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Choices 2019

SENIOR SECONDARY INFORMATION HANDBOOK

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learning close to home

MERREDIN COLLEGE
A Wheatbelt Independent Public School



2019 Year 12 Student Councillors



Our School Motto

Advance Together

Our Vision

Merredin College is the benchmark in rural educational excellence.
It is the school of first choice for parents, where students achieve success and love to attend, staff are proud to work, and the local community values, respects and supports.

Our Mission

In partnership with our parents, we seek to instil in our students high standards for academic scholarship, integrity, leadership, and responsible citizenship so that they may enjoy freedom through knowledge, and lead healthy productive and meaningful lives.

Our Values

We are carin**G**
We are **R**espectful
We are **R**esp**O**nsible
We strive to succeed



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Welcome

Dear Student

Now is an exciting time in your life. Unlike any other time in your schooling career, you begin to follow a more individual pathway as a Year 11 or 12 student. This is so you can realise your dreams beyond school. Some students will aim to start work straight after secondary school and others may plan to undertake further studies. This handbook will help you decide which Year 11 and 12 study options best match your interests, skills, needs and academic ability. You may need to seek help from others as this is a daunting task and decisions can be difficult.

Regardless of what you decide to do after Year 12, it is essential to meet the minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy so that you increase your prospects of gaining employment or further training. This can be demonstrated by achieving Band 8 or higher in Year 9 or by passing the OLNA in reading, writing and numeracy in Year 10,11 or 12. The Foundation courses in Year 11 and 12 provide support to students who haven't met the minimum standards. These standards (and others) are also required to get into university.

I encourage you to carefully read the information in this handbook and discuss it with your parents or carers. I also urge you to talk to your teachers, Mr Gerard Rennie (Deputy Principal) or Mr Wayne Wallace (Career and Industry Manager) for more information which may assist with the important decisions you will need to make about your Year 11 and 12 study pathway.

I wish you all the best in your decision making and for your studies during the rest of your schooling.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Beverley Stanes
PRINCIPAL—2018



Introduction

The diversity of courses at Merredin College offers opportunities for young adults to prepare for a range of post secondary pathways, including further education, training or employment. In the Senior School there is a strong focus on maintaining and enhancing our ethos to meet the needs of young adults.

Studying at the senior level means that students are expected to take greater responsibility for their decisions. Additionally, students are required to be more self-directed in their study and organisation.

This handbook contains information for students who are planning to enter Year 11 and/or 12 at Merredin College. It is designed to provide a reference point for Secondary Graduation and the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirements, university, TAFE requirements and other vital information. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) provides additional information about assessment and certification. The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) regularly updates its website with information relevant to students who plan to attend a university.

A summary of the content of each course offered by Merredin College is provided in the second section of this handbook to help students decide which courses to study in Year 11 and 12. The options are many and the need for discussions with parents, teachers, counsellors and others is very important. Students and parents are advised to make themselves familiar with the contents of this handbook, in addition to all other information available to them.

Parents are an important part of this process as they provide the biggest single influence in a student's choice of direction. Students will be looking for guidance and support in making informed choices and parents are asked to be active participants in information sessions, counselling and interviews.

School Leaving Age

Most current Year 10 students will return to Merredin College and study for two more years.

By law, all students must remain in education, training or approved employment until the end of the year in which you turn 17 and 6 months or you have reached the age of 18, whichever happens first.

School Charges

Contributions and Charges

For most courses in the Senior School text books are required to be purchased as well as course charges. Books can be ordered online. Details on how to order will be with the booklists and course charges which are sent to families at the end of each year. Estimated course costs are listed so that parents understand the financial commitment for each course.

In Years 11 and 12 all course charges are compulsory.

In addition to these compulsory charges there are also additional charges for:

- (a) optional activities in any course for which there is a cost associated with their provisions (eg. excursions, camps, etc.)
- (b) other optional school-based activities which address broad learning outcomes and for which there is a cost (eg. School and social events, such as graduation dinners or school balls, etc).

Participation in optional activities (b) is voluntary, but a compulsory charge is payable if the student chooses to participate.

If you require assistance or advice on these charges please contact the School Manager Corporate Services.

