

General Questions

My student doesn't know what they want to do after Year 12. What subjects should they study?

If your student isn't sure what they want to do after Year 12, they should choose subjects they like or have an interest in, and in which they are likely to do well. The school has Guidance personnel on hand to provide career advice and can be accessed through the student services building (V01).

My student wants to do further study after Year 12. Which subjects should they take?

If your student intends to do further study after Year 12, they should check how students are selected by the Universities etc for their preferred course/s. They need to ensure that they choose subjects that fulfil the prerequisites for the course/s they are considering. They should then choose subjects that interest them and in which they are likely to do well.

Benowa SHS can help your student to plan their senior studies to ensure they meet ATAR eligibility requirements, subject prerequisites, and other course entry requirements through organised meetings with Guidance or during the SETP interviews.

My student enjoys VET subjects. What happens if they decide to do further study after Year 12?

If your student completes an AQF Certificate III or higher-level VET qualification while at school, they may be able to use this as the basis of admission to a higher education course. This will depend on the tertiary institution you are applying for. Your student may also be given credit at TAFE for units of competency or qualifications they have completed during Years 11 and 12.

My student wants to start a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship at school. What can they do when they leave Year 12?

Our Industry Liaison Officer school (Ms Janneke Pignolet) or our Guidance Officers can help your student understand school-based apprenticeships/traineeships and help explore the best options for them.

What is the QCE?

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior schooling qualification.

What does my student need to do to get a QCE?

To get a QCE, students must achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. Please check the senior curriculum guide on our website for the relevant section.

How long does my student have to get a QCE?

Your student has nine years from the registration of their learning account in Year 10 to meet the eligibility requirements for a QCE. Most students are awarded a QCE at the end of Year 12. Students who do not meet the QCE requirements at the end of Year 12 can continue to work towards their certificate for up to seven years.

What is an ATAR?

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a rank used for tertiary admission that indicates a student's position overall relative to other students.

What is the difference between the QCE and ATAR?

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. The ATAR is a rank used for tertiary admission that indicates a student's position overall relative to other students.

Does everyone get an ATAR?

No, only students who are eligible for an ATAR receive one.

Who calculates my student's ATAR?

In the new QCE system, the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) is responsible for calculating and issuing student's ATARs. Visit the QTAC website for more information.

Which subjects are used to calculate my student's ATAR?

In the new QCE system, QTAC calculates students' ATARs based on either:

- their best results in 5 General subjects, or
- their best results in 4 General subjects + 1 Applied subject or completed VET qualification at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate III level or above.

If your student is eligible for an ATAR in both categories, QTAC will use their highest ATAR. To be eligible for an ATAR, students also need to pass an English subject, but their result only contributes to their ATAR if it's one of their best five subject results.

How should my student choose their subjects to get a good ATAR?

The school recommends that students choose the subjects they enjoy and are good at. Remaining focused and performing to the best of their ability will ensure students achieve to their full potential and receive the best possible ATAR.

Do I have to attend the SETP meeting?

Yes. The Student Education and Training Plan meeting is the culmination of the subject selection program that has been delivered by your school. Students have access to a number of presentations, videos and information sessions in the lead up to this meeting. Your student should have completed their SETP on the OneSchool website prior to this meeting, and this is best done in conjunction with parental input and consideration. At this meeting, your student is asked to select their senior subjects (normally six) for and signatures from students and parent/s will be required.

Subjects and courses

What can my student study?

Depending on the subjects available and their learning and career goals, they may study QCAA [General subjects](#), [Applied subjects](#), [Short Courses](#), VET and or other courses such as university subjects and/or other recognised studies.

Does my student have to study English and Maths?

It is not compulsory for students to study English and Maths in year 11 and 12, provided they have met the literacy and numeracy requirements of the QCE prior to entry into Year 11. To do so means that they have successfully completed the short course in either Literacy or Numeracy in order to not select an English or a Maths subject in Semester 1, 2021. Students who are contemplating such decisions should be certain that any prerequisites required for further study are not overlooked. Such decisions should be discussed with the SETP counsellor during your meeting or Guidance.

How many subjects does my student have to study?

All students will be required to study a combination of six subjects. If students are currently signed into a school-based traineeship, they will be required to only select five school-based subjects in addition to having independent library study lessons to fulfil the requirements of the VET qualification. Similarly, if students are engaged with outside training providers in VET courses, they will only select five school-based subject.

Assessment

Who sets and marks internal assessment in Years 11 and 12?

Teachers set and mark internal assessment for General subjects and most Applied subjects, In Essential English and Essential Mathematics one of the internal assessments is a common internal assessment, developed by the QCAA and marked by schools.

How much is internal assessment worth?

In most General subjects, internal assessment contributes 75% to a student's final subject result. In mathematics and science subjects, it contributes 50%. In Applied subjects — where there is no external assessment — internal assessment contributes 100% to a student's final subject result.

How much is external assessment worth?

In most General subjects, external assessment contributes 25% to a student's final subject result. In mathematics and science subjects, it contributes 50%.

When is external assessment held?

External assessment is held annually in Term 4. This will generally run from the last week in October until mid-November. External assessment schedules for students will be published earlier in the year from QCAA.

My student has a medical condition/disability, are there special provisions available?

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) — formerly known as special provisions — enable equal access to assessment for all students with disability or those who experience illness or misadventure. For more information about AARA, talk to Guidance.

Results and reporting

When will my student receive their results?

If your student is studying General and/or Applied subjects, they will be able to see their internal assessment results in their learning account as they become available.

If your student is studying a VET course or QCE-recognised course of study, they will be able to see the credits from that course in their learning account as soon as the course has been completed and their achievement is 'banked' by their learning provider.

Your student's final QCE results will be published in their learning account in December — after they have completed Year 12.

When will my student get a learning account?

Learning accounts for students in the new QCE system can be accessed in the Student Portal via the [myQCE website](#).

Who is eligible for the QCIA?

Students who undertake studies that are part of an individualised learning program and have either an impairment or difficulties in learning are eligible for the QCIA.

If my student has an impairment or difficulties in learning, do they have to receive this certificate?

No. Your student's school will consult with you and your student to decide on the best educational program. There are several ways in which your student's achievements can be reported.

What can my student use this certificate for?

The QCIA is a valuable record of a student's achievements. It:

- is an official record of completing at least 12 years of education.
- can be shown to employers as a summary of a student's knowledge and skills.
- can be used by training providers to help them decide the best training options for your student.

When my student leaves school at the end of Year 12, can they receive a QCIA and a QCE?

No. If a student meets the QCE requirements, a QCIA will not be issued. However, if your student receives the QCIA, they can continue to work toward the QCE — their learning account remains open for 9 years after it was opened in Year 10.