

Set Planning and QCE – Preparing for your Senior Studies

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Year 11 and 12

The main objective of the completion of senior school is the completion of your Queensland Certificate of Education (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.

How do you get a QCE?

To receive a QCE, you must achieve

- the set amount of learning,
- at the set standard,
- in a set pattern,
- successful completion of Academic Integrity
- while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

You are also required to have a learning account and achieve at least 1 credit of Core learning while enrolled in a Queensland school.

To receive you QCE you need:

- **20 credits** from contributing courses of study, including:
- QCAA-developed subjects or courses
- vocational education and training (VET) qualifications
- other courses
- QCAA Integrity Course

Course	QCE credit value per course
QCAA General subjects and Applied subjects	up to 4
QCAA General Extension subjects	up to 2
QCAA General Senior External Examination subjects	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

QCE Requirements

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.

Students must also complete their academic integrity certification satisfactorily to attain their QCE

How will I be assessed?

You'll complete a range of assessments that contribute to your results. These will vary, depending on the courses you choose.

For QCAA subjects and courses, most of your assessments will be internal assessments, which are developed and marked by schools. If you are studying QCAA General and/or General (Extension) subjects, you will also sit external assessments at the end of Year



4 Units over 2 years

During your study period of year 11 and 12 you will complete FOUR units of work in each applied and general subject. During this study you will complete course assignments for these subjects will contribute to your QCE credits. Unit ONE and TWO are completed in year 11 and Unit THREE and FOUR are completed in Year 12.

Assessment in Year 11



In Year 11 you'll have a minimum of two, but no more than four internal assessments for most subjects.

Your teachers will set and mark your assessments and they'll be based on what you learn in Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Your marks show your progress and count towards your QCE eligibility.

Assessment in Year 12

In Year 12 you'll have four assessments for most subjects. They'll be based on what you learn in Units 3 and 4.

Your marks will count towards your final subject results and your QCE. They may also count towards your ATAR if you're eligible.

The types of assessment will depend on the subjects you study:



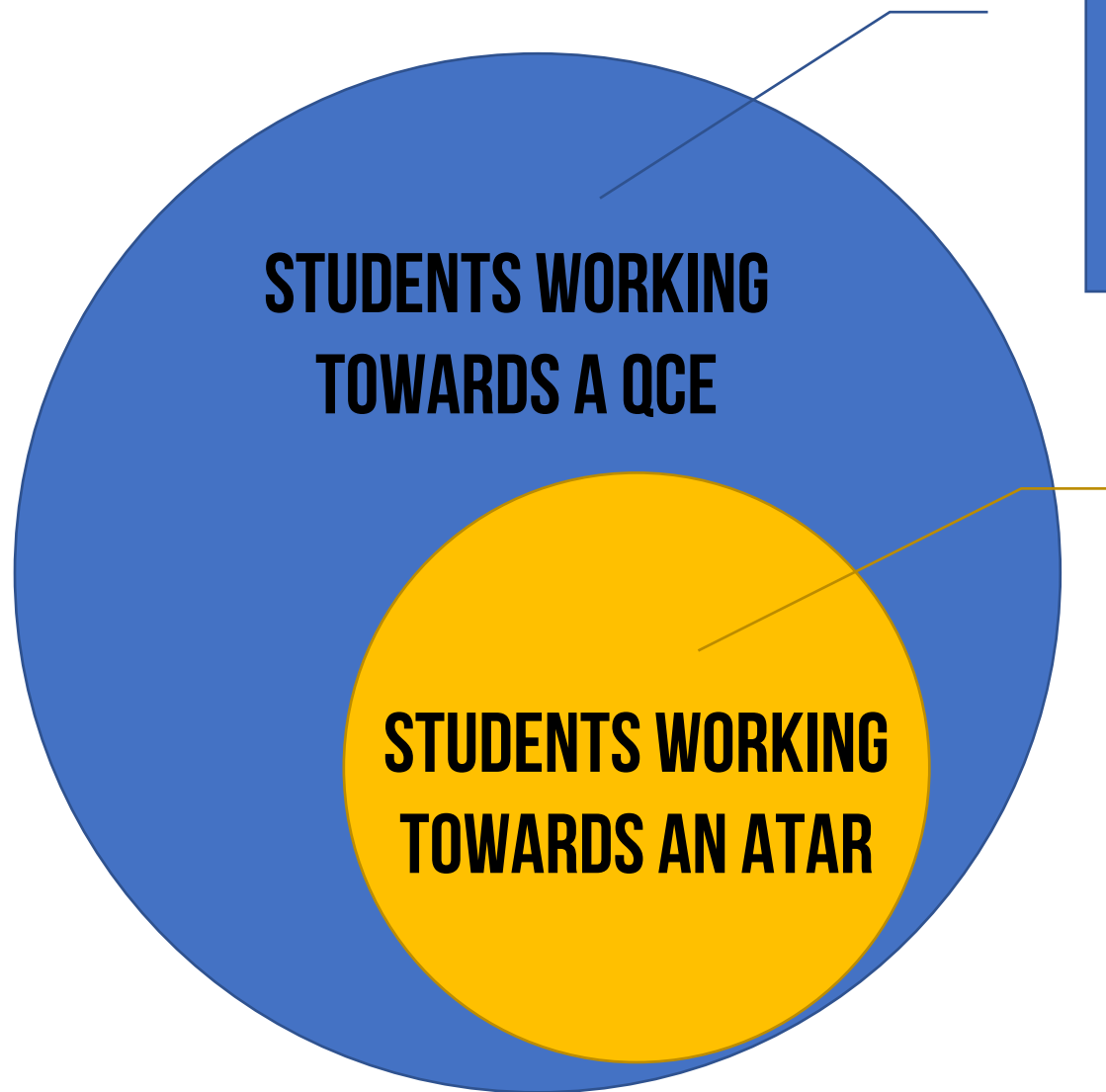
- As you can see from the table you are able to study:

