

Year 10: What next?

Preparing for the senior phase of learning



For all Queensland schools

In Years 11 and 12, you can choose from a wide range of learning options that will help you when you leave school – whether you want to go to university, TAFE or another education and training provider; take up an apprenticeship or traineeship; or get a job.

Senior Education Profile

At the end of Year 12, you will receive a Senior Education Profile (SEP).

Depending on your learning goals and achievements, your SEP may include a:

- Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
- Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)
- Senior Statement
- Tertiary Entrance Statement.

Senior Education and Training (SET) Planning

In Year 10, your school will work with you and your parents/carers to develop a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

Your SET plan will help you:

- think about your education, training and career goals after Year 12
- structure your learning in Years 11 and 12 around your abilities, interests and ambitions
- decide which learning options are best to ensure you achieve your learning, further education and training, and career goals
- include flexible and coordinated pathway options in your course of senior study
- map your pathway to a QCE.

Student learning accounts

All senior students in Queensland have a learning account on the Student Connect website: www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

You can use your learning account to:

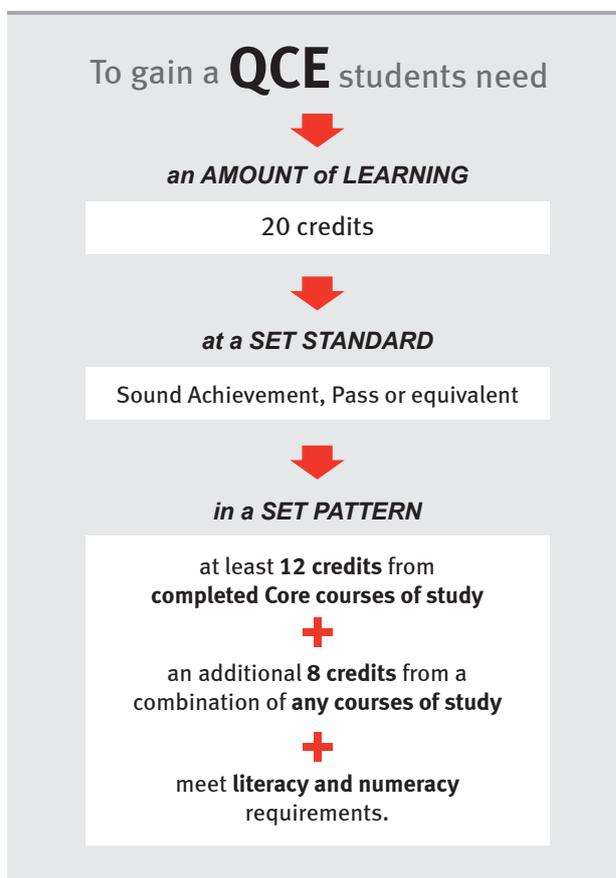
- plan your pathway to a QCE
- check your personal details and enrolments
- check your eligibility for a QCE and Overall Position (OP)
- find out your final results including your QCS Test grade, OP and Field Positions (FPs), if eligible.

Your school will give you a 10-digit Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) and initial password to log into your learning account.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs.

How does it work?



What can I study?

The QCE allows you to choose from a broad range of learning options including:

- **Senior school subjects:** Results in Authority subjects count towards your OP and FPs; results in subjects developed from Subject Area Syllabuses do not.
- **Recognised studies:** The QCAA recognises a range of awards, certificates, international learning programs (such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program), school-based courses, and structured community and workplace learning. Completed recognised studies can contribute credits towards a QCE.
- **University subjects completed while at school:** Most Queensland universities and TAFEs offer students in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to study at a tertiary level. If you successfully complete diploma or advanced diploma modules or university subjects, you can earn credit towards your QCE. To find out more about tertiary study opportunities available to you, speak to your school guidance officer.
- **School-based apprenticeships and traineeships:** A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship gives you the opportunity to train on the job while working towards your QCE. Students who are ineligible for an OP may have their school-based apprenticeship or traineeship considered by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) as part of the tertiary entrance process. For more information contact your school guidance officer.
- **Vocational Education and Training (VET):** VET qualifications give you practical work-related skills and can contribute credits towards your QCE.
- **Learning projects:** As part of your QCE, you can design and undertake an independent and unique short program of learning that is separate from any established school, training or other educational program. Completed learning projects can contribute credit towards a QCE.

School-based assessment

If you study an Authority subject in Years 11 and 12, you will be taught and assessed by teachers in your school. The QCAA manages a rigorous system of external moderation to ensure students are treated fairly and standards are comparable from school to school. This involves review panels of trained teachers externally moderating students' school-based assessments.

Results in Authority subjects are recorded on your Senior Statement and can contribute credits towards the QCE. They are also used to calculate your OP and FPs for tertiary entrance.

Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

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

The QCIA is an official record that students have completed at least twelve years of education, and provides students with a summary of their knowledge and skills that they can present to employers and training providers.

Tertiary Entrance Statement

If you are eligible for an OP, the QCAA will issue you a Tertiary Entrance Statement at the end of Year 12. Your Tertiary Entrance Statement records your OP and your results in up to five FPs.

OP

Your OP is your position in a statewide rank order based on your overall achievement in QCAA approved subjects. OP1 is the highest and OP25 is the lowest. OPs are used for tertiary entrance purposes only, indicating how well you have done compared with all other OP-eligible students in Queensland.

How do I get an OP?

To be eligible for an OP, you must:

- complete 20 semester units of credit in Authority subjects
- study at least three subjects for four semesters
- sit the QCS Test
- attend school until the final day of Year 12.

