature and/or English as an Additional Language or Dialect, studied during Year 11 and Year 12 (at least two of these units must have been completed in Year 12)
    - one pair of course units from each of List A (arts/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology) completed in Year 12.
- **Achievement standard requirement**
  - achieved a C grade average or better across the best 16 course units of which at least eight must be completed in Year 12.
  - P-stage units, endorsed programs and/or VET credit transfer can reduce the required number of course units by up to six units.
- **English language competence requirement**
  - achieved a C grade or better in any Stage 1 or higher course unit from English, Literature and/or English as an Additional Language or Dialect (except 1A and 1B for English as an Additional Language or Dialect).
  - for students who had not achieved a C grade in one of their English, Literature and/or English as an Additional Language or Dialect course units, schools would have needed to compare a selection of the student's work with the work samples provided by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to verify the student had demonstrated the required standard.

The Western Australian Certificate of Education was issued to 22,243 (10,671 males and 11,572 females) Year 12 students who met the above requirements in 2013.

### English language competence

To meet the School Curriculum and Standards Authority requirement for English language competence, students must have:

- completed at least four units from English, Literature and/or English as an Additional Language or Dialect. Students were required to complete four course units from the English learning area studied over Year 11 and Year 12. At least two units must have been completed in Year 12, **and**
- met the standard for English language competence as defined by work samples. The standard is related to the standard required to achieve a C grade or better in Stage 1 English. Students who achieved a C grade or better in at least **one** unit of Literature, English or English as an Additional Language/Dialect (excluding units 1A and 1B) in their senior secondary years would have achieved this standard.

## Statement of results for Year 12 students

A Statement of results was issued to each Year 12 student who had achieved at least one WACE course unit, VET unit of competence or endorsed program. The statement of results was issued to 24,492 (12,038 males and 12,454 females) Year 12 students in 2013.

The statement of results recorded whether the WACE requirements had been achieved. If WACE requirements had not been achieved, the statement for results recorded English language competence, if achieved.

The statement of results also recorded:

- exhibitions and awards
- WACE course scores
- grades achieved in course units
- VET qualifications and VET units of competency successfully completed
- 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 results are given below.

### Exhibitions and awards

The Authority granted the following awards:

- Beazley medal: WACE
- Beazley medal: VET
- General exhibitions
- General exhibitions (ATSI)
- General exhibitions (ESL/ESD)
- Special general awards
- Course exhibitions
- Special course awards
- VET exhibitions
- Workplace Learning exhibition
- Certificates of distinction
- Special certificates of distinction
- Certificates of distinction (VET)
- Certificates of distinction (WPL)
- Certificates of commendation.

### WACE course scores

Students received WACE course scores for each course in which they had received a school mark for a pair of Stage 2 or Stage 3 course units and sat the WACE examination for that stage of the course.

The WACE course score is a slight variation of the combined mark (average of standardised moderated school mark and the standardised examination mark). This variation ensures year-to-year consistency in the relationship between WACE course scores and the five achievement bands (as listed below) described in the WACE course report at the particular stage.

- 75 and above represents excellent achievement
- 65–74 represents high achievement
- 50–64 represents satisfactory achievement
- 35–49 represents limited achievement
- Less than 35 represents inadequate achievement.

The five achievement bands apply to all courses as well as Stage 2 and 3 for each course. However, the descriptions associated with the standards are tailored to each particular course and stage. The proportion of students in each achievement band varies from year to year, course to course and stage to stage depending on the performances of students in that year.

WACE course scores emphasise what students can do in relation to the standards of the course/stage.

### **Scaled scores**

Combined marks for WACE courses are also used by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to calculate 'scaled scores' which are used for university selection purposes. Scaled scores for WACE courses are quite different from WACE course scores.

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

### **Grades achieved in course units**

WACE courses were delivered in semester-length units or year-long pairs of units. Explicit standards are used to measure the achievement of the course units. School achievement in course units was recorded as a grade, with the exception of Preliminary Stage units, which were recorded as complete, if achieved.

Course units were available in the following stages:

Stage 3 units	these units provide opportunities to extend knowledge and understanding in academic learning contexts. Typically, the post-school pathway is further study at university with some students opting for the workplace or enrolling in vocational education and training courses.
Stage 2 units	these units provide opportunities for applied learning with more focus on academic learning for transition to Stage 3 or post-school options including vocational education and training, apprenticeships and traineeships, university and the workplace.
Stage 1 units	these units provide bridging support and a practical and applied focus to develop skills required for students to be successful upon leaving school or in the transition to Stage 2 units. Post-school pathways generally include vocational education and training, apprenticeships and traineeships and the workplace.
Preliminary Stage units	these units provide opportunities for practical and supported learning to develop the skills required to be successful upon leaving school or in the transition to Stage 1 units. Post-school pathways may include entry level training and the workplace.

### **Grades in course units**

The Authority moderated the grades in WACE 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 units 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 A indicates excellent achievement
- Grade B indicates high achievement
- Grade C indicates satisfactory achievement
- Grade D indicates limited achievement
- Grade E indicates inadequate achievement.

## **VET qualifications and VET units of competency successfully achieved**

VET units of competency (competencies) were available for a range of industry areas. These competencies were included in schools' Year 11 and Year 12 programs. Students who successfully completed one or more competencies had the achievement recorded on their statements of results. The name and code of the registered training organisation (RTO) responsible for assessing the competency was also recorded.

Schools were requested to provide full details relating to the VET qualifications achieved and whether or not the qualification was achieved through a traineeship. The name of the RTO at which a student achieved a VET qualification was also listed on students' statements of results.

In 2013, there were 8,936 Year 12 students who had 12,984 VET qualifications recorded on their statements. If the qualification was achieved through a traineeship or apprenticeship, then this was also recorded. There were 538 full qualifications achieved through traineeship or apprenticeship arrangements by Year 12 students.

The achievement of competencies was recognised by the Authority for the statement of results and Western Australian Certificate of Education in two categories. The first category included those that were studied as part of a WACE course (i.e. integrated competencies). The second category was where a student studied a competency in addition to WACE courses (i.e. VET credit transfer).

Using nominal hours provided in the training packages, the Authority allocated VET credit transfer competencies, successfully completed by students, 55-hour or 110-hour blocks which formed half and full VET course equivalents respectively. These VET course equivalents contributed towards the Western Australian Certificate of Education. Students who successfully completed competencies that represented course equivalents had the number of VET unit equivalents indicated on their statement of results.

## **Endorsed programs successfully achieved**

Programs endorsed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority recognise significant learning by students not covered by courses developed by the Authority. Endorsed programs were awarded unit equivalence according to specific criteria and could contribute up to 50 per cent of the 20 course units for meeting the WACE completion requirement. Descriptors of achievement were recorded on the statement of results in a manner appropriate to the program.

The programs completed are listed in four areas:

- workplace learning programs
- university studies
- community organisation programs
- personal development programs.

## **Community service hours completed**

The statement of results recorded the total number of hours of community service completed by the student, 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.

## **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 results.

## **WACE course report**

In 2013, 15,010 Year 12 students received at least one of the 67,283 course reports which were printed.

Students who completed a WACE examination for Stage 2 or Stage 3 of a course were issued with a WACE course report. This report recorded:

- school grades
- school marks
- moderated school marks\*
- raw examination marks\*
- standardised examination marks\*
- WACE course score
- a description of the knowledge, skills and understanding demonstrated by the student
- state-wide distribution of WACE course scores with indication of the individual's location in that distribution
- the candidature of the course/stage.

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