Financial Assistance

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to secondary students whose parents hold Centrelink Family Health Care or Pensioner Concession Cards or Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Cards. The scheme includes the Clothing Allowance (\$115 paid to parent or school, which goes towards P&C uniforms or Yr 11 & 12 charges) and Educational Program Allowance (\$235 paid directly to the school).

If you think you are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme, please apply through the school before the end of Term 1.

Students in receipt of ABSTUDY are eligible for the ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance.

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to students up to and including the year in which they turn 18, and only if they have a parent who is a holder of one of the prescribed cards listed below:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card; or
- Centrelink Health Care Card (Family card only – not for a specific child for medical purposes, viz: “CDA” type [Child Disability Allowance]); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.
- Cards that are not eligible are TPI and Gold Cards.

A Youth Allowance is available for eligible students through Centrelink when they turn 16 – generally this is in Year 11.

Ensuring Your Success

Pre-requisite grades for ATAR courses

Before enrolling in an ATAR course, the College will look at the student's OLN categories, NAPLAN scores, Learning Area recommendations and grades received in each subject from Years 7 - 10. Please refer to the information below for guidance about your chance of success if choosing an ATAR Pathway.

ATAR 2019 PREREQUISITES

ATAR INDICATORS –

- Should be in the 10.1 class
- OLN: Category 3 for Reading, Writing and Numeracy (2 out of 3 minimum)
- NAPLAN: 2 out of 3 Band 8 [other ≥ 550]
- S1 Exam Results – these must reflect the indicated grade requirements for the course
- Learning Area recommendation

COURSE PREREQUISITES -

ENGLISH –

ENGLISH: 10.1 with an 'A' or 'B'
S1 Exam result (indicator for Learning Area recommendation)

HASS –

MODERN
HISTORY: 10.1 HASS class with an 'A' or 'B'
10.1 English class with an 'A' or 'B'
S1 Exam result (indicator for Learning Area recommendation)

MATHEMATICS –

MATHS APPLICATIONS: 10.1 Mathematics class with an 'A', 'B' or 'C'
S1 Exam result [indicator for Learning Area recommendation]

MATHS METHODS: 10.1 Mathematics class with an 'A' or high 'B'
S1 Exam result [indicator for Learning Area recommendation]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION –

P E STUDIES: 'A' or 'B' in Year 10 Physical Education
10.1 Science class with an 'A', 'B' or 'C'

SCIENCES -

CHEMISTRY: 10.1 Science class with an 'A' or high 'B'
10.1 Mathematics class with an 'A' or high 'B'
S1 Exam result (indicator for Learning Area recommendation)

HUMAN BIOLOGY: 10.1 Science class with an 'A', 'B' or 'C'
S2 Exam result (indicator for Learning Area recommendation)

****NOTE: High 'B' means – Semester 1 overall subject result $\geq 70\%$**

Homework/Study Commitments

Before you decide on which type of course to study, you need to consider the type of commitment you are able to give out of school hours. Students undertaking courses leading to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), need to do a minimum of 3 hours study per course per week, each and every week. That means if you are studying 5 such courses, you need to do a minimum of 15 hours of homework and/or study per week.

Students undertaking a General / VET pathway need to do a minimum of 1.5 hours per course per week, each and every week. That means that a typical six course unit load requires a minimum of 9 hours of homework and/or study per week.

Homework does not only consist of the work given to you by the teacher, but also of a self -directed component. This may include organising your notes, revision, research, exam study, practical study or additional tasks or questions.

Handing in Your Work on Time

It is vital in Year 11 and 12 that all assessment work is handed in on time, for all courses. Failure to do so jeopardises your grades, may result in a U (unfinished) notation – meaning the course does not count towards WACE completion requirements and does not allow you to achieve to your potential.

Attendance Commitment

Your attendance and participation in class is the key to achieving success. Studies show that students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed at school. **Aim for 100% attendance.** The only acceptable reasons for absences are if you are sick or have a school activity such as an excursion. Work commitments and holidays are not acceptable reasons for being absent from school. If you are going to be absent, see your teachers before your absence to collect work, ensuring that you keep up with your coursework and study.

