

# Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

## Planning your pathway



Find out more at

**myQCE**







## Preparing for learning in Years 11 and 12

Senior schooling is an exciting time and an important step in planning for your future.

In Year 10, your school will work with you and your parents/carers to develop a plan to help you:

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

Once your plan has been developed, your school will register you with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) and will open a learning account.

## The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and a sign of academic and personal success. The QCE is also flexible and allows you to design a pathway that's right for you — whether you plan to:

- study at university
- look for skilled work
- complete technical and further education (TAFE) or other training.



## How does the QCE work?

To receive a QCE, you must achieve 20 credits of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

Typically, students will study six subjects/courses across Years 11 and 12. Many students choose to include vocational education and training (VET) courses in their QCE pathway and some may also wish to extend their learning through university courses or other recognised study. In some cases, students may start VET or other courses in Year 10.

### Set amount

20 credits from contributing courses of study, including:

- QCAA-developed subjects or courses
- vocational education and training qualifications
- non-Queensland studies
- recognised studies.

### Set pattern

12 credits from completed Core courses of study and 8 credits from any combination of:

- Core
- Preparatory (maximum 4)
- Complementary (maximum 8).

### Set standard

Satisfactory completion, grade of C or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.

### Literacy & numeracy

Students must meet literacy and numeracy requirements through one of the available learning options.





## What can I study?

The QCE lets you choose from a wide range of subjects and courses. There are three categories of learning — Core, Preparatory and Complementary — and some subjects and courses are worth more credit than others. The table below lists the types of courses, their QCE category, credit values and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) eligibility. You can find a link to the list of 97 QCAA subjects on the myQCE website.

Course type	QCE category	QCE credit	ATAR
<b>General subjects</b> General subjects primarily prepare you for tertiary study, further education and training and work.	<b>Core</b>	Up to 4 per course	<b>All subjects may contribute</b>
<b>Applied subjects</b> Applied subjects focus on practical skills and prepare you for work.	<b>Core</b>	Up to 4 per course	<b>Only 1 may contribute</b> when combined with 4 General subjects
<b>Short courses</b> Short courses provide a foundation for further learning in a range of areas.	<b>Preparatory or Complementary</b> depending on course	1 per course	<b>Short courses do not contribute</b>
<b>Vocational education and training</b> VET qualifications develop your skills and get you ready for work through practical learning. VET can lead to further education and training.	<b>Core, Preparatory or Complementary</b> depending on course	Up to 8 per course	<b>Only 1 may contribute</b> at Certificate III or higher, when combined with 4 General subjects
<b>Other courses</b> Other courses allow you to study a specific area of interest. These include recognised certificates and awards, and university subjects studied while at school.	<b>Core, Preparatory or Complementary</b> depending on course	As recognised by the QCAA	<b>Check with QTAC</b> depends on course



## Vocational education and training

VET is an important part of senior schooling for many students. Approximately 60% of Queensland senior students achieve VET qualifications. In recent years the most popular courses have been in business, information & communication technology (ICT), hospitality, construction, fitness, and sport and recreation.

## Example QCE pathways

There are hundreds of possible course combinations that may lead to a QCE. Your QCE pathway will depend on your goals, and the subjects and courses your school offers. These are just a few examples of subject combinations that meet QCE requirements:

### Example 1

A student enrolls in six General subjects (Core category) over four semesters.

English

Mathematical Methods

Psychology

Geography

Philosophy & Reason

Dance

### Example 2

A student enrolls in six Applied subjects (Core category) over four semesters and a short course (Preparatory category) for one semester.

Essential English

Business Studies

Religion & Ethics

Arts in Practice

Information & Communication Technology

Agricultural Practices

Short Course in Numeracy

### Example 3

A student enrolls in a combination of General and Applied subjects (Core and Preparatory categories) and completes learning as part of a school-based apprenticeship in Carpentry.

Essential English

General Mathematics

Certificate I in Engineering

Science in Practice

Certificate III in Carpentry  
30% of certificate completed  
50 days/year on-the-job (100 total)

### Where will your QCE take you?

Complete the QCE planner at the back of this guide and talk with your school.



## Assessment and results

### Assessment

How you will be assessed in Years 11 and 12 depends on what you study:

- **QCAA General subjects**

---

General subjects have three internal assessments (set and marked by schools) and one external assessment (set and marked by the QCAA). In most subjects, the external assessment contributes 25% to the final subject result. In Mathematics and Science subjects, the external assessment contributes 50%. Students in each subject will sit the external assessments at the same time in schools across Queensland.

- **QCAA Applied subjects**

---

Applied subjects have four internal assessments (set and marked by schools). In Essential English and Essential Mathematics, one of the assessments is a common internal assessment (set by the QCAA and marked by schools).

- **QCAA Short Courses**

---

Short Courses have two internal assessments (set and marked by schools).

- **VET**

---

VET assessment will vary, depending on the type of course. It may include observation, written assessment, questioning, work samples or third-party feedback.

- **Other courses**

---

Assessment in other courses will vary, depending on the course.

### Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

If you have a disability, impairment and/or medical condition, or experience other circumstances that may be a barrier to your performance in assessment, you should talk to your school.

### Results and reporting

Your final subject results and QCE can be accessed in the Student Portal via the myQCE website in December — at the end of Year 12. You will need your 10-digit LUI to access the Student Portal.





## Tertiary entrance

### ATAR

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank will be used to select school leavers for tertiary entrance from 2020. It is used nationally and indicates a student's position relative to other ATAR-eligible students.

