

# SENIOR SECONDARY

WACE REQUIREMENTS

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FAQs



(08) 9311 1400  
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# Western Australia Certificate of Education (WACE) requirements

At the completion of Year 12 all students will be able to download a digital **Folio of Achievement** which includes the **Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)**. The WASSA provides a formal record of what students leaving in Year 12 have achieved in their schooling. Students can use their school achievements to apply to enter university, training programs or employment.

**The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)** is the certificate that students in Western Australia achieve when they have met specified requirements in their senior secondary education. If achieved, the WACE certificate is included in the Folio of Achievement.

To achieve a WACE, a student must satisfy the following:

## General Requirements

- demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy (reading and writing) and a minimum standard of numeracy
- complete a minimum of 20 units or equivalents
- complete:
  - at least four Year 12 ATAR courses **OR**
  - at least five Year 12 General courses and/or ATAR courses or equivalent **OR**
  - a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification in combination with ATAR, General or Foundation courses.

There are four types of courses and two programs developed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

Courses/Programs		General features
1	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) courses	ATAR course units for students who are aiming to enrol in a university course direct from school. These courses will be examined by SCSA and contribute to the achievement of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).
2	General courses	General course units for students who are aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. These courses will not be examined by SCSA.
3	Foundation courses	Foundation course units for those who need additional help in demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.
4	Preliminary course units	Preliminary course units for those who may need modification to the curriculum to meet their special needs. Preliminary courses do not contribute to the achievement of a WACE.
5	Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs	VET qualifications are for students wishing to participate in nationally recognized training. All VET qualifications require registered training organisation (RTO) delivery, assessment and quality control under the relevant VET regulatory body.
6	Endorsed programs	These programs provide access to areas of learning not covered by WACE courses or VET programs and contribute to the WACE as unit equivalents. Endorsed programs are for students wishing to participate in programs which are delivered in a variety of settings by schools, workplaces, universities and community organisations.

Students can mix and match these options to provide themselves with the best platform to meet the requirements to achieve their WACE – and for life beyond school.

## Breadth and Depth

Students must complete a minimum of 20 units or the equivalent. This requirement must include at least:

- a minimum of ten Year 12 units or the equivalent
- two completed Year 11 units from an English course and one pair of completed Year 12 units from an English course
- one pair of Year 12 units from each List A (arts/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology).

## Achievement Standard

Students must achieve a minimum of 14 C grades (or equivalents,) in Year 11 and Year 12 units, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units (or equivalents).

## Unit Equivalents

Unit equivalents can be obtained through VET qualifications and/or endorsed programs. The maximum unit equivalence through these programs is eight units – four Year 11 units and four Year 12 units. eg. on completion of a Certificate II qualification, students should achieve two unit equivalence for both Year 11 and 12.

## 2024 Senior Secondary Courses and Programs Overview

Learning Area	Courses	Preliminary		Foundation		General		ATAR	
		P1/2	P3/4	FE	FT	GE	GT	AE	AT
Year 11 units: FE, GE, AE = unit pair									
The Arts	Design: Photography					•	•		
	Media Production & Analysis						•	•	•
	Visual Arts	•	•			•	•	•	•
Career Development	Career & Enterprise			•	•	•	•		
English	English	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	EALD			•	•	•	•	•	•
	Literature							•	•
Health & Physical Education	Health, Physical & Outdoor Ed			•					
	Health Studies					•	•	•	•
Humanities and Social Sciences	Accounting & Finance							•	•
	Business Management & Enterprise					•	•		
	Economics							•	•
	Geography					•	•	•	•
	Modern History					•	•	•	•
	Politics & Law					•	•	•	•
Languages	Chinese: Second Language							•	•
	French: Second Language							•	•
	Indonesian: Second Language							•	•
	Italian: Second Language							•	•
	Japanese: Second Language							•	•
Mathematics	Mathematics	•	•	•	•				
	Mathematics Essential					•	•		
	Mathematics Applications							•	•
	Mathematics Methods							•	•
	Mathematics Specialist							•	•
Science	Biology							•	•
	Chemistry							•	•
	Human Biology					•	•	•	•
	Science in Practice					•			
	Physics							•	•
	Psychology							•	•
Technologies	Applied Information Technologies							•	•
	Automotive Engineering & Technologies					•	•		
	Children Family & Community					•	•		
	Computer Science					•	•	•	•
	Design: Technical Graphics					•	•		

• = course on offer

## VET: Endorsed programs and Qualifications

SCSA Endorsed Programs
ASDAN
Community Arts Performance
Community Service
Elite Sports Performance
Keys 4 Life-Plus
Off-Campus Enrichment Program
Recreational Pursuits
Workplace Learning

