

Queensland Certificate of Education

The facts...

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 five subjects/courses across Years 10, 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
General subjects General subjects primarily prepare you for tertiary study, further education and training and work.	Core	Up to 4 per course	All subjects may contribute
Applied subjects Applied subjects focus on practical skills and prepare you for work.	Core	Up to 4 per course	Only 1 may contribute when combined with 4 General subjects
Short courses Short courses provide a foundation for further learning in a range of areas.	Preparatory or Complementary depending on course	1 per course	Short courses do not contribute
Vocational education and training VET qualifications develop your skills and get you ready for work through practical learning. VET can lead to further education and training.	Core, Preparatory or Complementary depending on course	Up to 8 per course	Only 1 may contribute at Certificate III or higher, when combined with 4 General subjects
Other courses Other courses allow you to study a specific area of interest. These include recognised certificates and awards, and university subjects studied while at school.	Core, Preparatory or Complementary depending on course	As recognised by the QCAA	Check with QTAC 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.



Assessment and results

Assessment – how you will be assessed will be dependant upon 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 – AARA's

If you have a disability, impairment and/or medical condition, or experience other circumstances that may be a barrier to your performance in assessment, there is a documented process that requires co-ordination with your year level team.

Results and reporting

Year 12 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, CDSHS 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.

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.

Our school Guidance Officer can also help you understand the different tertiary entrance pathways and the best options for you.

Pathway essentials

The following may be useful reference to help decipher the world of acronyms education speaks in regarding the Senior Phase of Learning:

Acronym (Term)	Definition
QCE	The Queensland Certificate of Education is Queensland's senior secondary schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and allows students to choose from a wide range of learning options to suit their interests and career goals. To receive certification, students must achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.
QCIA	The Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement recognises and reports the achievements of students whose learning is part of an individual learning program. It provides students with a summary of their skills and knowledge to present to employers and training providers.
ATAR	The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank is a rank used for tertiary application. It indicates a student's position overall, relative to other students. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre calculates and issues ATARs: calculated from the highest results in 5 General subjects, or the highest results in 4 General subjects + 1 Applied subject or completed VET qualification III level or above. ATARs are expressed as a number from 99.95 down to 0.00 in steps of 0.05. The highest ATAR is 99.95, then 99.90, then 99.85, and so on, down to 0.00 (ATARs below 30 are reported as '30.00 or less').
VET	Vocational Education and Training is learning that directly relates to getting a job. It can be accessed at every stage of our work life, whether you're a student, a job seeker or already employed.
SAT	School-based apprenticeships and traineeships provide an opportunity for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to undertake employment-based training while continuing full-time enrolment at school.
QTAC	The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre processes applications for most undergraduate & selected postgraduate programs offered by Queensland universities.
Tertiary qualification	In Australia, a tertiary qualification refers to any form of post-secondary education or training typically earned after secondary school. It is offered by universities, vocational education and training institutions, and other accredited providers.
General subject	General subjects are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to tertiary study and pathways for vocational education and training and work. Results in General subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and may contribute to an ATAR.
Applied subject	Applied subjects are suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work. Results in Applied subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and up to one Applied subject result may contribute to an ATAR.
Prerequisite	Some tertiary courses have prerequisite requirements. That means you must meet the requirements to gain entry to these courses.
Assumed knowledge	Some tertiary courses assume you will have certain knowledge or skills, rather than outlining prerequisite requirements.