

NOTES

1) This table is intended to inform policy discussion. It is not intended to provide guidance to students as to the full set of requirements for any of the senior secondary certificates and should not be relied upon in that regard.

2) It appears all states have some arrangement for advanced students to count some university study towards their senior secondary certificate, but these are not separately listed here.

3) States will also recognise learning certified by other organisations in various more and less restrictive ways. The TQA (now TASC) set this out clearly for the TCE at <http://www.tqa.tas.gov.au/1689>

Note that since the TCE is standards based rather than content or provider specific based, (you don't have to go to school to get the TCE and you don't have to do particular subjects at school), it appears to be the most flexible and inclusive of the senior secondary certificates.

	WACE	SACE	VCE	VCAL	HSC	QCE	TCE	
What study counts	School, and the equivalent of up to four Year 11 units and four Year 12 units from VET or an endorsed (WACE Board approved) program.	School, VET and community learning recognised by the SACE Board.	School, VET in school and school based apprenticeships	School, VET in school and school based apprenticeships, TAFE, and Adult Community Education Centres	School and TAFE	School, VET, workplace and community learning	School, VET (all kinds) and apprenticeships, community based learning, other qualifications - no school attendance requirements	
Size in points/hours	20 units = 1,100 contact hrs	Minimum of 200 credits, including study to 1100 contact hours over two years	16 units	10 units = 1,000 hrs	22 units - equivalent of 1320 hours	20 credits	120 credit points = 1200 hrs	
% full time load over 2 years			16/(20-24) = 67% minimum. [Comment from a principal: 'Whilst in theory the VCE can be successfully attained with a 67% 'enrolment' as you indicate, the reality is that 12 units in Year 11 and 10 in Year 12 would be the notional understanding of 'full time', as a 'typical' student would take 12 units in Year 11 and 10 units in Year 12 to ensure they take as many units as can count towards their ATAR.'	Program equivalent to one year full time (no time restriction on duration of study)				
Level of study required	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
External assessment	Minimum of 10 units at Year 12 or the equivalent. A VET Certificate I (if greater than 110 hrs) is equivalent to two Year 11 units; a Cert II (if greater than 220 hrs) is equivalent to two Year 11 and two Year 12 units; a Cert III is equivalent to two Year 11 and four Year 12 units	At least 70 credits (C- or better) from Year 12 subjects including 10 credits from a Research Project.	Three studies (= 6 units) at level 3 and 4 (Year 12) plus one unit of English at Year 12. Each VCE study includes at least one external examination and the VCAA will use the examination score in each study as the basis for statistical moderation of schools' assessments. In studies with two examinations, scores from both examinations will be used.	Year 11 or Year 12. Certificate is issued as either 12 units of Preliminary Foundation, Intermediate or Senior depending on the level of courses completed.	12 units of Preliminary courses (Year 11) and 10 units of HSC courses (Year 12)	The HSC involves completing school-based assessment tasks throughout the HSC year and also sitting the HSC exams with the rest of the state. The results of school-based assessments and HSC exams contribute equally to final HSC marks.	At least 80 credit points at level 2 or above (ie levels 3 or 4). Courses at level 2 do not contribute to the calculation of an ATAR (see note below re the ATAR). They are of a similar level to many VET Certificate II courses, or what in other states would commonly be studied in Year 11 of school.	
Study pattern required	Students enrolled in Units 3 and 4 in an ATAR course must sit the external examination in that course.	At stage 2 (Year 12) 30% of assessment is external and marked by the SACE Board. School based assessments are moderated by the Board.	Not required unless VCE Units at level 3 and 4 (all of which include an external exam as for the VCE) are included in the student's program.	Not required unless VCE Units at level 3 and 4 (all of which include an external exam as for the VCE) are included in the student's program.	Not required unless VCE Units at level 3 and 4 (all of which include an external exam as for the VCE) are included in the student's program.	Not required	Not required	
Achievement standard	Two Year 11 units from an English course and one pair of Year 12 units from an English course. The study program must include one pair of Year 12 units from both the arts/languages/social sciences and one pair from maths/science/technology	Personal learning plan (10 credits); 20 credits of English; 10 credits of maths. At Stage 2 Year 12) a research project (10 credits) and an additional 60 credits. The remaining 90 credits can be gained through additional Stage 1 or Stage 2 subjects, or VET or community learning recognised by the SACE Board.	Three units of English, one at unit 3/4 level (Year 12) Units at levels 3 and 4 must be studied as a pair in the same year	At least one literacy unit; one numeracy unit; and one unit from each of Industry Specific Skills, Work related Skills and Personal Development Skills.	At least six units at Preliminary and HSC levels must be Board Developed courses; at least two of these units must be a course in English; at least three courses must be two units or greater; at least four subjects must be taken in both years.	Students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before they can commence the corresponding HSC course. At least six units at Preliminary and HSC levels must be Board Developed courses; at least two of these units must be a course in English; at least three courses must be two units or greater; at least four subjects must be taken in both years.	At least 12 credits must come from Core courses, at least one of these completed at school. A four semester course comprising four subjects equals 4 credits. A completed VET Certificate II counts for 4 credits, a Certificate III for 5,6 or 7 credits, and a Certificate IV for 8 Credits. A school based apprenticeship with Certificate III competencies attained gains up to 6 credits (but only up to 4 Core credits). The remaining 8 credits may come from Preparatory (no more than 6 credits), Core, Enrichment or Advanced courses.	None
Literacy requirement Note: ACSF is the Australian Core Skills Framework. See note below.	Completion of at least four units of an English course post-Year 10 and studied over at least two years, and NAPLAN Year 9 band 8 or above for reading and writing, or meeting the required standard in the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (ONLA) Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3?	At least 14 C grades or the equivalent, at least six in Year 12 units or equivalents.	Satisfactory completion at unit 1/2 stage, pass at unit 3/4 stage. The VCE assessment program also includes the General Achievement Test (GAT). Rather than using examination scores alone, statistical moderation uses students' GAT and external/examination scores where in doing so a better match with schools' assessments throughout the state is achieved. In all such cases, the examination scores will always be the major influence.	Six credits (courses satisfactorily completed) at the VCAL level attempted. (MySchool says for the VCAL to be a recognised Year 12 qualification this must be at Intermediate or Senior level.)	Satisfactory completion of all subjects that comprise the pattern of study required for the HSC; and having sat for and made a serious attempt at the required HSC examinations.	Core courses: at least a sound level of achievement/pass. VET: completion of the certificate. School based apprenticeships: attainment of required competencies.	Preliminary achievement. At least a Pass in any of the following level 2 courses: all English courses except English as an Additional Language (meets the requirement at level 3); Introduction to Sociology and Psychology; History and the Environment; Legal Studies; Religion in Society; Work Readiness; or a Pass in semester of a specified course in English or a course aligned with ACSF level 3 or C in the Core Skills Test	

