

Year 10: What next?

Preparing for learning in Years 11 & 12



Planning your senior pathway

Making decisions about your senior secondary schooling is an important step in planning your future.

In Year 10, your school will work with you and your parents/carers to develop a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan (or equivalent).

Your SET Plan will help you:

- think about your education, training and career goals after Year 12
- structure your learning in Years 11 and 12 around your abilities, interests and ambitions
- map your pathway to a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Senior Education Profile

At the end of Year 12, you will receive a Senior Education Profile (SEP) from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Depending on your learning goals and achievements, your SEP will contain a Statement of Results and QCE (if eligible) or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) (if eligible).



Statement of results

Your statement of results is a transcript of your learning account. It shows all contributing studies and the results achieved.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior secondary schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and provides evidence of senior schooling achievements.

How does it work?

To receive a QCE, you must achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

- **Set amount:** 20 credits from contributing courses of study, including:
 - QCAA-developed subjects or courses
 - vocational education and training (VET) qualifications
 - non-Queensland studies
 - recognised studies.
- **Set standard:** satisfactory completion, grade of C or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.
- **Set pattern:** 12 credits from completed Core courses of study and 8 credits from any combination of:
 - Core
 - Preparatory (maximum 4 credits)
 - Complementary (maximum 8 credits).
- **Literacy and numeracy:** you must meet literacy and numeracy requirements through one of the available learning options.

What can I study?

The QCE lets you choose from:

- **General subjects:** suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead primarily to tertiary studies, vocational education and training or work. General subjects include Extension subjects.
- **Applied subjects:** suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work.
- **Senior External Examination subjects:** individual subject examinations provided across Queensland in October and November each year by the QCAA.
- **Short Courses:** suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training and establish a basis for further education and employment.
- **Vocational education and training (VET) qualifications:** to get students ready for work through practical learning. VET can also lead to further education and training.
- **Other courses:** allow you to study a specific area of interest. These include recognised certificates and awards, and university subjects studied while at school.

Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The QCIA recognises and reports the achievements of students whose learning is part of an individual learning program. To be eligible, students must have impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socio-economic, cultural or linguistic factors.

Tertiary entrance

ATAR

From 2020, the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the Overall Position (OP) as the standard pathway to tertiary study for Year 12 students in Queensland.

The ATAR is the primary mechanism used nationally for tertiary admissions and indicates a student's position relative to other students.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate ATARs for Year 12 students.

The ATAR is comprised of results you achieve at Unit 3 and 4 level in:

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

To be eligible for an ATAR, you must successfully complete an English subject.

In addition, the following precluded subjects and subject combinations rules will apply:

- Only General English subjects or Applied English subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both.
- Only General Maths subjects or Applied Maths subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both.
- Where you complete the same Language subject (e.g. Chinese) as both an internally-assessed subject and a Senior External Examination, only one result can be included in the ATAR.

Your school can help you to plan your senior study to ensure you meet ATAR eligibility requirements. You may also wish to use QTAC's free online planning tool My Path, which can automatically check your ATAR eligibility from the pattern of subject choices you enter.

Other tertiary entrance pathways

If you are not eligible for an ATAR but wish to gain entry to a tertiary course, you may be able to gain entry via completion of an AQF Certificate III or higher-level VET qualification, or a completed performing arts qualification.

Your school guidance officer can help you understand the different tertiary entrance pathways and the best options for you.

FAQs

I don't know what I want to do after Year 12. What subjects should I study?

If you are not sure what you want to do after Year 12, choose subjects you like or have an interest in, and in which you are likely to do well.

I want to do further study after Year 12. Which subjects should I take?

If you intend to go to TAFE or university after completing Year 12, you should check how students are selected for your preferred course/s. You need to ensure you choose subjects that fulfil the prerequisites for the course/s you are considering. You should then choose subjects that interest you and in which you are likely to do well.

To get into many tertiary courses, you will need an ATAR. Your school can help you to plan your senior study to ensure you meet ATAR eligibility requirements.





I enjoy VET subjects. What happens if I decide to do further study after Year 12?

If you complete an AQF Certificate III or higher-level VET qualification while at school, you may be able to use this as the basis of admission to a higher education course. You may also be given credit at TAFE for units of competency or qualifications you have completed during Years 11 and 12.

I want to start a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship at school. What can I do when I leave Year 12?

If you are ATAR-eligible, you may be able to use your ATAR to gain entry to a university course, provided you have studied the necessary prerequisites.

If you are ATAR-ineligible, you can choose to complete your apprenticeship/traineeship, and then use this qualification to enter the workforce or to continue with further study. You may be granted credit for the units of competency you have completed as part of your apprenticeship/traineeship.

Your school guidance officer can help you understand the different tertiary entrance pathways and the best options for you.

I want to get a job after Year 12. Can I return to study later?

If you enter the workforce after completing Year 12, you can return to further study at any time. To be eligible for a course, you must have successfully completed any prerequisite subjects.

When you apply for entry to a course, your ATAR (if you have one) will be used. If you do not have an ATAR, a rank can be calculated for you, based on what you have done at school or through some recognised training courses. You can even use life experiences and length of time spent working in an industry.

Tertiary institutions welcome applications from mature age and other applicants who are not seeking entry to tertiary courses immediately following Year 12. If you have one, your ATAR from senior schooling will still be relevant, and for many institutions so will other qualifications and experiences you have gained since leaving school. Contact QTAC or the institution you are seeking entry to for specific advice, including upgrading pathways.

More information

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

T 1800 804 991

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

www.qtac.edu.au

T 1300 467 822