



ATAR – How does it work?

OPTIONS | CAREER INFORMATION

From 2020, there will be a new system in place for Year 12 students to apply for tertiary entrance. The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) will be introduced for students who commence Year 11 in 2019, complete Year 12 in 2020 and seek entry to tertiary courses from 2021.

What is the ATAR and how does it work?

In short:

- The ATAR will be used instead of the Overall Position (OP) by students competing for university entry at the end of Year 12.
- The ATAR will be calculated by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC), based on student results in Year 12. Students will not sit the current Queensland Core Skills Test.
- Subject weightings will not be available until 2021 and you can find information on the QTAC website
- The ATAR is a number, scaled from 0 to 99.95 (with 99.95 being the strongest)
- The ATAR will be recognised for application to universities in other Australian states.

From 2020, students completing Year 12 will receive:

- All students will receive a Senior Statement from the QCAA – showing all subjects and results
- Students who meet requirements for a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) will receive a QCE from the QCAA.
- Students who have selected subjects to be eligible for an ATAR will be able to login to the QTAC website to find out their ATAR from mid-December of their Year 12 year.

What does this mean for my SET Plan?

When you are selecting subjects/courses for Years 11 and 12, make sure that you select subjects/options that:

- you enjoy and are good at
- you feel comfortable you will pass
- link to careers or skill areas important for you
- meet prerequisites for tertiary courses you are interested in

AND

Look to Senior subjects/options so that you will meet the requirements to:

- Be eligible for an ATAR at the end of Year 12, if you are aiming for tertiary study and feel confident on an academic pathway; AND
- Be eligible for a Queensland Certificate of Education

You can choose from different types of subjects/options in the Senior phase:

- General Subjects – academic subjects which will contribute to your ATAR
- Applied Subjects – subjects with a practical focus – and one can contribute to your ATAR
- VET courses – for ATAR, Certificate III, IV and Diploma (including Certificate III school based traineeships)
- Other – short courses and recognized courses

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Every effort has been made to ensure the above information is accurate at the publication date. It is wise to check information sources for updates.



How do I select subjects so that I am eligible for an ATAR score at the end of Year 12?

To be ATAR eligible, you can combine subjects/options in three ways.

You must complete

- Five General subjects including an English subject AND
- Pass your English subject

OR

You must complete

- Four General subjects including an English subject AND one Applied subject AND
- Pass your English subject

OR

You must complete

- Four General subjects including an English subject AND one completed VET Certificate III, IV or Diploma AND
- Pass your English subject

Your ATAR will be determined from your five strongest subject results.

Important things to know about passing your English subject for ATAR

- You can complete an English subject that is a General subject (eg. English, Literature, English as an Additional Language, English & Literature Extension) or an Applied subject (eg. Essential English)
- If you don't pass the English subject at the end of Year 12 you will not be ATAR-eligible – SO CHOOSE CAREFULLY!
- Failing a subject aside from your English will not automatically make you ATAR ineligible – but be careful about tertiary prerequisites, as you must pass a subject if you are using it as a prerequisite.
- If your English is not one of your five strongest results, the other five stronger results will be used in determining your ATAR but your pass in a General English will meet the English prerequisite.

What if I am not eligible for an ATAR?

If you will not be taking subjects that make you ATAR-eligible and you are worried that you might want to go to university later, speak with your school Guidance Officer or Careers Counsellor about your options for pathways in VET after school that will open the door to University.

How do I select subjects/options so that I am eligible for a QCE as well?

- Find full details on the QCAA website: [Queensland Certificate of Education](#)
- You need to ensure that you pass at least one semester of any Senior Maths subject, and at least one semester of any Senior English subject
- General subjects, General extension subjects, Applied subjects, short courses, recognized studies and VET courses can count towards your QCE
- Hint ... if you have chosen options to be ATAR eligible, include some Maths in your planning and pass your subjects and you will be on the way to your QCE!