



QTAC

ATAR AND SUBJECT  
PREREQUISITES FOR  
TERTIARY ENTRANCE

From 2020, Queensland Year 12 students will be certified for tertiary entrance with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

## WHAT IS THE ATAR?

Across Australia the ATAR is a standard measure of a student's overall academic achievement in relation to that of other students. It is intended to assist tertiary institutions to select applicants into their courses.

The ATAR is a percentile rank, not a mark. This rank indicates a student's position relative to other students in their age group in any given year.

It's expressed as a number on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00 in steps of 0.05.

An ATAR of 80.00 does not mean a student got 80%. It indicates that the student placed in the top 20% of students in Queensland in their Year 12 age group.

## WHO CALCULATES AND RELEASES THE ATAR?

Responsibility for calculating and issuing the ATAR has been assigned to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) on behalf of Queensland tertiary institutions.

QTAC administers the application and offer process for tertiary institutions in Queensland (and a few institutions interstate) and has over four decades of experience in tertiary admissions.

For more information call us on **1300 467 822** or visit [qtac.edu.au](http://qtac.edu.au) or email [atar@qtac.edu.au](mailto:atar@qtac.edu.au)

## SATISFYING SUBJECT PREREQUISITES

For entry to most tertiary courses, you must have achieved a certain result in specific senior secondary subjects (QCE subjects) (or equivalent).

If a course has a prerequisite(s), you will find this listed in the course entry in the QTAC Guide or online QTAC Course Search and institution websites and publications. The prerequisite requirement will be displayed as “Subject (Units 3 & 4, Letter Grade)”.

Successful completion (i.e. minimum Grade of C or better) in Units 3 and 4 of General subjects will satisfy the majority of subject prerequisites. Some courses may require a higher grade (e.g. minimum achievement of Grade B or better) to satisfy a subject prerequisite.

Subjects are structured into four units: Units 1 and 2 (typically studied in Year 11) and Units 3 and 4 (typically studied in Year 12). Completion of Units 1 and/or 2 only in a subject will not meet the subject prerequisite(s) for a course.

### *English Prerequisite*

The most common prerequisite is the English subject (Units 3 and 4, C). General English subjects are English, English as an Additional Language, Literature, and English & Literature Extension.

### *Satisfying Prerequisites for entry to initial teacher education programs*

The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) has accepted the General syllabus subjects in Maths, English and Science as prerequisites subjects to meet the entry requirements for initial teacher education courses as follows:

<b>English</b> (for early childhood, primary and secondary courses)	<b>Maths</b> (for early childhood, primary and secondary courses)	<b>Science</b> (for early childhood and primary courses)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li><li>• English as an Additional Language</li><li>• Literature</li><li>• English &amp; Literature Extension</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Mathematics</li><li>• Mathematical Methods</li><li>• Specialist Mathematics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agricultural Science</li><li>• Biology</li><li>• Chemistry</li><li>• Earth &amp; Environmental Science</li><li>• Marine Science</li><li>• Physics</li><li>• Psychology</li></ul>

## ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE AND RECOMMENDED STUDY

Not all courses have subject prerequisites. In addition to, or instead of, subject prerequisites, some courses have assumed knowledge and/or recommended study.

If a course has assumed knowledge or recommended study, it means the institution assumes you have subject knowledge or recommends that you study it.

If you do not have the assumed knowledge or recommended study, you can still be admitted to the course, but you might have difficulty with your studies.

## **OTHER WAYS TO SATISFY SUBJECT PREREQUISITES**

If you didn't study a prerequisite subject at Units 3 and 4 (or didn't achieve the minimum grade required), you may be able to meet the requirement in other ways, such as via bridging or preparatory courses, depending on the policy of the institution. Visit [www.qtac.edu.au/applying/admission-criteria](http://www.qtac.edu.au/applying/admission-criteria) for more information.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ATAR?**

For more information about the ATAR refer to QTAC's website or contact QTAC at:

**Phone:** 1300 467 822

**Email:** [atar@qtac.edu.au](mailto:atar@qtac.edu.au)