

It is important to choose your senior subjects carefully as the decisions you make now may affect your:

- immediate options at the end of Year 12 (jobs and/or further study and training)
- success at school
- how much you enjoy senior school

Before you can select subjects, you need to learn about:

- your career interests
- the certificates and qualifications you can achieve by the end of Year 12
- further study options after Year 12
- your school's subject and course options

Once you have this information, you can begin to make decisions and develop your senior studies plan.

Your career interests

You are not expected to know exactly what job/s you want in the future, but you should be starting to explore your job options so you know which subjects would be best to choose in Year 11 and 12.

Coming up with job ideas is a process. You need to learn more about yourself (interests, abilities, values, ambitions, things that influence your decisions, etc.), available jobs and the skills you will need to be successful in the job.

So where to start – these are some resources that will help you with this process:

- myfuture <http://www.myfuture.edu.au/> - It's free to 'Sign up' and you can then develop your profile and read about the jobs that match your profile
- Job Outlook <http://joboutlook.gov.au/careerquiz.aspx> - do the Career Quiz and see what jobs come up for you based on your answers to the quiz questions
- Career Quest <http://www.careers.govt.nz/tools/careerquest/> - suggests jobs based on your interests
- Bullseye Posters <https://myfuture.edu.au/career-bullseyes> - explore jobs related to the school subjects you most enjoy.

Once you have five to ten jobs that you find interesting on your job ideas list, you can research them by:

- reading about them (see the 'Occupations' section of myfuture, the Bullseye Posters or the Good Careers Guide at <https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/careers-guide>)
- talking to people already in the jobs
- trying the jobs by doing work experience or work observation (i.e. observe someone doing the job).

After you know more about the jobs on your ideas list, put them in order by putting the jobs you most like at the top of your list.

When doing your subject section, you probably want to include subjects that are required (i.e. are prerequisites) or helpful for the top three or four jobs on your ideas list.

Year 12 qualifications

During Year 10, your school will register you with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) and a learning account will be opened for you. You will be given a LUI (Learner Unique Identifier) and a password to access your account on the Student Connect website at <https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>.

Your learning account records enrolments and results of all completed studies during Years 11 and 12.

In mid-December of Year 12 you will receive your Senior Education Profile (SEP), which is based on the contents of your learning account. Your SEP may consist of:

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior secondary schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and provides evidence of senior schooling achievements. It is awarded to eligible students usually at the end of Year 12. To be eligible to receive a QCE you must:

- achieve a total amount of learning of 20 credits from contributing courses of study including; QCAA-developed subjects or courses, Vocational education and Training qualifications, non-Queensland studies and/or recognised studies
- attain a minimum of 12 credits from completed Core courses of study and 8 credits from any combination of; core, preparatory and/or complementary studies
- achieve a minimum standard in literacy and numeracy
- Satisfactory completion, grade of C or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.

For more information download the QCE brochure:

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/snr_new_assess_te_qce_factsheet_requirements.pdf

Senior Statement

A transcript of the learning account for all students completing Year 12 at a Queensland School. It shows all studies and the results achieved that may contribute to your QCE or Tertiary Entrance Statement. If a student has a Senior Statement, then they have satisfied the completion requirements for Year 12 in Queensland.

Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The QCIA is awarded to students who undertake individual learning programs. To be eligible, students must have impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socioeconomic, cultural or linguistic factors. Read more about the QCIA at <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/previous-qce-system/year-12-2019/certificates-qualifications/qcia>

Tertiary Entrance

QTAC will calculate your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) which is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 increasing in increments of 0.05. Your ATAR will be calculated by combining your best five subject results, one of which may be an Applied subject or a competency-based VET certificate at a Level III or above. You must satisfactorily complete a QCAA English subject (C or better) to be eligible for an ATAR. Your result in English will only contribute to your ATAR if it is one of your five best subject results. Make sure that you also meet any tertiary English prerequisites for courses you are interested in at the end of Year 12.

Most Year 12 students will use their ATAR when applying for tertiary study in Queensland. To gain entry to tertiary courses you must meet any specific entry requirements so you need to know what subject prerequisites, assumed knowledge and recommended studies are before selecting subjects for Years 11 and 12. QTAC will have the tertiary course prerequisites for 2023 on their website www.qtac.edu.au under the *Student Resources / Year 10* tab (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Not all universities will accept school leavers' standalone VETiS qualifications for competitive entry to their courses. It is essential that you contact the university/universities you are interested in attending to find out about their admissions policy. Your guidance officer will be able to assist you.

Further study after Year 12

In Australia, qualifications are regulated under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF consists of ten levels.

