



Certification of senior secondary schooling achievement in 2018

2018 was the third year that:

- Year 12 students could study Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), General and Foundation Units 3 and 4 courses
- the new requirements applied to achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)
- students were issued with the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA).

At the end of 2018, Year 12 students who had completed a course unit, Vocational Education and Training (VET) unit of competency or endorsed program were issued with a folio of achievement.

The folio of achievement consisted of the following:

- WASSA – a statement of student achievement was issued to all Year 12 students who completed at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program
- WACE – Year 12 students must have met the WACE requirements to receive this certificate
- ATAR course report – an ATAR course report was issued to all students (excluding non-school candidates) who sat an ATAR course examination in that course
- selected award certificates – awards were issued to Year 12 students who received the following: Certificate of Merit, Certificate of Distinction, Certificate of Excellence (VET), Special Certificate of Excellence (VET), Subject Certificate of Excellence and Special Subject Certificate of Excellence.

In 2018, students who were enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course pair of units were required to sit the ATAR course examination. Students who did not sit an ATAR course examination and did not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course, did not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). This means, the grades for the ATAR Year 12 course **did not** contribute to the:

- completion of a minimum of 20 units, including 10 Year 12 units
- completion of at least one pair of Year 12 units from an English course (if the ATAR Year 12 course was either English, Literature or English as an Additional Language or Dialect)
- completion of one pair of Year 12 units from List A (arts/languages/social sciences) or List B (mathematics/science/technology) {depending on the list of the ATAR Year 12 course}
- achievement of at least 14 C grades or higher, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units
- completion of at least four Year 12 ATAR courses.

Previously in 2016, the grades for the pair of units completed in that year did not contribute to meeting the achievement standard, but they could count in the breadth and depth requirement. In 2017 and 2018 this was no longer the case.

Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)

To achieve a WACE in 2018, a student must have met the following requirements:

Breadth and depth requirement

- completed at least 20 units (or the equivalent). This requirement must include at least:
 - a minimum of ten Year 12 units (or the equivalent)
 - four units from an English course, post-Year 10, including at least one pair of 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 requirement

- achieved at least 14 C grades or higher (or the equivalent) in Year 11 and Year 12 units, with a minimum of six C grades (or the equivalent) in Year 12 units
- completed at least four Year 12 ATAR courses or a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification.

Literacy and numeracy standard requirement

- demonstration of the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

The WACE was issued to 22 466 (10 891 males and 11 575 females) Year 12 students who met these requirements in 2018.

Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) for Year 12 students

A statement of student achievement was issued to each Year 12 student who achieved at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program. The WASSA was issued to 25 985 (12 868 males and 13 117 females) Year 12 students in 2018.

Revised format of the 2018 WASSA

In 2018, a number of significant issues arose with registered training organisations (RTOs) delivering Vocational Education and Training (VET) in secondary schools. One of these issues related to the information printed on the WASSA, which could not be verified by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). In 2017, the WASSA listed VET qualifications and units of competency as having been 'achieved', though the Authority did not collect the evidence to support this reporting. Another issue related to the registration of several RTOs which brought into question the validity of some of the VET results that were being verified and certificates being issued.

To address these issues, advice was sought from the State Solicitor's Office. After consultation with this office, it was suggested that the Authority could mitigate the risk by including the following sentence on the WASSA:

Achievements and qualifications listed below this line are not awarded by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and need to be verified by sighting the relevant certificate.

As a result of the above suggestion, some reordering of the layout of the WASSA took place. Changes had to be made to the wording in relation to units of competency and qualifications, which ensured the Authority was not reporting achievement, but rather the delivery of units of competency and the qualification to which they contributed.

The changes relating to the revised wording and structure were approved by the Authority's Board for release with the 2018 results.

2018 WASSA

The WASSA recorded whether or not the WACE requirements had been met. If WACE requirements had not been achieved, the statement for student achievement recorded 'not achieved' under the Western Australian Certificate of Education section.

The statement of student achievement also recorded:

- achievement of exhibitions and awards
- school grades, school marks and combined scores in ATAR courses (Units 3 and 4)
- school grades and school marks in ATAR (Units 1 and 2), General and Foundation courses
- completed Preliminary units
- completed VET industry specific units
- VET units of competency successfully completed
- endorsed programs successfully completed
- number of community service hours completed,
- results in subjects and WACE courses from previous years.

Details relating to each item which appeared on the WASSA are given below.

Western Australian Certificate of Education

This section listed whether or not the WACE had been achieved by the student.

Literacy and numeracy standard

This section listed whether or not the standard was demonstrated for literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy by the student. The literacy and numeracy standard could have been demonstrated either:

- through the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), or
- by achieving Band 8 or higher in the associated components of reading, writing or numeracy in the Year 9 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

Exhibitions and awards

This section listed any of the exhibitions and awards achieved by the student. The Authority may grant the following awards:

- Beazley Medal: WACE*
- Beazley Medal: VET*
- General exhibitions*
- General exhibitions (ATSI)*
- Special general awards*

- Subject exhibitions*
- Special subject awards*
- VET exhibition*
- Special VET awards*
- Certificates of excellence
- Special certificates of excellence
- Certificates of distinction
- Certificates of merit.

