Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Variable progression rate processes 2018–2020

Purpose

To advise schools how to record details and achievement for students completing their senior studies in a variable progression rate (VPR) arrangement that bridges the current system of senior assessment and the new QCE system.

Background

With the introduction of the new senior assessment system, QCAA needs to ensure that all students completing VPR studies that bridge the current system of senior assessment and the new QCE system are supported during the transition period.

Until 2019, student achievement in Authority and Authority-registered subjects will be recorded in the Student Data Capture System (SDCS). After that, student achievement in General and Applied subjects in the new QCE system will be recorded in QCAA's Student Management application.

Information

Schools manage the progression rates of their students. Managing variable progression rates involves providing opportunities for some students to:

- spread senior studies over three years
- study two semesters of a senior subject in one semester
- commence a senior subject in Year 10.

Currently schools must seek written approval from the manager of the Quality Assurance Unit before commencing the course/s of study if:

- less than half the program of Authority subjects to be recorded on a Senior Statement will be completed in the final year of school (Year 12)
- an entire cohort will study in a VPR mode.

To support the transition to the new QCE system, schools are required to provide information regarding individual student variable progression rates for all students.

Schools will not be required to write to the manager of the Quality Assurance Unit as the information needed will be provided through an online form.

When planning pathways for students studying at VPRs that bridge the current system and the new QCE system, schools must consider how achievement will be recorded each year from 2018 to 2020.

Subject type	Year achievements can be recorded			
	2018 (SDCS)	2019 (SDCS)	2019 (Student Management)	2020 and beyond (Student Management)
Authority subject Semesters 1, 2, 3, 4	✓	✓	✗	✗
Authority-registered subject Semesters 1, 2, 3, 4	✓	✓	✗	✗
General subject Units 1 and 2	✗	✗	✓	✓
General subject Units 3 and 4	✗	✗	✗	✓
Applied subject Units 1 and 2	✗	✗	✓	✓
Applied subject Units 3 and 4	✗	✗	✗	✓

Notes:

1. Achievement in Authority and Authority-registered subjects can only be recorded in SDCS until the end of 2019; these subjects **cannot** be studied beyond 2019.
2. Only achievement in General or Applied subjects in the new QCE system can be recorded in the new Student Management application from 2019.
3. Only Units 1 and 2 of General or Applied subjects can be recorded in 2019.
4. Units 3 and 4 of General or Applied subjects cannot be recorded until 2020.

QCAA will advise schools in the future about how results will be merged for students who have achievement records in both SDCS and the new Student Management application.

Some students may complete semesters 1 and 2 of an Authority or Authority-registered subject in 2018 or 2019 without completing semesters 3 and 4. These students will be regarded as having exited the subject after two semesters and achievement must be recorded in SDCS. They must form part of the 2019 verification submission for any Authority subjects.

What you need to do

1. Identify **all** students who will complete their senior studies as part of a VPR arrangement that will begin in 2018 and will continue their studies after the conclusion of the 2019 school year.

2. Go to www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/moderation-hub/resources/variable-progression-rate/data-collection and complete the required fields for each student identified.

3. Submit this information to QCAA by Wednesday 28 March 2018.

More information

For more information:

- see section 3.6 of the *A–Z of Senior Moderation* handbook

- see the draft *QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook*, available to authorised school personnel via the QCAA Portal

- email the manager of the Quality Assurance Unit at vpr@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3864 0375.

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