

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).

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
 - other 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?

- **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 General, General Extension and General Senior External Examination 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.
- **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 recognised studies:** 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, you must have an impairment or difficulty in learning that is not primarily due to socio-economic, cultural or linguistic factors.

Tertiary entrance

From 2020, the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the Overall Position (OP) for Year 12 students in Queensland.

The ATAR is used nationally for tertiary admissions and indicates a student's position in a rank order of achievement relative to other students.

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 + 1 Applied subject or completed VET qualification at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate III level or above.

If you want to be eligible for an ATAR, you must satisfactorily complete an English subject.

See the QTAC website for details about how your ATAR is calculated and rules about subject combinations.

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 online planning tool My Path, to determine if you are eligible for an ATAR and check if you meet subject prerequisites for tertiary courses.

Other tertiary entrance pathways

Each university has their 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.

Senior Education Profile

Queensland students receive a Senior Education Profile in their learning account on the myQCE website when they complete Year 12.

All students receive a Senior Statement, which is a transcript of their learning account. Eligible students also receive either a QCE or a QCIA. Students who are not eligible for the QCE at the end of Year 12 can continue to accrue credit and will receive a Statement of Results and a QCE when eligible.

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 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 study to ensure you meet eligibility requirements, subject prerequisites, and other course entry 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 traineeship/apprenticeship at school. What can I do when I leave Year 12?

School-based traineeships may be completed while at school. 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.





School-based apprenticeships are unlikely to be completed while at school. If you start a school-based apprenticeship at school, 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.

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 may 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.

More information

myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au

The myQCE website (for students completing Year 12 from 2020) provides information about subjects and courses, assessment and results, study tips and more. Talk to your school about the subjects and courses it offers.

qcaa.qld.edu.au

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