- General Subjects** – prepare you for tertiary study, further education and training and work. These subjects are designed by QCAA and delivered as 4 units
- Applied Subjects:** focus on practical skills and prepare you for work. All of these subjects have 4 units and are designed by the QCAA
- Vocation Education and Training (VET):** develop skills and prepare for work

What can I study?

The QCE lets you choose from a wide range of subjects and courses. There are 3 categories of learning – Core, Preparatory and Complementary – and some subjects and courses are worth more credit than others. The below lists the types of courses, their QCE category, credit values, and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) eligibility.

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 also 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 level 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 QCAA	Check with QTAC depends on course



QCE (QUEENSLAND CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION)

Certifies learning, showing the individual has achieved a specific standard of education at senior schooling level

ATAR (AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS RANK)

Identifies the student's position in comparison to all other students in the state. **The ONLY intended purpose of an ATAR is to assist with selecting applicants for tertiary study.**

SET planning

Implementing and reviewing the plan

Students take ownership of their plan and regularly review and revise it, as required, if their intended learning option changes.

Documenting the plan

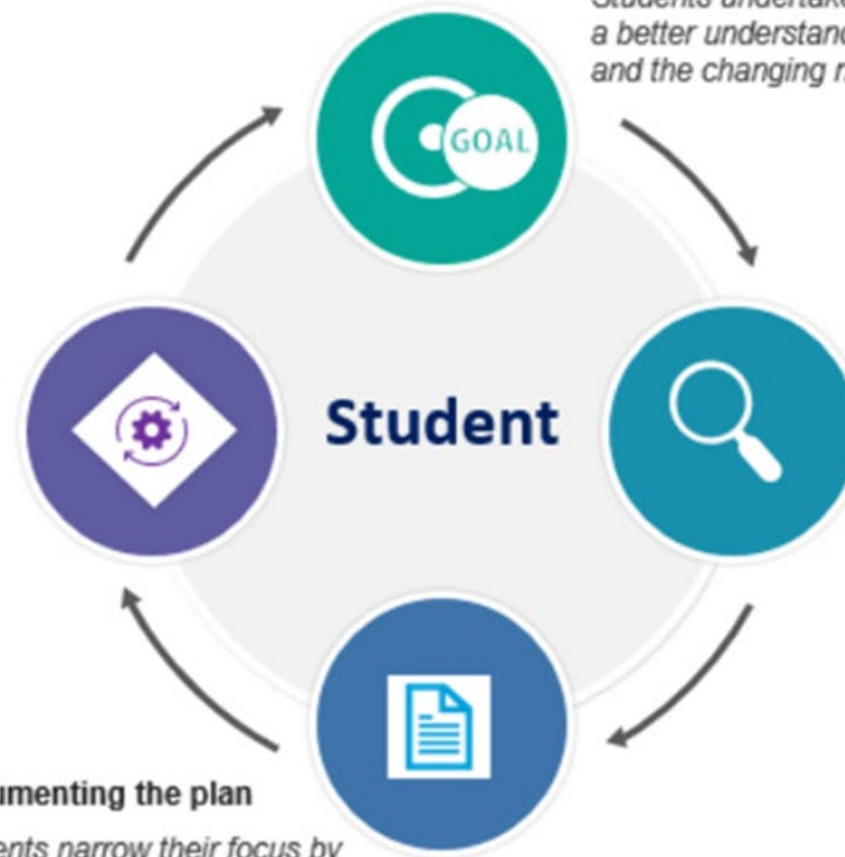
Students narrow their focus by identifying an intended learning option, selecting senior subjects and courses, and recording their action plan.

