

# YEAR 10

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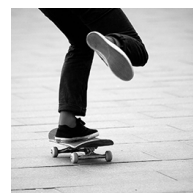
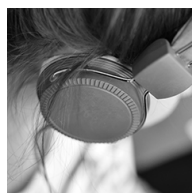
# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Government of Western Australia  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



# THE WACE REQUIREMENTS



**A**chievement of your child's WACE acknowledges that at the end of their compulsory schooling they have achieved or exceeded the required minimum standards in an educational program that has suitable breadth and depth.

To achieve a WACE from 2016, a student must satisfy the following:

## General requirements

- demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and a minimum standard of numeracy
- complete a minimum of 20 units or equivalents as described below
- complete at least four Year 12 ATAR courses (excluding unacceptable combinations) or complete<sup>1</sup> a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification. Note: the partial completion of a Certificate III or higher VET qualification may meet this requirement according to predetermined criteria.

## Breadth and depth

### Students must

- complete a minimum of 20 units or the equivalent. This requirement must include at least:
  - a minimum of ten Year 12 units or the equivalent
  - two completed Year 11 units from an English course and one pair of completed Year 12 units from an English course
  - one pair of Year 12 units from each of List A (arts/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology).

## Achievement standard

Students must achieve 14 C grades (or equivalents, see below) in Year 11 and Year 12 units, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units (or equivalents).

## Unit equivalence

Unit equivalence can be obtained through VET qualifications and/or endorsed programs. The maximum unit equivalence available through these programs is eight units – four Year 11 units and four Year 12 units. Students may obtain unit equivalence as follows:

- up to eight unit equivalents through completion of VET qualifications, or
- up to four unit equivalents through completion of endorsed programs, or
- up to eight unit equivalents through a combination of VET qualifications and endorsed programs, but with endorsed programs contributing no more than four unit equivalents.

For VET qualifications:

- a Certificate I is equivalent to two Year 11 units
- a Certificate II is equivalent to two Year 11 and two Year 12 units
- a Certificate III or higher is equivalent to two Year 11 and four Year 12 units
- a partially completed Certificate III or higher is equivalent to two Year 11 and two Year 12 units (credit only allocated if the criteria for partial completion is met).

For endorsed programs, unit equivalence is identified on the Authority's approved list of endorsed programs.

There are five types of courses developed by the Authority (see Appendix 1 of the Year 10 Information Handbook for a list of courses):

	Courses	General features
1	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) courses	ATAR course units for students who are aiming to enrol in a university course direct from school. These courses will be examined by the Authority and contribute to the achievement of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).
2	General courses	General course units for students who are aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. These courses will not be examined by the Authority
3	Foundation courses	Foundation course units for those who need additional help in demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.
4	Vocational Education and Training (VET) Industry specific courses	Vocational Education and Training industry specific courses for students who are aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. VET Industry Specific courses have been developed in close consultation with WA Industry Training Councils and include a full, nationally recognised qualification and mandatory industry-related workplace learning.
5	Preliminary course units	Preliminary course units for those who may need modification to the curriculum to meet their special needs. Preliminary courses do not contribute to the achievement of a WACE.

Students can mix and match these options to provide themselves with the best platform to meet the requirements to achieve their WACE – and for life beyond school.

In Year 10, students have the opportunity to choose what they will study in Years 11 and 12. Appendix 2 of the Year 10 Information Handbook provides a summary of each course. ■

<sup>1</sup> Note: In the context of VET in the WACE, the term 'complete' requires that a student has been deemed competent in all units that make up a full qualification.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## Can my child change from one study pathway to another or are they 'locked in'?

Students can switch between course types. Your child's school will work with them to determine the enrolment that best meets their interests, aspirations and needs. There are points in the semester after which students should not change courses as it would be unlikely students could complete work. After Week 8 of Year 12 students cannot change.

## Can my child be given credit for any ATAR course units or VET studies already completed?

The school can choose for students to receive credit for any:

- VET unit of competency or VET qualification completed prior to Year 11, or
- WACE ATAR course units completed as a Year 10 student towards the WACE. Permission will be granted on the basis that studying WACE ATAR units is part of a longer-term program for students who are either gifted and talented, or accelerated language students.

In both cases, your child's principal needs to seek permission from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

## Can my child change their course selection once they've started studying?

Students can change courses in Year 11 before the date published in the current year's edition of the WACE Activities Schedule (please refer to the Authority website). The school will work with your child to select courses that best meet their interests, aspirations and needs.