Numeracy requirement

NAPLAN Year 9 band 8 or above in numeracy, or meeting the required standard in the ONLA. Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3?

10 credits of maths with at least a C grade it taken at Year 11, or a C- or better if taken at Year 12. Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3?

All students must take the General Achievement Test. Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3?

Numeracy unit as above

None

At least a Sound Achievement in one semester of a specified course in maths. Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3?

Standards aligned with ACSF level 3. At least a Pass in any of the following level 2 courses: all Mathematics courses; or Work Readiness; or Physical Sciences (level 3); or Chemistry or Physics (level 4); or a Pass in a safety-net test. Minimum standard aligns with ACSF level 3.

Use of computers and the internet requirement

None

None

All students must take the General Achievement Test. All VCE students studying at least one Unit 3 and 4 study take the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT is used to work out students' general knowledge and skills in written communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, the arts and social sciences. You must do the GAT. It doesn't count towards your VCE results, but it is used to make sure your marks are accurate. The GAT is usually held in June.

None

None

None

Standards aligned with ACSF level 3. At least a Pass in any of the following level 2 courses: Work Readiness; Computer Graphics and Design - Foundation; Essential Skills - using computers and the internet; Computer Applications; Media Production - foundation; or a Pass in a safety-net test. OR - see note below.

Other requirements/comments from principals

Candidates must complete at least 4 Year 12 ATAR courses (including the external examination in units 3 and 4 of each course) or a VET Certificate II or, in some cases, at least partial completion of a higher certificate

A grade C or better for their Personal Learning Plan, completed in Year 10.

A semester course is usually 10 credits. A full year course is usually 20 credits. The personal learning plan is usually done in Year 10. So the remaining 190 credits in Year 11/12 courses is close to the equivalent of five full year courses in Year 11 and Year 12.

The example given of a student taking 24 units comprises 2 units in Year 10, 12 in Year 11 and 10 in Year 12.

None

All HSC courses have 50% external examination. School based assessments are moderated by BOSTES.

University entry requires sitting for an external exam - the QCS general skills test.

Pathway planning

Authority subjects/Authority-registered subjects meet the requirements of Core courses only if exited after four semesters of study at a Sound level of achievement or better. Students exiting before completing four semesters may count the credit earned towards their HSC. 20 credits but not towards their 12 Core credits.

Students who exit a four semester course in English or Maths with limited achievement may be conceded credit for up to two semesters - ie 2/20 required credits, but these semesters will not count towards the completion of the Core requirements. In certain defined circumstances, the requirement to complete 12 units of Core may also be relaxed, but the same condition cannot be used to both relax the requirement for completing the Core and completing 20 credits. A student may complete their QCE over 9 years.

Comment from a principal: New literacy and numeracy courses have been provided - Applied Maths and Studies of English. The Studies of English course, although board endorsed (not developed) does count towards the 6 units of board developed courses because English is compulsory. The Maths course does not.

Sources of information

http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/Internet/Senior_Secondary/The_WACE/WACE_Requirements/WACE_Requirements_2016_beyond

<https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/schools/sace-overview/requirements-of-the-sace>

http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/wtn/WTN_2016_Web2.pdf

http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/wtn/WTN_2016_Web2.pdf

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc/hsc_in_nutshell.html

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/u/3171.html>

<http://www.tqa.tas.gov.au/52247#stand>

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/adminproceduresvceassess.pdf>

http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/go/seniorstudy/hsc_rules_and_procedures/
<http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/documents/studying-for-the-nsw-hsc.pdf>

Credits conversion to hours above from

<http://acaca.bos.nsw.edu.au/files/pdf/vet-report-2012.pdf>

1 course unit = 55 notional class contact hours for each WACE course unit. 1 unit equivalent = 55 nominal hours of VET or 5 points for Authority endorsed programs.

10 credits = 50-60 (nominal) hours of teaching and learning time

1 credit = 100 nominal hours

Preliminary and HSC credit units. 1 unit = 60 indicative hours of programmed teaching time.

1 unit represents the equivalent of 10 nominal hours

Schools which require students to use computers for tasks such as the submission of assessments may be able to show all students meet the use of computers and the internet requirement if they can satisfy a set of conditions set out by the TASC, and in this case their students are deemed to meet this the requirement without their passing particular subjects or a challenge test.

The ATAR is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank
The Australian Core Skills Framework

'The ACSF has been developed to facilitate a consistent national approach to the identification and development of the core skills in diverse personal, community, work, and education and training contexts.'

Level 3 is the minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in the emerging knowledge-based economy.

See http://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=transitions_misc