Thinking about the future

Students undertake activities to develop a better understanding of themselves and the changing nature of work.

Exploring the options

Students explore potential careers, education and training, and senior subjects to support potential school pathways.



Pathways

During senior schooling you will have the choice of three pathways that align directly with your post school goals while working towards your QCE.



CAREER READY

**GOAL = Fulltime work or
Apprenticeship with VET
Training at school**

**NO MORE THAN 3 *General Subjects
+ min. 2 Applied and/or VET Subjects**

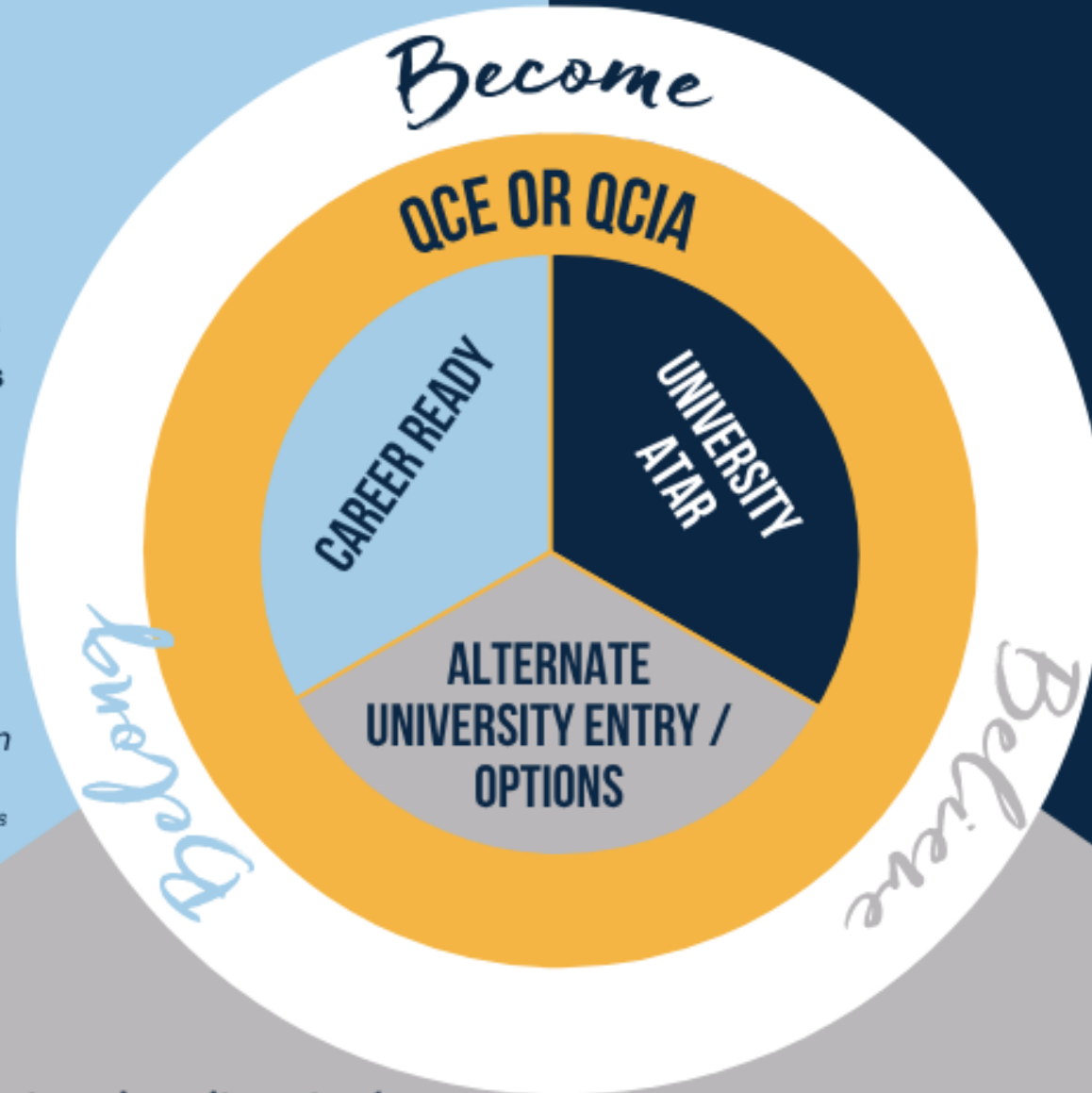
**Also undertake at least ONE of the
following:**

