

Changes to senior schooling in Queensland

Senior schooling in Queensland is changing to help give students the skills for success in work and life in the future. Across senior subjects, students will acquire 21st century skills to support them as lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators and engaged global citizens.

Under the new QCE system, students can still choose from a wide range of subjects and courses to suit their work and study goals. Assessment will change in QCAA General subjects, with the introduction of common external assessments.

From 2020, there will also be a new way to rank students who wish to apply for university. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be used to rank eligible Year 12 graduates, rather than the Overall Position (OP). ATARs will be calculated and issued by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Visit QTAC for details: www.qtac.edu.au/for-schools/atar-information.

Senior Education Profile

Queensland students receive a Senior Education Profile from the QCAA when they complete Year 12. All students receive a statement of results, 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 will continue to accrue credit and will receive an updated statement of results and a QCE when eligible.

Statement of results

The statement of results is a transcript of a student’s learning account. It shows all contributing studies and the results achieved.

QCE

The QCE is Queensland’s senior secondary schooling qualification. To be issued with a QCE, students need to complete the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

QCIA

The QCIA recognises the achievements of students who undertake individualised learning programs. To be eligible, students must have impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socioeconomic, cultural or linguistic factors.



Queensland Certificate of Education

For students completing Year 12 from 2020

About the QCE

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland’s senior secondary schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and provides evidence of senior schooling achievements.

The flexibility of the QCE means that students can choose from a wide range of learning options to suit their interests and career goals. Most students will plan their QCE pathway in Year 10 when choosing senior courses of study. Their school will help them develop their individual plan and a QCAA learning account will be opened.

To receive a QCE, students must achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. The QCE is issued to eligible students when they meet all the requirements, either at the completion of Year 12, or after they have left school.



QCE requirements

As well as meeting the below requirements, students must have an open learning account before starting the QCE, and accrue a minimum of one credit from a Core course of study while enrolled at a Queensland school.

Set amount

20 credits from contributing courses of study, including:

- QCAA-developed subjects or courses
- vocational education and training (VET) 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.

More information

For more information about the QCE requirements, see the following factsheets, which are available on the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au:

- QCE credit and duplication of learning
- QCE credit: completed Core requirement
- QCE literacy and numeracy requirement.

Set pattern

Within the set pattern requirement, there are three categories of learning — Core, Preparatory and Complementary. When the set standard is met, credit will accrue in a student’s learning account. To meet the set pattern requirement for a QCE, at least 12 credits must be accrued from completed Core courses of study. The remaining 8 credits may accrue from a combination of Core, Preparatory or Complementary courses of study.

● **Core:** At least 12 credits must come from completed Core courses of study

COURSE	QCE CREDITS PER COURSE
QCAA General subjects and Applied subjects	up to 4
QCAA General Extension subjects	up to 2
QCAA General Senior External Examination subjects	up to 4
Certificate II qualifications	up to 4
Certificate III and IV qualifications (includes traineeships)	up to 8
School-based apprenticeships	up to 6
Recognised studies categorised as Core	as recognised by QCAA

● **Preparatory:** A maximum of 4 credits can come from Preparatory courses of study

QCAA Short Courses	up to 1
• QCAA Short Course in Literacy	
• QCAA Short Course in Numeracy	
Certificate I qualifications	up to 3
Recognised studies categorised as Preparatory	as recognised by QCAA

● **Complementary:** A maximum of 8 credits can come from Complementary courses of study

QCAA Short Courses	up to 1
• QCAA Short Course in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages	
• QCAA Short Course in Career Education	
University subjects	up to 4
Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas	up to 8
Recognised studies categorised as Complementary	as recognised by QCAA

Literacy & numeracy

The literacy and numeracy requirements for a QCE meet the standards outlined in the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) Level 3. To meet the literacy and numeracy requirement for the QCE, a student must achieve the set standard in one of the literacy and one of the numeracy learning options:

- Literacy
- QCAA General or Applied English subjects
 - QCAA Short Course in Literacy
 - Senior External Examination in a QCAA English subject
 - FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
 - International Baccalaureate examination in approved English subjects
 - Recognised studies listed as meeting literacy requirements

- Numeracy
- QCAA General or Applied Mathematics subjects
 - QCAA Short Course in Numeracy
 - Senior External Examination in a QCAA Mathematics subject
 - FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
 - International Baccalaureate examination in approved Mathematics subjects
 - Recognised studies listed as meeting numeracy requirements