Medical Conditions Affecting School/Exam Performance

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the School of any medical condition that may affect performance as soon as they enrol or become aware of the condition. If special consideration is required in exams or class as a result of the medical condition, a medical certificate and/or other documentation must be provided to the Deputy Principal (Curriculum), so that arrangements can be put in place. This is a School Curriculum and Standards Authority requirement.

The Senior School Assessment Policy, given to all Year 11 and 12 students at the commencement of the school year, details procedures for notifying staff of absences.

Course Selection

When choosing your courses:

- You are making a COMMITMENT *for two years*. It is advisable to follow a Year 11 course through to the end of Year 12, particularly for the ATAR pathway.
- Certificate courses can be completed in one year but most run over two.
- Read the detailed course descriptions.
- Consider your interests and abilities and your career aspirations.
- Check that you have achieved the minimum entrance requirements.

Choosing a Course

Before determining which courses to take, make sure you thoroughly read and understand all of the information contained in this guide. Think about selecting courses that suit your abilities, interests and ambitions. Try the **VISA** test -

- Values:** Think about the conditions under which you like to work, the hours, job security, the challenge and where the job may take you. What is important to you?
- Interests:** Think about what you like and do well – the sort of things you have enjoyed doing at school, around the house, in part time or casual work, your hobbies and interests.
- Skills:** Think about the special skills needed to do a particular job and whether you have those skills.
- Abilities:** Think about your strengths and weaknesses. Look at your school results. Choosing courses in areas you are good at will lead to greater success in senior school studies.

Changing Courses

When a student selects a program of study, he/she is committing to the courses for the year. Course changes are discouraged and can be *avoided* by:

- Choosing appropriate courses – note the **Minimum Entrance Requirements**
- Discussing any problems with your teacher and parents
- Working harder when the going gets tough; hand all work in on time, seek extra help and attend 100% of your classes.

If a student realises that he/she is not in an appropriate course (eg. too difficult or too easy), it is recommended that the student arranges to meet with the Career and Industry Manager *as soon as possible and, at the latest, prior to the end of Week 5, Term 1.* Any student who changes to a new course after the commencement of that course must catch up on any work already completed. Course changes may result in an increase in course fees.

Types of Courses and Programs

Types of Courses developed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA)

There are a number of types of courses which have been developed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

ATAR Courses

ATAR Course units for students who are aiming to enrol in a university course direct from school. These are examined by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) and the students' results are used in the calculation of an Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR).

General Courses

General Course units for students who are aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. These courses will be assessed at the school level (set by SCSA) and include an external assessment task as part of a systems wide moderation process.

Vocational Education & Training (VET) Industry Specific Courses

Vocational Education & Training (VET) industry specific courses for students who are aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school. VET industry specific courses have been developed in close consultation with WA Industry Training Councils and include full, nationally recognised qualifications and mandatory industry-related workplace learning.

Pathway Selection

Most students enrolling in Year 11 in 2019 will aim to graduate in 2020, being awarded a WACE if they complete two full years of study at school and meet WACE requirements. Some students may choose to gain full time entry into a State Training Provider (TAFE) or employment at any time during 2019 or 2020, and would hence not be eligible to receive a WACE (see *School Leaving Age* p3).

Our aim is for students to enrol in the pathway that best suits their interests, abilities and future career goals. Merredin College offers two pathways:

- **ATAR Courses - University Pathway**
- **General Courses / Vocational Education and Training (VET) Pathway**

In general, those students aiming for direct university entrance from school should complete at least 5 ATAR courses.

Those students intending to enrol in TAFE or seek employment will study a mix of General course units and VET programs.

All students study 6 courses (or the equivalent) in Year 11, a total of 12 semester-long course units. Most students will continue with these 6 courses in Year 12. Over the two years, students will be able to complete 24 course units or the equivalent. Year 11 students will **not** have sessions for directed study.

All students must complete one pair of List A units and one pair of List B units in Year 12(see page 14).

All students must complete two English units in Year 11 and one pair of English units in Year 12(see page 13).

ATAR Courses - University Pathway

These courses (studied in Year 12) are examined externally for the purposes of university entrance. Examinations, covering the Year 12 course, are held in November every year.

It is recommended that students aiming for university entrance study a minimum of five ATAR courses (five pairs) in Year 11 and a minimum of four paired ATAR courses in Year 12. Students undertaking a paired ATAR course in Year 12 will sit a compulsory external examination in each course which will be used for the purposes of university entrance.