- School Based Traineeship /
Apprenticeship
- External Course
- Work Experience / Career Preparation

**must have completed pre-requisites for General Subjects*

**GOAL = Alternate university entry /
unsure of pathway post school.**

Also undertake at least ONE of the following:
- Selected Certificate III, IV or Diploma courses (Selection



UNIVERSITY: ATAR

GOAL = ATAR of 80+

6 *General Subjects (preferred)
Must select English and/or Literature

OR

Minimum 5 *General Subjects
Must select English and/or Literature

Also, ATAR 4* General Subjects
*(+ min. 1 Applied subject OR Cert III or above.
Must select English and/or Literature)*

**Deputy Principal and Guidance Officer
APPROVAL REQUIRED**

**must have completed pre-requisites for General
Subjects*

University Pathway

A university pathway is the first of our options and you have two choices in how you achieve this goal –

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graph TD; A[A university pathway is the first of our options and you have two choices in how you achieve this goal –] --> B[ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admission Rank]; A --> C[Alternate pathway – Ranking Admission into University]; B --> D[BOTH will allow entry into University but you may only choose ONE]; C --> D;
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ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

Alternate pathway – Ranking Admission into University

BOTH will allow entry into University but you may only choose ONE

What is an ATAR?

The ATAR is a ranking system that gives you a score to be compared to others and is a measure of your overall school achievement that is used by every state and territory in Australia.

The score is on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 (highest) down to 0, and is a percentile rank.

The scores decrease in increments of 0.05. If you achieve an ATAR of below 30 it is reported as '30.0 or less' ATAR Eligibility To be eligible for an ATAR, you must achieve a C or higher in an English subject and fit into one of the following boxes:

To be eligible for an ATAR, you must achieve a C or higher in an English subject and fit into one of the following boxes:

Five General Subjects

Four General Subjects

One Applied Subject

Four General Subjects

One completed Cert. III (or above)

AMY



English (Units 3 and 4)	General
Mathematical Methods (Units 3 and 4)	General
Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 and 4)	General
Physics (Units 3 and 4)	General
Chemistry (Units 3 and 4)	General

Provided Amy satisfactorily completes English (i.e. achieves a minimum Grade of C or better), she will be eligible for an ATAR because she has five General subjects studied at Units 3 and 4.

CHO



English (Units 3 and 4)	General
Dance (Units 3 and 4)	General
Visual Art (Units 3 and 4)	General
Study of Religion (Units 3 and 4)	General
AQF Certificate III in Business (completed)	VET

Provided Cho successfully completes English (i.e. achieves a minimum grade of C or better), Cho will be eligible for an ATAR as she has four General subjects plus a completed VET qualification.

