



# WACE

## Mapping study directions for Year 11 and Year 12

*For all Year 9, 10 and 11 students and parents*

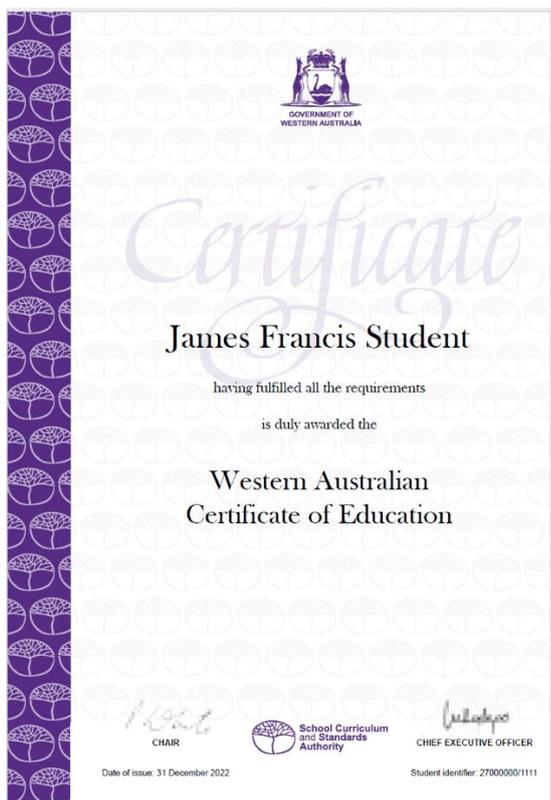


# WACE

**FOR ALL YEAR 9, 10 AND 11 STUDENTS/PARENTS**

## SECTION 1: WACE

WACE stands for the **Western Australian Certificate of Education**. Achieving your WACE acknowledges that at the end of your compulsory schooling you have achieved the required minimum standards in an educational program that has suitable breadth and depth.



### Western Australian Certificate of Education

A student who meets the requirements will be issued with the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). In mid-January, students who have completed the necessary requirements will be able to download digital copies of their WACE. Note: SCSA no longer provide paper copies of the WACE. A sample certificate is shown at left.

Students will generally take two years to achieve the requirements of the WACE- Years 11 and 12; however, these requirements may be met over a lifetime.

The WACE is recognised nationally in the Australian Qualifications Framework and by universities and other tertiary institutions, industry and training providers.

## What you need to do to achieve your WACE?

To qualify for a WACE, students must successfully meet a number of requirements relating to breadth and depth, an achievement standard and the literacy and numeracy standard in their senior secondary schooling. These requirements are listed below.

### Breadth and depth

All students at Bunbury Catholic College must enrol in six Year 11 courses and at least five Year 12 courses. Each year-long ATAR or General course represents two units.

The minimum requirement for achieving a WACE include:

- Completion of a minimum of 20 units, or the equivalent across Year 11 and 12. This requirement must include at least:
  - ten Year 12 units, or the equivalent
  - one English learning area course in Year 11, and one English learning area course in Year 12
  - one Year 12 List A course (arts/languages/social sciences) and one Year 12 List B course (mathematics/science/technology).

Please note that because all Year 11 and 12 students at Bunbury Catholic College are required to study Religion and Life and one English course, they meet the WACE Breadth of Study requirement so long as they select at least one List B subject.

**Table 1:** List A and List B courses on offer at Bunbury Catholic College

<b>LIST A (Arts, Languages, Social Science)</b>	<b>LIST B (Mathematics, Science, Technology)</b>
Children & Family Community General	Accounting and Finance ATAR
Dance ATAR	Biology ATAR
Dance General	Building & Construction General
Drama ATAR	Chemistry ATAR
Drama General	Computer Science General
Economics ATAR	Design General
English ATAR	Earth & Environmental Science ATAR
English General	Human Biology ATAR
English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR	Human Biology General
Indonesian: Second Language ATAR	Materials Design Technology Wood General
Italian: Second Language ATAR	Materials Design Technology Metal General
Literature ATAR	Marine & Maritime Studies General
Modern History ATAR	Mathematics Applications ATAR
Religion and Life ATAR	Mathematics Essentials General
Religion and Life General	Mathematics Methods ATAR
Visual Arts ATAR	Mathematics Specialist ATAR
Visual Arts General	Physical Education Studies ATAR
	Physics ATAR
	Psychology ATAR
	Psychology General

### Achievement standard

Remember again that all students at Bunbury Catholic College must enrol in six Year 11 courses and at least five Year 12 courses.