If you intend to go to university, your school can help you plan your senior studies to meet ATAR eligibility requirements and the QCE requirements.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate ATARs for students at the end of Year 12. QTAC will calculate your ATAR based on your results in either:

- 5 General subjects, or
- 4 General subjects, plus one Applied subject, or
- 4 General subjects, plus one VET qualification at Certificate III or above.

To be eligible for an ATAR, you must successfully complete an English subject. In addition, the following subject combination rules apply:

- only General English subjects or Applied English subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both
- only General mathematics subjects or Essential Mathematics can be included in the ATAR, but not both
- if 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 your ATAR.

You will find more information on QTAC's website: [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au).

### Other tertiary entrance pathways

Each university has its own policies regarding school leavers without an ATAR.

If you are not eligible for an ATAR but wish to gain entry to a tertiary course, check with QTAC and/or the relevant university. Depending on the university, you may be able to gain entry with other qualifications.

Your school guidance officer can also 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.

The myQCE website has lots of information and resources that may help you with your career pathway planning.

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

If you intend to do further study 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.

Your school can help you to plan your senior studies to ensure you meet eligibility requirements, subject prerequisites, and other course entry requirements.

### **I enjoy VET subjects. What 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 traineeship/apprenticeship. What can I do when I leave Year 12?**

School-based apprenticeships are unlikely to be completed while at school. If you start one, you may complete it as a full-time or part-time apprenticeship after Year 12. Once you have completed your training, you may use the apprenticeship to enter the workforce or continue with further study.

If you complete a school-based traineeship at school, you may use it to enter the workforce or continue with further study after Year 12.

Your school guidance officer can help you understand school-based traineeships/apprenticeships and help you investigate 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.

If you do not meet prerequisite subjects based on your senior school subjects, there may be other learning options that the institutions and courses you are applying to accept as equivalent.

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.



# QCE planner

Whether your plans after Year 12 include further study, learning a trade, or finding a job, the QCE lets you choose a pathway that’s right for you.

Use this planner to make notes about your career goals and think about what your QCE pathway might look like.

## Before you start

- Check your school subject guide, as each school offers different subjects and courses.
- Visit the myQCE website to check the subject and courses that can contribute to a QCE.

## Career and study goals

1. Think about your abilities, interests and ambitions and list some careers that interest you:

2. Are there any prerequisites or requirements you may need to achieve your career or study goals?

## Choose your subjects and courses

3. List the subjects and courses you are interested in and note their QCE category and credit values from the next page. Remember you will need a total of 20 credits, with at least 12 credits from completed Core courses. You also need to select one of the literacy options and one of the numeracy options listed on the next page.

Study options	QCE category and credit			ATAR
	Core	Preparatory	Complementary	
<b>Literacy</b> You must achieve the set standard in one literacy learning option. List your literacy option below, and the amount of credit in the relevant box on the right.				
<b>Numeracy</b> You must achieve the set standard in one numeracy learning option. List your numeracy option below, and the amount of credit in the relevant box on the right.				
<b>Additional subjects and courses</b> List your remaining choices below, and the amount of credit in the relevant boxes on the right.				



## QCE categories and credit values

CATEGORIES AND COURSES	QCE CREDITS PER COURSE
------------------------	------------------------

### ● **Core:** At least 12 credits must come from completed Core courses of study

QCAA General subjects and Applied subjects	up to 4
QCAA General Extension subjects	up to 2
QCAA General Senior External Examination subjects	4
Certificate II qualifications	up to 4
Certificate III and IV qualifications (includes traineeships)	up to 8
School-based apprenticeships	up to 6
Recognised studies categorised as Core	as recognised by the QCAA

### ● **Preparatory:** A maximum of 4 credits can come from Preparatory courses of study

QCAA Short Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QCAA Short Course in Literacy</li> <li>QCAA Short Course in Numeracy</li> </ul>	1
Certificate I qualifications	up to 3
Recognised studies categorised as Preparatory	as recognised by the QCAA

### ● **Complementary:** A maximum of 8 credits can come from Complementary courses of study

QCAA Short Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QCAA Short Course in Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Languages</li> <li>QCAA Short Course in Career Education</li> </ul>	1
University subjects (while a student is enrolled at a school)	up to 4
Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas (while a student is enrolled at a school)	up to 8
Recognised studies categorised as Complementary	as recognised by the QCAA

## Literacy and Numeracy

To ensure you meet the literacy and numeracy requirements for the QCE, you will need to achieve the set standard in at least one of the literacy options and at least one of the numeracy options listed below.

### ● **Literacy**

- QCAA General or Applied English subjects
- QCAA Short Course in Literacy
- Senior External Examination in a QCAA English subject
- International Baccalaureate examination in approved English subjects
- Recognised studies listed as meeting literacy requirements

### ● **Numeracy**

- QCAA General or Applied Mathematics subjects
- QCAA Short Course in Numeracy
- Senior External Examination in a QCAA Mathematics subject
- International Baccalaureate examination in approved Mathematics subjects
- Recognised studies listed as meeting numeracy requirements

## What's next?

- 1 Visit the myQCE website at [myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au](https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au). It's the gateway to the QCE system and provides information about subjects and courses, assessment and results, study tips and more.
- 2 Talk to your school about the subjects it offers.
- 3 Register for the Student Portal. You access it via the myQCE website. To register, you'll need your 10-digit LUI, which you can get from your school.
- 4 Follow myQCE on Instagram to stay up to date with all things QCE, including the latest news, new resources and helpful study tips.

## More information

[qcaa.qld.edu.au](https://qcaa.qld.edu.au)

More information about senior secondary curriculum and assessment, including syllabuses for QCAA subjects, is available on the QCAA website.