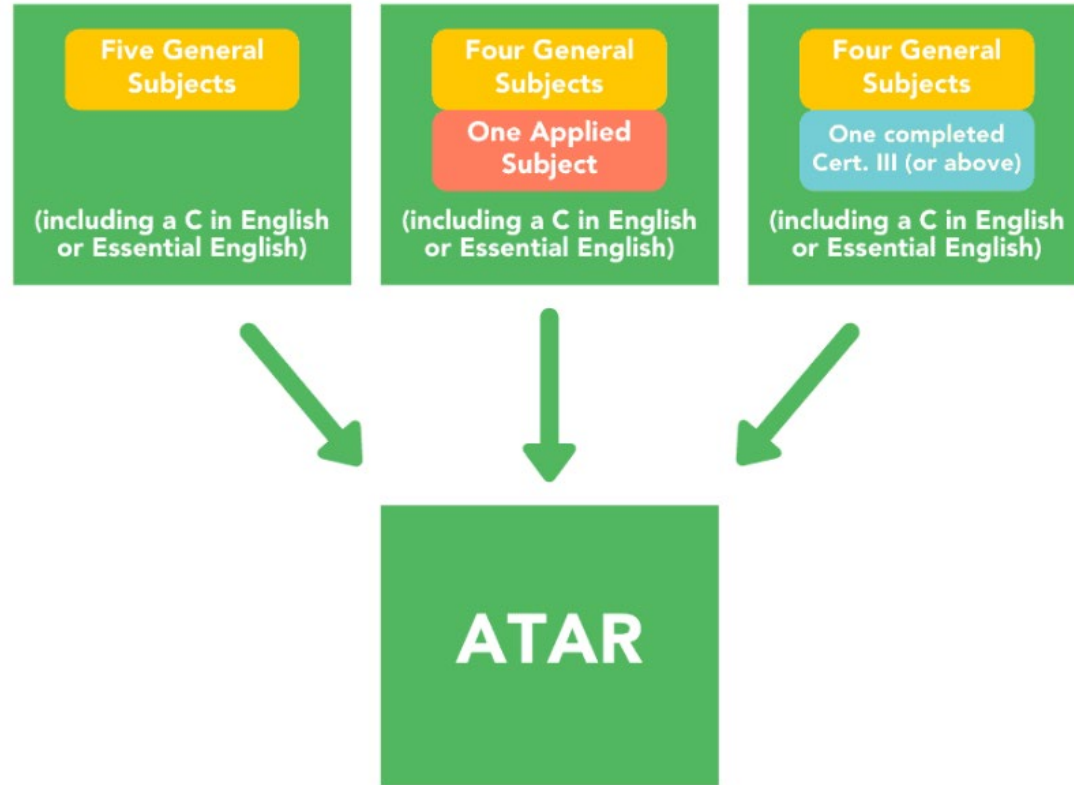
How does the ATAR get calculated

- Your ATAR is calculated based on a combination of the **best 5 scaled results form ATAR eligible contributions** from the 3 different eligibility criteria below:

- 5 General subjects (at Unit 3 & 4)
 - 4 General subjects (at Unit 3 & 4) plus an Applied subject (at Unit 3 & 4)
 - 4 General subjects (at Units 3 & 4) plus one completed VET qualification at Certificate III level or above
- Your ATAR is based on your RAW and SCALED mark

- **Scaling adjusts raw subject results** so students can be fairly compared across different subjects when calculating an ATAR.
- **QTAC provides resources** to help students understand how the scaling process works and why it is used.
- **Scaling promotes fairness** by discouraging students from choosing subjects purely because they may be perceived as easier to achieve high marks in.

Who is the ATAR pathway good for?



Students who:

- Want to attend university
- Are achieving mostly A and B results in Year 10

ATAR PREDICTIONS – WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE

Your Subjects	
⊗ English	Score: 50
⊗ Mathematical Methods	Score: 50
⊗ Biology	Score: 50
⊗ Chemistry	Score: 50
⊗ Physics	Score: 50
⊗ Specialist Mathematics	Score: 50

Estimated ATAR: 31.60



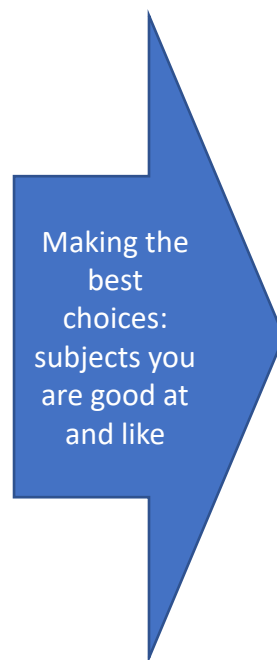
Your Subjects	
⊗ English	Score: 65
⊗ Mathematical Methods	Score: 55
⊗ Biology	Score: 70
⊗ Chemistry	Score: 60
⊗ Physics	Score: 50
⊗ Specialist Mathematics	Score: 55

Estimated ATAR: 57.65

ATAR PREDICTIONS – WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE

Your Subjects	
⊗ English	Score: 50
⊗ Mathematical Methods	Score: 50
⊗ Biology	Score: 50
⊗ Chemistry	Score: 50
⊗ Physics	Score: 50
⊗ Specialist Mathematics	Score: 50

Estimated ATAR: 31.60



Your Subjects	
⊗ English	Score: 50
⊗ General Mathematics	Score: 75
⊗ Modern History	Score: 65
⊗ Drama	Score: 85
⊗ Design	Score: 75
⊗ Physical Education	Score: 85

Estimated ATAR: 74.10

What is Alternate Pathway?