In terms of achievement standards, the minimum requirements for achieving a WACE include:

- Achievement of at least 14 C grades or higher (or the equivalent) in Year 11 and Year 12 units, with a minimum of six C grades (three year-long course grades) in Year 12 units (or the equivalent).
- Completion of:
  - 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 in combination with ATAR, General or Foundation courses. Note: the partial completion of a Certificate III or higher VET qualification may meet this requirement, as outlined in the WACE Manual 2023 available on the SCSA website - <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>

**Table 2:** Examples of subject choices available to students entering Year 11.

Example A		Example B		Example C	
Year 11	Year 12	Year 11	Year 12	Year 11	Year 12
Religion & Life General	Religion & Life General	Religion & Life General	Religion & Life General	Religion & Life ATAR	Religion & Life ATAR
English General	English General	English ATAR	English ATAR	Literature ATAR	Literature ATAR
Mathematics Essentials General	Mathematics Essentials General	Mathematics Applications ATAR	Mathematics Applications ATAR	Mathematics Methods ATAR	Mathematics Methods ATAR
Workplace Learning	Workplace Learning	Economics ATAR	Economics ATAR	Modern History ATAR	Modern History ATAR
Certificate III in Business	Certificate III in Business	Human Biology ATAR	Human Biology ATAR	Chemistry ATAR	Chemistry ATAR
Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation	Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation	Certificate II in Sport & Recreation	Certificate II in Sport & Recreation	Physics ATAR	Study line

### Literacy and numeracy standard

- Demonstration of the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

There are two parts to achieving the WACE literacy and numeracy requirements. Firstly, as detailed above, students are required to complete two Year 11 English units and a pair of Year 12 English units.

Secondly, students must demonstrate that they 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 in a knowledge-based economy. You can demonstrate the minimum standard:

- If you demonstrate Band 8 or higher in your Year 9 NAPLAN Reading, Writing and Numeracy tests,

**OR**

- Through the Online Literacy Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

The OLNA is compulsory for students who have not prequalified in one or more of the components through Year 9 NAPLAN, and want to achieve the WACE. Students have up to six opportunities between Year 10 and Year 12 to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy standard.

### VET and endorsed programs can contribute to the 14 C grade requirement described above

Nationally recognised VET programs completed in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, and endorsed programs completed in Years 11 and/or 12 may contribute towards the achievement of a WACE.

- VET can contribute to up to 50% of the 14 units you need to achieve your WACE
- Endorsed programs may replace up to two Year 11 course units and two Year 12 course units you need to achieve your WACE (These are included in the 50% mentioned in the above point).

VET unit equivalence towards the WACE is allocated for the successful completion of a full qualification through VET credit transfer. **A maximum of eight units (four in Year 11 and four in Year 12) may be used towards the WACE requirements.** A summary of the credit for completed qualifications and their unit equivalents is provided in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Credit for completed VET qualifications and their unit equivalents.

Completed qualification	Total equivalents	Year 11 credit allocation (unit equivalents)	Year 12 credit allocation (unit equivalents)	Satisfies the minimum VET qualification requirement for WACE
Certificate I	2 units	2	0	No
Certificate II	4 units	2	2	Yes
Certificate III or higher – Partial*	4 units	2	2	Yes
Certificate III or higher - Full	6 units	2	4	Yes

\* Under specific conditions

## SECTION 2: Study Directions for Year 11 and Year 12

Mapping out appropriate study directions after Year 10 is an important task for you and your parents. Broadly, you have four options for your Year 11 and 12 studies:

- ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) courses;
- General courses;
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificates; and
- Endorsed programs

It is also possible to ‘mix and match’ these options to provide yourself with the best platform to meet the requirements to achieve your Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) and prepare yourself for life beyond school.

### ATAR Courses

These courses are typically for students aiming to achieve entry to an Australian university directly from school. ATAR courses are examined by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

Each course has four units:

- Units 1 and 2 (Year 11 units) and
- Units 3 and 4 (Year 12 units). Units 3 and 4 must be studied as a pair, as the ATAR examination covers both units.

If you intend to enrol in university study after school, you should study at least four ATAR courses at Year 12 in order to be eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. The rank is used by universities around Australia as a selection device.