For ATAR courses studied in Year 12, students will receive a grade based on 50% of the mark submitted by the school and 50% of the mark attained in the external examination. Students who wish to apply for a university course must study at least 4 ATAR Courses. **It is highly recommended that students select a minimum of 5 courses.**

The policy at Merredin College is to allow students to attempt courses only ***if their past performance indicates likelihood of success as*** outlined in this curriculum information guide. In general terms, capable students, aspiring to enter university directly from Year 12 will be required to enrol, and remain enrolled, in a minimum of 5 ATAR courses in Year 11. The majority of these students would be in the 10.1 Maths, English, Science and HASS stream in Year 10. Please refer to page 5 * “2019 ATAR Prerequisites” for more information.

Students who have borderline levels may be permitted to enrol in ATAR in Year 11, however, continuation in the course will depend upon satisfactory progress in Semester 1 of Year 11.

ATAR Course Choices

ATAR courses offered at Merredin College are shown below along with the link which provides you with information about the syllabus, grading, support materials and examination materials

- **ATAR English** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/english/english2>
- **ATAR Human Biology** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/science/human-biology>
- **ATAR Mathematics Applications** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/mathematics/mathematics-applications>
- **ATAR Mathematics Methods** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/mathematics/mathematics-methods>
- **ATAR Geography** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences/geography>
- **ATAR Modern History** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences/modern-history>
- **ATAR Physical Education Studies** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/health-and-physical-education/physical-education-studies>

It may not be possible to timetable courses if they are chosen by a very small number of students.

ATAR Examinations

The Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority sets, administers and marks ATAR examinations for ATAR Units 3 and 4 in all courses. Each ATAR examination assesses the specific content, understandings, knowledge and skills described in the syllabus for the pair of units studied.

All ATAR examinations have written papers and some also include practical, oral, performance or portfolio examinations. The practical ATAR examinations are held in the first week of the Term 3 school holidays, on weekends and the Queen's Birthday public holiday and during the second and third weeks of Term 4. Written examinations will start on the first Monday in November. Specific dates for examinations are available from the Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

ATAR examinations provide students and the wider community with confidence about the standards achieved at the end of Year 12. They also make it possible to compare the achievement of students, regardless of the school attended.

Enrolling in examinations

When you enrol in a Year 12 ATAR course, you will be automatically enrolled to sit the ATAR examination in that course.

If you are applying for university admission, you should check that your course selections meet the entry requirements. University admission information is available on the TISC website at www.tisc.edu.au

Special arrangements may be made if you have permanent or temporary disabilities that may disadvantage you in an examination situation. Please discuss with the Deputy Principal (Curriculum) as early as possible.

Students enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course must sit the external examination in that course. If students do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course, the grades for the pair of units completed in that year will not contribute towards any of the WACE requirements. Students who do not sit the ATAR course examination will not have a course mark or grade recorded on their WASSA (Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement), nor will they receive an ATAR course report. For ATAR courses with practical components, students must complete both the written and practical examinations.

General Courses / Vocational Education and Training (VET) Pathway

Students at Merredin College will be enrolled in ATAR English/General English and ATAR Mathematics Applications/General Mathematics Essentials. They are to choose two (2) other General Courses and two (2) Certificate Courses over Year 11 and 12.

General Course Choices

General courses offered at Merredin College are shown below with links to explain each syllabus, grading and support materials

- **General Career and Enterprise** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences/career-and-enterprise>
- **General Dance** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/arts/dance#>
- **General Drama** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/arts/drama>
- **General English** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/english/english2>
- **General Mathematics Essential** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/mathematics/mathematics-essential>
- **General Materials Design and Technology – Metal** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/technologies/materials-design-and-technology>
- **General Materials Design and Technology – Wood** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/technologies/materials-design-and-technology>
- **General Physical Education Studies** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/health-and-physical-education/physical-education-studies>
- **General Visual Arts** - <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/arts/visual-arts>

General courses also include Foundation and Preliminary courses. Foundation courses are designed for students who have not achieved the literacy or numeracy minimum standard. Preliminary courses are designed for students with special educational needs.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Choices

Vocational Education and Training (VET) allows students greater flexibility when selecting their future pathway. Detailed information about VET is available at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/vet/all-about-vet>

The two ways that VET can contribute towards the WACE are:

- **VET Industry Specific Courses**
- **VET Credit Transfer**

Other possibilities to do VET include:

- **Pre-apprenticeships in Schools**
- **School-based Apprenticeships and School-based Traineeships**

VET engages students in work related learning built on strategic partnerships between schools, registered training organisations (RTO), businesses, industry and the wider community.