Qualifications	Delivered in partnership with RTO
10949NAT Certificate II in Applied Language (Japanese)	TBC
AHC10222 Certificate I in Agriculture	SIDE RTO 52891
AHC21020 Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management	SIDE RTO 52891
BSB20120 Certificate II in Workplace Skills	SIDE RTO 52891
CHC24015 Certificate II in Active Volunteering	TBC
CUA20720 Certificate II in Visual Arts	SIDE RTO 52891
FNS20120 Certificate II in Financial Services	TBC
FSK10219 Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways	SIDE RTO 52891
FSK20119 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways	SIDE RTO 52891
ICT20120 Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies	SIDE RTO 52891
SIS20122 Certificate II in Sport and Recreation	SIDE RTO 52891



### What textbooks and materials need to be purchased?

Students are required to purchase SIDE required texts and materials as soon as possible after enrolment. Detailed information is on the SIDE website:

[7-12 Enrolment](#) > [Costs](#) > [Booklist](#)

### How can parents support their child?

Every student requires support and guidance in their schooling. Online learning at SIDE is a different style of learning requiring IT skills and a high level of independence.

Parents and supervisors are encouraged to read and access support materials and resources located at

[7-12 Enrolments](#) > [Student Support](#) > [Support Resources](#)

### Who is the best person at SIDE to contact if parents have concerns or just want to find out how their child is progressing?

Students/parents have access to contact details for their child's teachers and can contact them directly, either by email or by phone. Every secondary student at SIDE also has a Student Coordinator whose responsibilities include monitoring the student's academic progress and providing a contact point for parents. Students' progress can also be monitored via Parent Connect.

### Can a student change from one study pathway to another?

Students can move between course types (eg ATAR to General). The relevant SIDE Student Coordinator assists to determine the enrolment that best meets student interests, aspirations and needs.

There are points in the semester after which students should not change courses as it would be unlikely they could complete the coursework.

After Term 1 of Year 12 students cannot enrol in new courses.

### Do Year 12 students have to sit examinations/external assessments?

Year 12 students who are enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course are required to sit the ATAR examination for that course.

If students do not sit the examination and do not have an approved sickness/ misadventure application for the course, the pair of units completed in that year will not contribute to **any** of the WACE requirements.

Year 12 students enrolled in Foundation and General courses are required to complete an Externally Set Task (EST). This assessment, worth 15% of the unit pair, is administered by the school under standard test conditions and sample scripts are independently marked by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

### Why would a student choose Workplace Learning?

- It takes place on-the-job in a chosen industry workplace.
- It includes voluntary work, paid work and school organised placements.
- Some students also undertake a school-based apprenticeship/ traineeship.
- It is a valuable option for all students as a key aspect of improving employment prospects.
- It has a high rate of success.

### Why would a student choose VET?

- Offers many pathways towards career and vocational aspirations.
- May provide an alternative pathway to university.
- Allows development of workplace-specific skills and knowledge designed to meet current and future employment demands.
- Nationally recognised which means it can be taken anywhere in Australia.
- Qualification can be combined with WACE (via a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship), giving students a head start on becoming a qualified tradesperson (earn while you learn).
- Contributes significantly towards WACE.

Some VET qualifications are accessed through SIDE, while others can be accessed through local TAFE or private training organisations. Contact the SIDE VET Coordinator or Student Coordinator for more information. Further information is available at

[7-12 Curriculum](#) > [Senior Secondary 11](#) > [VET Certificates](#) or [7-12 Curriculum](#) > [Senior Secondary 12](#) > [VET Certificates](#)  
[SIDE RTO](#) > [Courses and Training](#)

### Does SIDE offer personalised pathways?

SIDE offers a range of pathways to suit individual post-school goals. One popular pathway is SIDE's School to Work pathway which may include English, Maths, Career and Enterprise, Workplace Learning, a VET certificate or School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship.

### How does a student meet the minimum literacy and numeracy standard?

In order to demonstrate the Literacy and Numeracy standard necessary to gain the WACE by the end of Year 12, students either:

- prequalify by achieving Band 8 or higher in NAPLAN or
- pass the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

### Why does a student need to meet the minimum literacy and numeracy standard (OLNA)?

To ensure students are well prepared for work and study after school, a minimum literacy and numeracy standard has been established for all WA students leaving Year 12. Meeting this standard (OLNA) is valued by employers and post-school training providers.

This standard is required for students to:

- be eligible for university admission, and
- enrol in training and pre-apprenticeship courses.

### What do students receive upon completion of Year 12?

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