More information about the ATAR is available from the Tertiary Admissions Service Centre (TISC) – see <http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/atar-about.tisccid=12862>

## Alternative Pathways to University

Studying a minimum of four ATAR courses is not the only option for attaining an ATAR and gaining entry to university. For instance, some universities will calculate a minimum ATAR sufficient to gain entry to a range of degree courses based on successful completion of a Certificate IV qualification and the achievement of a C grade in English ATAR only. For more information on alternative pathways, speak to the College Careers Counsellor.

## General Courses

General courses are typically for students aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. These courses are not examined externally, although students will sit an Externally Set Task (administered by SCSA) in Term Two of Year 12.

It may be possible to enter some university undergraduate courses using your school-based General courses (or some mixture of General and ATAR courses) - you should discuss this with Mr Michael Downes, our VET Co-ordinator and Careers Counsellor.

General courses also include:

- Foundation courses for students who have been unable to demonstrate the minimum standards for literacy and/or numeracy, and are unlikely to do so by the end of Year 12;
- Preliminary courses for students who have been identified as having a learning difficulty and/or intellectual disability. They provide an option for students who cannot access the ATAR or General course content; are unable to progress directly to training from school, or who require modified and/or individualised education plans.

## Vocational Education and Training (VET)

VET is recognized around Australia. VET programs give you the opportunity to gain core skills for work and in some cases to complete training in industry through workplace learning. Undertaking a VET qualification means you can begin training for your career while still at school. Some VET programs offer school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

## Endorsed programs

Endorsed programs address areas of learning not covered by other courses. Examples include Workplace Learning, cadetships (e.g. Air Force cadets), performance in school productions and independently administered examinations in music, speech and drama. These programs are delivered in a variety of settings by schools, community organisations, universities and training organisations.

## Enrolling in Units

Bunbury Catholic College will enrol you in your selected units, VET course and/or endorsed programs with SCSA. Changes can also be made through the school.

Note that enrolment for some language courses and English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) are subject to eligibility criteria. Student intending to enrol in these courses should discuss these criteria with the school advisors or subject specific teachers.

## Making Realistic Choices

One of the important considerations in choosing your courses for Year 11 and Year 12 is maximizing your chance of entry to universities, State Training Providers (STP) (formerly known as TAFE colleges) or employment. It is, therefore, important for students to carefully consider their background and capacity to undertake their chosen courses. Year 11 and 12 courses vary considerably in content and skills, their level of complexity and the learning styles they suit.

Bunbury Catholic College recommends minimum standards of achievement at Year 10 level for entry into Year 11 and 12 courses, but we do not prevent students from enrolling in courses of their choice. Through an interview process with both students and their parents, we discuss the various options available and provide guidance on the best mix of courses for the student to achieve their post-school goals of either entering university, gaining an apprenticeship, progressing to further training at State Training Providers or entering directly into employment. In helping them to make sound choices, students are reminded that the best indicator of future success in a course is past achievement in a related course (i.e. one which develops relevant concepts and skills).

Throughout Years 11 and 12, the progress and achievements of each student in their chosen courses is closely monitored. Where necessary, in consultation with parents and carers, students are provided with additional counselling and guidance on possible course or pathway changes if they are not progressing successfully toward achieving WACE and their post-school goals.

## Year 11 and 12 Assessment and Marks

Each ATAR and General course has an assessment outline that specifies the types of assessments that can be applied in that course (e.g. classroom tests, in-class work, assignments, practical work and examinations). The marks you earn on these assessments determine the grade you receive for each unit pair completed. You will receive an A, B, C, D or E grade for each unit pair, except for preliminary units, which are not graded.

You will also receive a school mark in the range 0 to 100 for each unit pair of an ATAR or General course you complete. If you intend to study at a university after Year 12, you should be aware that marks around 60% (i.e. a mid C grade) represent the minimum entry standard. Higher marks are required to access more competitive university courses.

**Table 4.** Final scaled marks across four subjects and the final ATAR.

Average mark per subject across four subjects	ATAR
87	99
75	95
68	90
63	85
60	80
57	75
54	70

## SECTION 3: Your Choices After Year 12

A small number of Year 10 students will have a good idea about the career path they wish to follow. These students should consult with school counsellors to determine the institution/s they can attend after Year 12, and the academic background required to access those institutions.

The majority of students, however, will not have made up their mind about a career path. If this applies to you, you should select courses in Year 11 and 12 that enable you to keep your options open.

