



Stage 6 HSC and Beyond

Terms and Jargon 2021

ACARA

...stands for The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority and is responsible for development of the Australian curriculum, the MySchool website and NAPLAN.

All My Own Work

Before students can be entered into Year 11, they must complete the mandatory “All My Own Work” learning modules from NESA. These are in place to ensure that students understand what constitutes plagiarism and malpractice. Students that do early commencement in subjects or SBAT in Year 10 must also complete ‘All My Own Work’.

Assessment Policy and Task Submission

All Years 10, 11 and 12 students are issued with an assessment Policy Booklet that outlines the school’s implementation of the rules associated with assessment as determined by NESA.

ATAR

Stands for Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank.

This is the ranking system used by universities. It ranks students from 99.95 down to zero. Because of the way in which an ATAR is calculated, an ATAR of 70 is considered to be the average.

ATAR Cutoff / LSR – Lowest Selection Rank

This is the minimum ATAR number set by each university for entry into a particular course. Although previous years’ LSR can be used as a benchmark, the particular value changes each year due to a number of factors. The UAC guide also publishes LA- Lowest ATAR (prior to adjustment factors) of an applicant who received an offer to the course in the previous intake.

ATAR Pathway

This is one way of moving straight from school to university. Students selecting this pathway need to ensure that their course selection in Stage 6 meets the requirements of the university’s entrance pattern. Universities apply a scaling algorithm to each course when determining the calculation for an ATAR.

Course Descriptors

Each Stage 5 course has a set of standards that teachers use as a guide in determining whether a Grade of A-E is awarded for the RoSA.

HSC Minimum Standards

Students sitting their HSC are expected to meet the HSC minimum standards in literacy and numeracy. To show that students have the necessary level of literacy and numeracy skills they will have to pass online tests consisting of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills needed for everyday tasks. These tests are not the same as the NAPLAN tests. A demonstration test can be accessed at:

<https://hsliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

Students have the opportunity to re-sit the tests if needed.

JobJump <https://jobjump.com.au>

This is a careers website to which the school subscribes. It includes university guides, scaffolded résumés, eWorld experience projects, TAFE Course search, Career VR videos and ATAR Course searches. **Still have questions?** Contact the school for more information.

Life Ready

All students in Stage 6 in government schools are required to complete a 25 hour course in personal development and wellbeing called “Life Ready”.

Malpractice

This is any attempt to gain an unfair advantage over other students. Types of malpractice may include, but are not limited to:

- Being in possession of unauthorised notes or electronic devices during a test or examination
- Using the words, ideas, designs or workmanship of others without acknowledgement
- Copying from another student
- Submitting a frivolous or offensive task response
- Paying someone to write or prepare an assessment task.

Malpractice Register – HSC courses only

NESA requires schools to complete a malpractice register so that it can collect data on the type of malpractice occurring and any links to particular course types to help improve the integrity of the HSC. No school or student is identified with this data collection.

Minimum Leaving Age

In NSW, the minimum leaving age is 17, unless students can show evidence that they have been accepted into an apprenticeship, traineeship, TAFE (or similar) or have at least 25 hours/week of regular work that has an on the job training component.

Illness and Misadventure

These are the conditions that apply to a situation in which a student has a valid reason for either missing an assessment task and/or failing to hand it in on time, as per the school's assessment policy guidelines. They also apply to the HSC itself, if an examination is missed or cannot be completed by the student, to their normal standard, due to acceptable reasons as outlined by NESA.

N Award Warning Letter

An N Award warning letter is posted to parents when course requirements in Years 10-12 are not being met and/or an assessment task has been missed or the submission was frivolous or offensive. It outlines the conditions for which a student can redeem their status as meeting course requirements. As per school policy, only 2 such letters are required to be posted in warning, if the issue(s) are not resolved.

N Determination

The student has not met the course requirements and will not receive a grade for this course. Receiving an N Determination in a course, usually means that the student will not have met the conditions for receiving the associated credential.

NESA

This stands for NSW Education Standards Authority and is the new name for what used to be called the Board of Studies. This statutory Board is responsible for setting curriculum - K-12 in NSW, the HSC, accreditation of teachers, school registration and home schooling.

RoSA

This stands for the Record of School Achievement. Students who successfully complete their school studies from Year 10 onwards, but leave school before achieving their HSC, are eligible to receive a RoSA. It records completed Stage 5 and Preliminary course grades. Students who achieve the HSC do not receive a RoSA. Students who do not meet the minimum standards by the end of Year 12 will receive a ROSA in place of the HSC.

SBAT

Students are able to complete a school based traineeship or commence an apprenticeship whilst completing their HSC. This allows them to gain dual qualifications and have a pathway into a career/further study, whilst meeting the course requirements to achieve an HSC credential.

UAC

Universities Admissions Centre manages all processes related to admission into courses at university and institutions that they represent. They calculate the ATAR for eligible students in NSW and ACT. UAC processes applications to participating universities and institutions. They also process equity programs on behalf of Universities they represent. These include **EAS** - *Equity Access Scheme*, **SRS** – *School recommendation Scheme* and **ES** – *Equity Scholarships*.