VET Industry Specific Courses

VET industry specific courses are Authority-developed WACE courses where a full, nationally recognised qualification is delivered and assessed according to industry specific standards with mandatory workplace learning included. Achievement of these qualifications will contribute towards the WACE as course units.

VET industry specific courses offered at Merredin College are outlined below:

- **AUR 20716—Cert 11 Automotive Vocational Preparation** <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/automotive>
- **52824 WA—Cert II Building and Construction (Pathway – Trades)** <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/construction>
- **BSB 20115—Cert 11 Business** <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/business-services>
- **MEM 20413—Cert 11 Engineering Pathways** <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/engineering>

Workplace Learning (ADWPL)

Workplace Learning (ADWPL) is a School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) developed endorsed program which provides opportunities for students to develop skills in the workplace and obtain credit towards the WACE. Students are placed in an appropriate work situation and are required to maintain a formal record of workplace learning. To complete one unit of ADWPL a student must work at least 55 hours in a real workplace.

VET Credit Transfer

The VET credit transfer in the WACE refers to any nationally endorsed qualification or nationally recognised accredited program that is used by a student to contribute towards their WACE. Refer to: <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/vet/vet-credit-transfer>

The main VET credit transfer courses offered at Merredin College by school delivery are:

- **ICT 20115—Certificate II Information, Digital Media and Technology**
- **ICT 30115—Certificate III Information, Digital Media and Technology**
- **SYS 20513—Certificate II in Sport Coaching**

Other VET credit transfer courses which may be available via electronic delivery are:

- **CHC 30113—Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care**
- **CHC 30213—Certificate III in Education Support**
- **52831 WA—Certificate IV in Preparation for Health and Nursing Studies**

Other VET Possibilities

Pre - Apprenticeships in Schools

Pre-apprenticeships in schools are Certificate II programs that have been nominated by Western Australian industry training councils as valid pathways from school to apprenticeships.

Pre-apprenticeships in schools allow students to:

- undertake training while completing their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE);
- have an industry endorsed pathway to a full time apprenticeship;
- receive credit for successful completion of units of competency; and
- receive VET credit transfer towards the WACE.

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships equip young people with employability skills and a nationally recognised qualification.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships are paid employment based training programs for full time school students 15 years of age and over. Under these arrangements the student is both a full time student and a part time employee with the same employment and training privileges and responsibilities as other apprentices/trainees.

To be a school-based apprentice/trainee a student must fulfil certain requirements, including:

- enter into a training contract with an employer to complete an apprenticeship/traineeship;
- have their school's agreement to undertake the school-based apprenticeship/traineeship; and
- have the completed units of competency of their apprenticeship/traineeship included on their Western Australian Certificate of Education.

Only certain qualifications are able to be undertaken under a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship arrangement.

Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)

The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) is awarded to secondary school students who satisfy the requirements.

WACE Requirements

In order for students to be eligible for a WACE, they must satisfy the following requirements:

- demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and a minimum standard of numeracy based on the skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work in a knowledge-based economy—Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (OLNA)
- complete a minimum of 20 units or equivalents as described below
- complete four or more Year 12 ATAR courses or complete a Certificate II or higher.

Breadth and depth

Students will complete a minimum of 20 course units or the equivalent. This requirement must include at least:

- a minimum of 10 Year 12 units or the equivalent
- two completed Year 11 English units and one pair of completed Year 12 English units
- one pair of Year 12 course units from each of List A (arts/English/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology) - see page 14.

Achievement standard

Students will be required to achieve 14 C grades in Year 11 and Year 12 units, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units (or equivalents, see below). There will be provision for students to gain unit equivalence by completing:

- VET qualifications – a Certificate I can replace two Year 11 units, a Certificate II, two Year 11 and two Year 12 units, and a Certificate III or higher, two Year 11 and four Year 12 units
- endorsed programs – an endorsed program can replace two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units.