FPs

FPs are additional rank orders that supplement an OP. FPs may be used to differentiate between students with the same OP when the number of places in a course is limited. You may receive up to five FPs, depending on your subject choices. FPs are reported in 10 bands, from one (the highest) to 10 (the lowest).

Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

The Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test is the tool QCAA uses to compare the achievements of OP-eligible students studying different subjects at different schools across Queensland.

The test contributes scaling data for the calculation of OPs and FPs for tertiary entrance. It also provides an individual result for each student — A (highest) to E (lowest).

The QCS Test is developed and administered by the QCAA, and is held over two days in Term 3 at schools across the state.

What is tested?

Particular knowledge of specific subjects is not tested. Instead, the QCS Test assesses achievement in 49 of the Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs). The CCEs are generic skills that you work with across your senior subjects, such as using correct spelling, punctuation and grammar, calculating, analysing and hypothesising. This means that you are preparing for the QCS Test all the time and in every subject.

What is the format of the test?

The QCS Test consists of four testpapers:

- a Writing Task — requiring a response of about 600 words
- a Short Response testpaper — requiring different types of responses
- two Multiple Choice testpapers — with 50 items in each.

Who should sit the test?

While sitting the QCS Test is essential for students seeking an OP, other students can benefit from sitting the test, since:

- a grade of C or above will ensure you meet QCE literacy and numeracy requirements
- a grade of D or above may boost your QTAC selection rank.

Only the results of OP-eligible students are used in OP calculations.

Senior Statement

Your Senior Statement records:

- what, when and where learning was undertaken
- the result and credit value achieved
- your result in the QCS Test, if eligible.

Tertiary entrance pathways

In Queensland, an OP is the usual pathway for Year 12 students to gain entrance into tertiary study at university, TAFE or another learning provider. But there are other pathways available. Your school guidance officer can help you understand the different tertiary entrance pathways and the best options for you.

Tertiary entrance rank/QTAC selection rank

If you're not eligible for an OP but wish to gain entry to a tertiary course, you can apply to QTAC for a selection rank based on schedules that are specifically developed for this purpose.

- QTAC will calculate a rank based on your subject results.
- Your QTAC selection rank is based on a mixture of Authority subjects, and/or subjects developed from Subject Area Syllabuses, and/or vocational qualifications, and uses the achievement in your best 20 semesters or equivalent, on your Senior Statement.
- If you sit the QCS Test, your QCS result will also be included in your rank calculation. If you achieve a D result or better, you may improve your chances with your tertiary entrance rank.
- If you do not take the QCS Test, a result of E will be used when calculating your tertiary entrance rank.

FAQs

I don't know what I will do after Year 12. What subjects should I study?

If you are not sure what you want to do after Year 12, choose subjects you like or have an interest in, and in which you are likely to do well.

I want to go to TAFE or university. Which subjects should I take?

If you intend to go to TAFE or university after completing Year 12, you should check how students are selected for your preferred course/s. You need to ensure you choose subjects that fulfil the prerequisites for the course/s you are considering. You should then choose subjects that interest you and in which you are likely to succeed.

To be OP-eligible, you must study a minimum of 5 Authority subjects. Three of these subjects must be over 4 semesters. However, you do not have to study all Authority subjects. You may choose to take a subject developed from a Subject Area Syllabus or a vocational qualification in addition to your Authority subjects, if these are available. You must also sit the QCS Test in Year 12.

If you choose to be OP-ineligible and use your QTAC selection rank, you should also sit the QCS Test to try to increase your rank. If you do not sit the QCS Test, QTAC will assign a result of E for the purpose of calculating a rank for you. (There will be no result on your Senior Statement from QCAA.)

I enjoy VET subjects. What happens if I decide to do further study after Year 12?

If you choose to study mostly VET at school, you can still move on to further study after Year 12. At the end of Year 12, QTAC can calculate a rank based on your results in the subjects that you have taken in Years 11 and 12. You can use this rank to enter diploma courses offered by some universities and TAFE institutions. You may also be given credit at TAFE for units of competency or qualifications you have completed during Years 11 and 12.

I want to start a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship at school. What can I do when I leave Year 12?

If you are OP-eligible, you may be able to use your OP to gain entry to a university course, provided you have studied the necessary prerequisites. If you are OP-ineligible, you can choose to complete your apprenticeship/traineeship, and then use this qualification to enter the workforce or to continue with further study. You may be granted credit for the units of competency you have completed as part of your apprenticeship/traineeship.

I want to get a job after Year 12. Can I return to study later?

If you enter the workforce after completing Year 12, you can return to further study at any time. In order to be eligible for a course, you must have successfully completed any prerequisite subjects. When you apply for entry to a course, your OP (if you have one) will be used. If you do not have an OP, a rank can be calculated for you, based on what you have done at school or through some recognised training courses. You can even use life experiences and length of time spent working in an industry.



More information

www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
PO Box 307, Spring Hill QLD 4004
Level 7, 154 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane

T +61 7 3864 0299

F +61 7 3221 2553

Changes to senior assessment and tertiary entrance in Queensland

The Queensland Government has announced a steady and considered transition to revitalised senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. The earliest date for commencement of new systems would be for students starting Year 10 in 2017.

Designed to meet the needs of students, the new systems will include:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and common external assessment
- new processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move away from the Overall Position (OP) rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Students and their families should be reassured that existing processes remain fair and reliable.

For further information on the changes visit the QCAA website.