## What is Vocational Education and Training?

Vocational Education and Training (VET) provides students with job-related knowledge and skills.



## What can my child study as part of VET?

Students can undertake VET in a wide range of areas, including Automotive, Business Services, Community Services, Construction, Creative Industries, Engineering, Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology, Primary Industries and Sport and Recreation.

## What can my child do with a VET qualification gained through secondary school?

VET gained through study at secondary school can provide students with training that offers direct entry into different occupations and industries.

Studying VET during secondary school can provide students with nationally-recognised qualifications. This means that they can be used anywhere in Australia to help students get entry-level jobs or advance towards completion of a trade qualification.

## Why would my child choose VET?

For many students, VET is more directly relevant and meaningful to their future career aspirations.

VET qualifications can give students a competitive advantage when applying:

- for jobs that support them while they're studying at a state training provider or university after school
- to study for higher VET qualifications after they've left school, or
- for entry into University in some cases.

If students start their qualifications in the trade areas in Years 11 and 12, they can also get a head start on their peers who commence studying VET after they've left school. This means students can finish an apprenticeship earlier than someone who commences once they leave school.

## Will comparisons between results in the General and Foundation courses at different schools be fair?

Yes. Schools are provided with a set of standard grade descriptions for each course that apply across Western Australia. Schools use these standards to measure student performance and award grades.

## Why does my child need to meet the minimum literacy and numeracy standard?

To ensure students are well prepared for work and study after school, a minimum literacy and numeracy standard has been created for all Western Australian students leaving Year 12. Meeting this standard is valued by employers and post-school training providers.

This standard is required for students to:

- be eligible for a university admission rank (ATAR), and
- enrol in training and pre-apprenticeship courses.

## How can my child demonstrate the minimum standard for literacy and numeracy?

In Year 9 students will have undertaken NAPLAN tests (including reading, writing and numeracy) to demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills. If students were unable to meet the minimum standard for one or more of the tests, they must undertake an Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) in Semester one of Year 10.

Students will only need to demonstrate the minimum standard for those areas they did not meet in Year 9.

If students do not demonstrate the minimum standard in Semester 1, they will have up to five other opportunities before completing Year 12 (in March and September of each year).

## If my child hasn't demonstrated the literacy and numeracy requirements in Year 10, can they get support?

Yes. Students can obtain different types of support:

- Year 10 teachers can help students identify specific skills and knowledge that they may require
- Foundation courses in Year 11 and 12 to develop their literacy, and numeracy capacity to the required standard. These courses focus on developing essential skills for life after school.

## What if I my child has a diagnosed disability?

Adjustments will be made if your child's access to the assessment is significantly affected by a disability, impairment, illness or impediment.

Adjustments typically requested for approval by principals include rest breaks and provision for a pause button, extra time to work, a reader, scribe assistance for the writing component, use of a support person for the reading and numeracy components and special formats.

Evidence of a disability diagnosed by a **specialised medical professional** is required for an adjustment.

## Can my child enrol in other courses while studying Foundation courses?

Yes. Students enrolled in Foundation English and Foundation Mathematics will be able to enrol in other courses from the General and the ATAR groups of courses.

## If my child enrolls in a Foundation course, can they get a WACE?

Yes. All students will need to satisfy the same requirements to achieve a WACE. Any student who does not meet the requirements for a WACE will still receive a WASSA, which states the units they have achieved.

## What are my child's options if they don't meet the literacy and numeracy requirements by the end of Year 12?

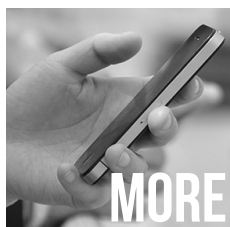
Students have a number of options:

- they can continue their study at a senior campus
- they can enrol in literacy and numeracy programs provided by State training providers, or
- in some instances, students can remain in their school for a further year of study.

## What if my child doesn't achieve a WACE?

If students don't achieve a WACE, they can still study WACE units over multiple years. Credit from each WACE unit can contribute towards a certificate over a lifetime. The requirements may change over time. Students will need to meet the minimum requirements that apply in their final year of study to achieve a WACE.

At the end of Year 12, all students get a Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement that formally records everything they have done towards their WACE. ■



# MORE INFORMATION



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