For unit equivalence, students may only use up to eight units of VET and endorsed programs with a maximum of four unit equivalents from endorsed programs.

Achieving a WACE will signify that students have successfully met the breadth and depth requirements of the WACE and the achievement standards for the courses they chose.

All students who meet the requirements for a WACE achieve Secondary Graduation.

A WACE generally takes two years to complete.

Parents and students are advised to check the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website, <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au> for the most up to date information on the requirements for the achievement of the WACE.

WACE List A and List B Courses for 2018

Please see below the WACE LIST A and LIST B courses for breadth of study offered by Merredin College for Year 11 and 12 in 2018. Students must choose **at least one** course from each of the lists.

List A (arts/languages/social sciences)	List B (mathematics/science/technology)
CAE Career and Enterprise	CHE Chemistry
DAN Dance	HBV Human Biological Science
DRA Drama	MDT Materials Design and Technology - Metal
ENG English	MDT Materials Design and Technology - Wood
GEO Geography	PES Physical Education Studies
HIM Modern History	PHY Physics
VAR Visual Arts	MAT Mathematics MAA Mathematics Applications MAE Mathematics Essential MAM Mathematics Methods MAS Mathematics Specialist

It may not be possible to timetable courses if they are chosen by a very small number of students. It is very important when selecting a course that attention is paid to minimum entry requirements and the teachers' recommendations.

For detail on courses, see SCSA website links as shown on page 9 of this document.

School Curriculum and Standards Authority

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is the government body in WA responsible for all courses, Statements of Results, external exams and WACE. By achieving WACE you demonstrate to potential employers, training organisations or tertiary institutions that your work during Years 11 and 12 has been completed to a certain standard.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority will issue the following documents below for students at the completion of Year 12.

Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

A **Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)** will be issued to all students at the completion of their secondary schooling. The statement of student achievement formally records, as relevant are :

- achievement of WACE requirements
- achievement of literacy (reading and writing) standard
- achievement of numeracy standard
- achievement of exhibitions and awards
- school grades, school marks, and combined scores in ATAR units *
- school grades and school marks in General and Foundation units *
- completed Preliminary units
- completed VET industry specific units
- successfully completed VET qualifications and VET units of competency
- completed endorsed programs
- number of community service hours undertaken (if reported by the school)

* In Year 12, Units 3 and 4 are reported as a year-long course. In Year 11, Units 1 and 2 are reported as a year-long course unless a student completes Unit 1 and enrolls in Unit 2 in another course at the end of Semester 1. In this case, Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be reported separately.

Certificate of Distinction and Certificate of Merit

These certificates are awarded to students who meet the eligibility criteria

ATAR Course Report

An **ATAR Course Report** is issued to students who sit an ATAR course examination in that course.

The ATAR course report records:

- school marks
- moderated school marks
- examination marks
- combined score
- state-wide distribution of combined scores in that course
- the number of candidates for that examination.

Tertiary Entrance Requirements

In order to be considered for university admission, a school leaver WACE applicant should have:

- met the **WACE** requirements as prescribed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority
- achieved **competence in English** as prescribed by the individual universities, and
- obtained a **sufficiently high ATAR** for entry to a particular university and/or course.

WACE

Universities require students to demonstrate breadth of study. Students are able to address this requirement by qualifying for the WACE.

Competence In English

Students must achieve the selected university's requirement for English Language Competence:

- Scaled mark of at least 50 in ATAR English, Literature or EALD, or
- Meet university specific concessions where a scaled mark of 50 has not been achieved. (See below) or
- Demonstrated competence through the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).

Each university has concessions to students who do not achieve this mark. Students can find out more information about these concessions and alternative admission pathways by visiting the websites of each university.

Sufficiently High ATAR

TISC is responsible for the ranking of students for university entrance. For students who wish to be considered for university entrance, their school assessment and WACE examination results will be used to calculate their ATAR.

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) calculates the ATAR based on the school and exam score provided by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Each course result is based 50% on school assessment and 50% on the examinations. Statistical adjustments are made to these results, the best 4 of which are added together to calculate a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA). The TEA is used to derive a student's ATAR.