The Alternate Pathway allows you to complete a Certificate III, Certificate IV or a Diploma to gain a ranking number associated with the completion of the course. This ranking number is used in the same way an ATAR is when applying for University.

You must be aware however, that some Universities may not take a Ranking. However, the ranking entry has become increasingly popular and the number of Universities accepting it as an entry requirement continues to grow.

E.G. A student wants to study a **Bachelor of Education** and completed their **Diploma of Business** which resulted in an 82 Ranking and the Bachelor of Education at Griffith requires a 70 Ranking.

YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE AN ATAR WITH THIS PATHWAY

Alternative Pathway – Ranking Position

If you choose an Alternative Pathway, you will study no more than three General subjects alongside an external Certificate III or higher qualification. Upon successful completion, you will gain both a qualification and a university selection rank. Typical ranks include:

- Certificate III – 65 *
- Certificate IV – 75 *
- Diploma – 82–87*

*rankings are subject to change year to year

Some students may study both an ATAR and complete Diploma/Cert IV subject to Pathways HOD approval.

What types of Cert III, IV or Diploma can I do?



At SCSHS we work with many providers to provide continued opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a variety of study areas. Currently the options include -



Cert III – All TAFE courses found here - <https://tafeqld.edu.au/search-results?searchterm=certificate%20III®ion=&type=courses>



Cert III – At SCSHS we offer CERT III Business & CERT III Film –fee free and may be studied in conjunction with other quals



Cert IV – Justice Studies (WesTEC) & Cert IV Real Estate (External)



Diploma Business

Diploma of Business – Barrington College @ SCSHS

Gain a nationally recognised qualification while still at school

Earn 8 QCE credits towards your Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) pathway to university

✓ Receive a ranking of 82-87 for entry into university courses (not just business)

✓ Study one day per week on-site at Springfield Central State High School

✓ Gain real-world skills that can be applied across almost any industry

✓ Get a head start on your future while completing Year 11 and 12

VET/Employment Pathway

If you are considering a VET/Employment pathway it means you're interested in entering the workforce after school.

This may be in the form of earning yourself an Apprenticeship or a Traineeship, completing a Cert I or II or dipping your toes into work experience.

Career Ready

This is your best way to gain a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). You will study no more than THREE general subjects while you complete training.



For an apprenticeship it is key to have a Cert II in your desired area to build foundation skills to then go on and complete your Apprenticeship. Doing this School Based allows you to stay at school while developing your skill set.



A traineeship will have you completing competencies while training in the industry and at school giving you a variety of skills during this time.



E.G – A student completed a Cert II in Salon at TAFE and currently is completing their apprenticeship at Fluid Salon one day a week.



School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SATS)

School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SAT) present a unique opportunity for secondary school students in years 10, 11 and 12 to prepare themselves for a career of their choice. Enabling students to simultaneously receive a wage, work towards a nationally recognised qualification, and make progress towards achieving their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). A SAT aims to kick-start a student's career and progress a student's learning in an environment that works alongside industry-related professionals to provide them with real-life work experience.

To undertake a SAT students must:

1

be 15 years old or older and in years 10, 11 or 12 at a registered Queensland High School. This includes students at state, catholic and independent schools, as well as distance education and home-schooled students.