To discover how to identify possible career goals students can visit

<http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/career-development>

All students should be aware that some university studies specify preferred courses or prerequisites, and that some State Training Provider (TAFE) courses are highly competitive, so completing certain courses in Year 11 and 12 can be an advantage.

### What Are Your Options After Year 12?

Students leaving school after Year 12 typically pursue one of three broad options. Obviously, your options are influenced by the courses you have completed at school and the results you have attained.

#### University Entry

Between 30 and 40 per cent of Year 12 school leavers enter **university** direct from school. Universities offer a wide range of courses, some of which can only be studied at a university. Courses generally range in length between three and six years, with fees between \$7,000 and \$12,000 per annum. Salaries for university graduates are typically higher than for other options, but employment rates can vary depending on industry needs and economic circumstances at the time.

As mentioned above, if you intend to enrol in university study after school, it is recommended that you study at least four ATAR courses in order to be eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, used by universities around Australia as a selection device. Alternative pathways to university entry are possible and for more information about these, speak to the College Careers Counsellor or one of the Deputy Principals.

#### State Training Provider (STP) Entry

State Training Providers (formerly known as TAFE Colleges) account for a further 40 per cent of school leavers. STPs offer a wide range of courses, typically of shorter duration than university courses. Certificate II courses can normally be completed in one year; Certificate III or IV and Diploma courses over two years. Fees are payable, depending on the level of the qualification and its resources requirements. Employment rates for graduates vary depending on industry needs and economic circumstances at the time.

The criteria used to determine entry into STP Colleges are very different from those used for university entrance. The selection criteria are currently based on three main categories that add to a total of 100 points:

1. Qualification pathway – up to 29 points. Points are awarded for complete or partially completed qualifications. More points are offered for completed qualifications, and for qualifications completed in the same area of study as that you are applying for.



2. Work experience / employment – up to 29 points. You are allocated points for your employment or workplace experience. This may be for paid or unpaid work, or work experience / Workplace Learning. Documentary evidence is required.
3. Secondary education / skill development – up to 42 points. This includes secondary education (current or past), or a portfolio demonstrating skill development. The portfolio may contain qualifications or tests that you completed in the past.

Higher level STP qualifications usually have prerequisite qualifications. For example, to undertake a Certificate IV Fitness, an applicant would need to have completed a Certificate III in Fitness.

To maximize your entry prospects for STP studies, you should:

- check the selection criteria that applies to the course you wish to enter;
- where appropriate, ensure that the courses you choose at Year 11 and Year 12 satisfies the entry requirements for your proposed training course;
- undertake VET studies at school, particularly those which lead to a completed credential;
- undertake Workplace Learning;
- keep records of any part-time work undertaken; and
- get the best grades you can in school studies.

STP courses tend to be very flexible in terms of study structures, often enabling you to study part-time and work part-time.

In recent years, it has become easier to transfer between STP courses and some university courses. In general terms, transfers are possible after completion of Diploma level STP courses.

Further information about training can be found at <http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/training#still-at-school>

### **Employment After Leaving School**

Approximately 20 per cent of students seek employment immediately after Year 12. Entering the workforce is competitive, and employers may require evidence of successful completion of school courses. In addition, workplace experience is well-regarded, so you should consider some form of vocational education and work placement.

### **Summary**

**For university entry, consider:**

- Your career interest and aspirations;
- Your Year 10 achievement profile;
- Any required prerequisites for your intended university course;
- Select English ATAR, Literature ATAR or English as an Additional Language/Dialect ATAR;
- Select four or five ATAR courses, bearing in mind unacceptable pairings; and
- Refer to past ATAR entry cut-offs to determine the required achievement standard.

### For STP entry,

- Select an English course;
- Select other courses to maximize your grades;
- Enrol in Workplace Learning and a VET in Schools program; and
- Complete a full VET Certificate II or higher course.

If you have no idea of your preferred career or post-Year 12 program, consider enrolling in Religion and Life, English, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology courses, and a VET course. This choice keeps most of your options open.

## SECTION 4: Questions and Help

Important documents that you can access online to find more detailed information:

School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) – to find out about WACE requirements, Year 11 and 12 courses, assessment information, ATAR and more...	<a href="https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au">https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au</a>
Further information about training at State Training Providers can be found at...	<a href="http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/training#still-at-school">http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/training#still-at-school</a>
Training WA Career Centre	<a href="http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/career-development">http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/career-development</a>
Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISOnline)	<a href="http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc">http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc</a>