The ATAR is a number between 99.95 and zero (0) that reports a student's position relative to all other standard Year 12 school leavers. An ATAR of 96 indicates that a student is in the top 4%, **>** than 96% of the Year 12 school leavers. An ATAR of 96 equates to a scaled average of approximately 75%. TISC then offers university places based on the ranking.

Students are not able to include certain combinations of courses in the calculation of their ATAR.

For some university courses there are additional special requirements such as prerequisite studies interviews, portfolios, auditions, fitness requirements, etc.

For detailed information about university admission requirements, students and parents should refer to the appropriate *Admission Requirements for School Leavers* on the Tertiary Institution Service Centre (TISC) website www.tisc.edu.au

University Information

Students may also make contact directly with the universities for information on courses and admission requirements. University Websites have specific sections for prospective/future students, parents and guardians and even sections for Year 10 students!

Curtin University of Technology

www.curtin.edu.au

Prospective Students Services

Phone: (08) 9266 2710 / 9266 2662 / 1300 222 888

Email: mail to:admissions@curtin.edu.au

Edith Cowan University

www.ecu.edu.au

Student Recruitment

Phone: 134 328

Email: futurestudy@ecu.edu.au

Murdoch University

www.murdoch.edu.au

Prospective Students and Admissions Centre

Phone: 1300 687 3624

Email: study@murdoch.edu.au

The University of Western Australia

www.uwa.edu.au

UWA Admissions Centre

Phone: (1800 653 050

Enquire on-line: [askUWA](#)

The University of Notre Dame (Private)

www.nd.edu.au

Phone: (08) 9433 0555

Email: fremantle.reception@nd.ed.au

TAFE Admissions

TAFE (WA) entry processes and requirements have changed. Parents and students should access the latest and most detailed information, including Minimum Entrance Requirements, from the following website: www.fulltimecourses.tafe.wa.edu.au

What does this mean for students selecting their learning program for Years 11 and 12?

Students should select a broad range of courses and experiences for which they have satisfied the recommended minimum entrance requirements. A student wanting to be prepared for the broadest range of Training courses, in addition to an English course, would typically include in their program of study a Mathematics course, combined with other courses in their area of interest. Also part time work and/or workplace learning and/or volunteer or other workplace experience would be advantageous. Students must achieve to the highest level of which they are capable.

Completing a VET qualification (AQTF Certificate) at school will increase a student's chances of entry to competitive Training courses. Participating in all classes and learning experiences and submitting all work on time are the most important strategies for doing this.

Careers Information

Deciding on a career pathway is probably one of the most important decisions you will make, so it is important that you think seriously about it. There are many people, places and publications available to help you to make up your mind.

Career Guidance at Merredin College

The Career and Industry Manager and Deputy Principal (Curriculum) can assist students with career counselling and course selection (including prerequisites and recommended background).

In addition to this there are many online website that are very useful and we can recommend

- My Future: myfuture.edu.au (use a school email to access for free)
- Skills Road: skillsroad.com.au
- Directions WA: directionswa.com.au

Career Information Centre

Directions WA have an office in Northam and Midland and can offer the following services either over the phone or in person.

- Career guidance including the development of career action plans
- Information on education and training options for a wide range of industries
- Resume creation, revising and updating assistance
- Help to develop interview skills and prepare for success
- Access to computer, internet and printing services for career development
- Online job searching and job application advice

Northam
133 Fitzgerald Street
NORTHAM WA 6401
Ph: 08 9622 6500

Midland
7 Sayer Street
MIDLAND WA 6456
Ph: 08 9274 8502

Website: www.directionswa.com.au/employment/edn.html

Workforce Development Centre - Wheatbelt

Address: 133 Fitzgerald Street
NORTHAM WA 6401
Telephone: 13 64 64
Fax: 96228611

Careers Information

Careers and Education Websites

The information gained from the following list of websites may help students determine their post-school options

Job Search

www.jobsearch.gov.au

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/apprenticeships

Australian Defence Force Academy

www.defencejobs.gov.au

Career, employment, training information in WA

www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/careercentre

Tertiary Institutions Services Centre

www.tisc.edu.au

WA Government (go to 'Education and Training')

www.wa.gov.au