The levels and associated qualifications are:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Certificate I | 7. | Bachelor's degree |
| 2 | Certificate II | 8. | Bachelor Honours Degree |
| 3 | Certificate III | | Graduate Certificate |
| 4 | Certificate IV | | Graduate Diploma |
| 5 | Diploma | 9. | Master's Degree |
| 6 | Advanced Diploma
Associate Degree | 10. | Doctoral Degree |

Different jobs may require different levels of qualifications. For example:

- an electrician requires a Certificate III
- a teacher requires a Bachelor Degree
- a dental technician requires a Diploma

You can use the Good Careers Guide or myfuture websites to research the qualifications required for jobs you are interested in.

AQF qualifications allow you to start at the level that suits you and then build on your qualifications. This is called 'upgrading' or 'articulation'; using one qualification that leads to you gaining entry to another.

The term 'tertiary' is usually used to refer to qualifications at AQF levels 5 – 10. Universities, TAFE and other institutes of higher education provide courses that lead to these qualifications.

Subject and course options available at your school

Find out about your school's subject selection process. Learn about the subjects and courses on offer for your senior studies. Most schools have a range of options students can choose from. These might include:

General subjects

General subjects primarily prepare you for tertiary study, further education and training and work. They are considered a Core subject towards your QCE, gaining you up to four credits per course. All General subjects may contribute towards your ATAR calculation.

Applied subjects

Applied subjects focus on practical skills and prepare you for work. They are considered a Core subject towards your QCE gaining up to four credits per course. Only one may contribute to your ATAR calculation when combined with four General subjects.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) VET qualifications develop your skills and get you ready for work through practical learning and can also lead to further education and training. VET courses are considered Core, Preparatory or Complementary towards your QCE depending on the course and contribute up to eight credits per course. When combined with four general subjects, Certificate III or above courses may be considered when calculating your ATAR.

Short courses

These courses provide a foundation for further learning in a range of areas. They are considered a preparatory or complementary course depending on the course, contribute one credit towards your QCE and are not considered in your ATAR calculation.

Other study options through school

Your school may offer other options such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program or you may be able to study university subjects as part of your senior studies program.

In summary

It is your responsibility to find out about the subjects and courses offered at your school and what they can lead to. Use the following strategies:

- read subject descriptions and course outlines in booklets provided by your school
- talk to heads of departments and teachers of each subject/course
- look at textbooks and materials used in the subject/course
- listen carefully at subject/course selection talks at your school
- talk to students who are already studying the subject/course.

Selecting your subjects

An overall plan is to choose subjects which:

- you enjoy
- you have achieved good results in previously (work with your strengths, not your weaknesses)
- reflect your interests and abilities
- you can see yourself studying for two years – it is difficult to change subjects in the ATAR system
- help you reach your career goals
- meet any subject prerequisites you need for further study after Year 12
- will develop skills, knowledge and attitudes useful throughout your life
- will keep many post Year 12 options open.

Also, it is a good idea to have a selection of subjects that gives you a balance between:

- theoretical and practical subjects
- subjects with many have different assessment requirements
- compulsory or prerequisite subjects and those you choose primarily because you enjoy them.

Be aware of the following 'do not's'

- do not select subjects simply because someone has told you that they “will help you get a better ATAR”; especially if you haven't done well in these subjects in the past
- do not be influenced by suggestions that you should, or should not, choose a subject because a friend/brother/sister either liked or disliked it when they studied it; especially if you don't particularly like the subject
- do not select or not select a subject because you think a certain teacher may, or may not, be teaching that subject next year.

While it is important to consider other peoples' opinions of the subjects, do not make your decision based on these opinions only. Check the subjects out for yourself.

If you and your parents/carers are still uncertain about the combination of subjects you have chosen, check again with some of the many people who are available to help you e.g. teachers, guidance officers/counsellors, career advisor, heads of departments, year coordinators, VET coordinators.

Your senior studies plan

Most schools will require students to develop a Senior Education and Training Plan (SET Plan). Senior subject selection is often included in the SET Plan meeting. The SET Plan should be revisited during Years 11 and 12 and adjustments made when necessary.

Useful websites

Australian Apprenticeships Pathways <http://www.aajobpathways.com.au/Home>

Australian Qualifications Framework <http://www.aqf.edu.au/>

Apprenticeships Info <https://training.qld.gov.au/apprenticeshipsinfo>

Grow Careers <http://www.growcareers.com.au/>

Job Outlook <http://joboutlook.gov.au/>

Labour Market Information Portal <http://lmip.gov.au/>

myfuture. <http://www.myfuture.edu.au>

QTAC <http://www.qtac.edu.au>

QILT <http://www.qilt.edu.au/>

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>

Queensland Skills Gateway <http://www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au/>

Student Connect <https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>

TAFE Queensland <http://tafeqld.edu.au/>

The Good Careers Guide <https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/careers-guide>

Youth Central <http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/jobs-careers/career-profiles>

Course Seeker <https://www.courseseeeker.edu.au/>