*These awards were issued to award recipients at the Awards Ceremony in 2019.

Achievement in WACE course units

This section listed school-based achievement of school grades (A, B, C, D and E) of the student and school marks (out of 100) in ATAR, General and Foundation courses. Details relating to these courses are as follows:

Courses	General features
ATAR courses	These courses are examined by the Authority. Student results in ATAR courses are used by the TISC to calculate a student's ATAR. The ATAR is used to determine eligibility for university admission. ATAR courses are for students who are typically aiming to go to university.
General courses	These courses are not externally examined. General courses are for students who are typically aiming to enter further vocationally based training or the workforce straight from school.
Foundation courses	These courses provided a focus on functional literacy and numeracy skills, practical work-related experience and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Foundation courses are for students who had not been able to demonstrate the minimum standard for literacy and/or numeracy before Year 11, and were unlikely to do so before the end of Year 12 without significant levels of student support.

The student's school-based achievement for a Year 12 course was recorded for a pair of units (i.e. one mark and one grade).

The student's school-based achievement for a Year 11 course was recorded for each pair of units (i.e. one mark and one grade), or for each unit completed (i.e. two marks and two grades).

The student's achievement in VET industry specific courses was recorded as 'completed' upon completion of all course requirements.

The grade assigned described the overall achievement of the student for the completed pair of units (or unit, where a single Year 11 unit was studied). Note: the Authority moderated the grades in course units to ensure comparability from school to school. This was achieved through grading review and/or consensus moderation meetings.

The grades assigned at the conclusion of a pair of course units were based on the student's performance, as judged by the teacher with reference to the grade descriptions and work samples on the Authority website. The grades may be interpreted as follows:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent achievement
B	High achievement
C	Satisfactory achievement
D	Limited achievement
E	Very low achievement

School achievement in subjects

If the student completed at least one course unit, VET unit of competency or endorsed program and had achieved a grade of achievement for a subject in a previous year, then these grades were listed on the WASSA.

Achievement of endorsed programs

This section listed the endorsed programs successfully completed by the student in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools where external certification **was not** required.

For the Workplace Learning program, the total number of hours completed in the workplace was also listed.

Programs endorsed by the Authority, recognise significant learning that is not covered by WACE courses. Descriptors of achievement were not recorded on the statement of student achievement.

Achievement of Preliminary course units

This section listed any Preliminary course units completed and reported by the school to the Authority. Preliminary courses comprise of four units. Each unit was studied and reported separately.

Preliminary courses do not contribute towards the achievement of the WACE.

Community service

The WASSA recorded the total number of hours of community service completed by the student, as reported by the school.

Community service supports the development of leadership skills, social responsibility and citizenship. Community service can be completed over Years 10, 11 and 12.

Note: the following achievements and qualifications were listed below the 'line' as they were not awarded by the Authority.

Achievement of endorsed programs

This section listed the endorsed programs successfully completed by the student in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools where external certification **was** required.

Successfully completed programs were listed in the relevant category (e.g. Provider-developed and School-developed).

Achievement of VET qualifications

This section listed the units of competency achieved by the student in VET programs in Years 10, 11 and/or 12, as reported by schools, and the qualification the units of competency contribute towards. The name of the registered training organisation (RTO) that delivered the training was also recorded.

In 2018, there were 13 730 Year 12 students who achieved 18 680 VET qualifications. Of the VET qualifications achieved, 634 were achieved through traineeship or apprenticeship arrangements by Year 12 students.

ATAR course reports

Students who were enrolled in Year 12 ATAR courses (Units 3 and 4) were required to sit the ATAR course examination in that course.

In 2018, 15 015 Year 12 students received at least one of the 66 008 course reports which were printed.

An ATAR course report was issued to students who sat an ATAR course examination. This report showed a student's achievement in relation to the achievement of other students in that course.

ATAR course reports were not issued for students who:

- did not sit the ATAR course examination and did not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course examination
- were non-school candidates in the ATAR course examination.

The ATAR course reports recorded:

- school marks*
- moderated school marks*
- raw examination marks*
- combined score
- standardised combined score
- state-wide distribution of course combined scores with indication of the individual's location in that distribution
- the total number of students who sat the ATAR course examination for the course
- means of the examination marks and combined scores for all students who sat the ATAR course examination for that course.

* Courses that have both a practical and written component have the marks reported separately.

Combined scores for ATAR courses used to calculate scaled scores

Combined scores for ATAR courses are also used by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to calculate 'scaled scores' which are used for university selection purposes. The scaled scores from all courses are on a common scale and, as such, are used to calculate the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) and the ATAR for university admission purposes.

Scaled scores emphasise what students can do in relation to other students in the same course and in relation to other students in other courses.

Award certificates

The following awards were issued to Year 12 students at the same time as they received their WASSA:

- 2 424 Certificates of Merit to 2 424 students
- 1 327 Certificates of Distinction to 1 327 students
- 22 Certificates of Excellence (VET) to 22 students
- 218 Subject Certificate of Excellence to 199 students
- 16 Special Subject Certificate of Excellence to 15 students.