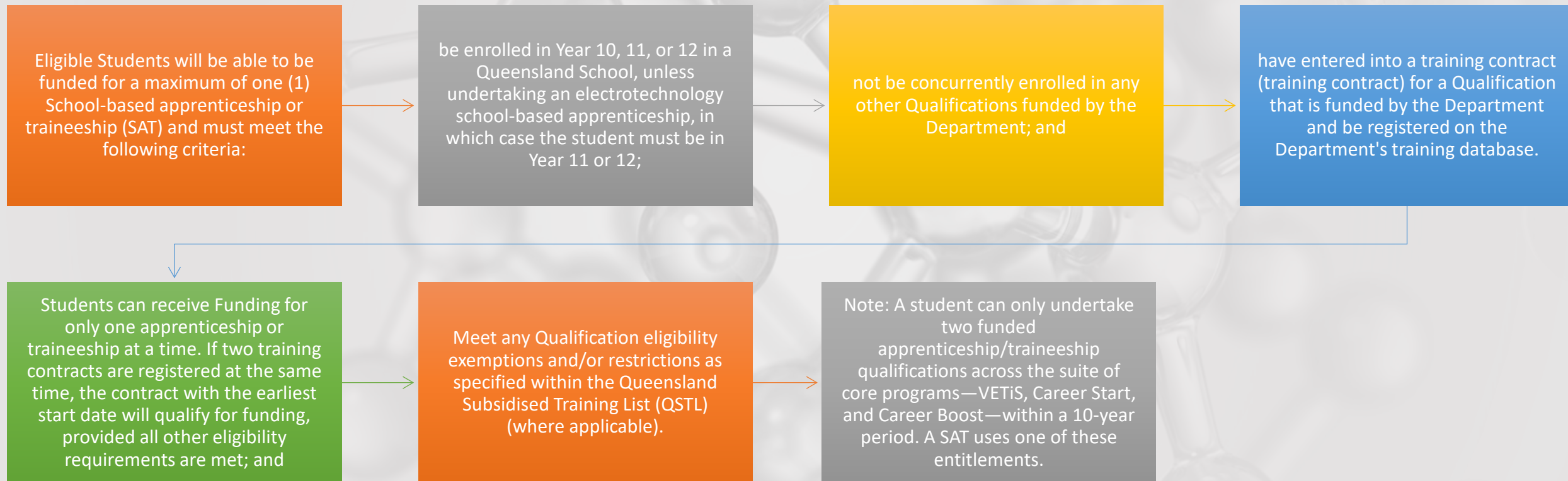
2

Have support from their school.

3

Have permission from their parent or guardian, if under 18. Students living independently don't need permission from parents or guardians.

Information to Get You Started



2026 *Senior* **PATHWAYS GUIDE**



The senior pathways guide is the best way to find out all this information – access is found on the SCSHS website or the Q-learn page.

- All Students MUST choose a MATHEMATICS class on either Lines 4 or 5 and will not be reviewed until students have achieved a numeracy tick.
- Students who wish to choose MATHEMATICS – SPECIALIST, must choose to also study MATHEMATICS – METHODS.

	LINE 1	LINE 2	LINE 3	LINE 4	LINE 5	LINE 6
GENERAL SUBJECTS (ATAR Subjects)	BIOLOGY CHEMISTRY VISUAL ART MUSIC ENGINEERING BUSINESS JAPANESE ANCIENT HISTORY HEALTH DANCE	BIOLOGY PHYSICS CHEMISTRY BUSINESS ECONOMICS ENGINEERING DRAMA DESIGN PHYSICAL EDUCATION FILM, TV & MEDIA VISUAL ART	BIOLOGY PHYSICS CHEMISTRY ACCOUNTING LEGAL MODERN HISTORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY MATHEMATICS - SPECIALIST	MATHEMATICS – GENERAL MATHEMATICS – METHODS PSYCHOLOGY CHEMISTRY FILM, TV & MEDIA PHYSICS LITERATURE	MATHEMATICS – GENERAL MATHEMATICS – METHODS CHEMISTRY PSYCHOLOGY AEROSPACE SYSTEMS BIOLOGY DIGITAL SOLUTIONS	ENGLISH – GENERAL LITERATURE
APPLIED SUBJECTS	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SKILLS RECREATION TOURISM DANCE IN PRACTICE EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES	HOSPITALITY PRACTICES FASHION RECREATION TOURISM	HOSPITALITY SOCIAL & COMMUNITY STUDIES RECREATION TOURISM INDUSTRIAL GRAPHICS	MATHEMATICS - ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SKILLS SOCIAL & COMMUNITY STUDIES DRAMA IN PRACTICE RECREATION TOURISM	MATHEMATICS - ESSENTIAL HOSPITALITY PRACTICES TOURISM RECREATION SCIENCE IN PRACTICE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SKILLS	ENGLISH ESSENTIAL
CERTIFICATE COURSES	Cert III in Business Cert III in Screen and Media	Cert III in Business Cert III in Screen and Media	Cert II in Visual Art	Cert II in Visual Art	Cert III in Music Cert III in Business Cert III in Fitness	