



# Year 10 Subject Selection

FAQ's and Tips to make your Senior  
Years successful



# FAQ's



**How many courses should I take in Years 11 and 12?**

The number of courses you study depends on how many courses you can realistically manage and succeed in. Generally, courses are two units and to be eligible for the HSC you must successfully complete at least 12 units of study in Year 11 and at least 10 units in Year 12.

You must also study at least four subjects. Mathematics is a subject; within that subject there are a number of courses – Mathematics General 2, Mathematics, HSC Mathematics Extension 1 and HSC Mathematics Extension 2.

# Both the Year 11 and Year 12 pattern of study must include:

- 2 units of compulsory English
- at least 6 units of Board Developed Courses
- at least 3 courses of 2 units value or greater
- at least 4 subjects (including English)
- A maximum of 6 units of Science may be included in the Year 11 pattern of study
- A maximum of 7 units of Science may be included in the Year 12 pattern of study



# FAQ's



*Can I get a high ATAR studying courses such as Visual Arts, Business Studies and Hospitality?*

Yes. It is possible to achieve a high ATAR regardless of courses studied. However, it is important to note that students who achieve very high ATARs are usually placed in the top group of students in all of their courses.



*Will I get a better ATAR if I do a lower level of maths?*

Not necessarily. While you may achieve a higher position in lower level maths, that course will tend to have a lower scaled mean to counteract the higher position. You should do the level of maths that suits your ability and future plans. Also remember that bonus points are more likely to be awarded for the higher level maths courses.

# FAQ's



**Why do some courses scale better than others?**

Courses have to be scaled so that marks in different courses can be compared with each other. Courses are scaled using the mean scores and distribution of marks, which indicate the ability of the course candidature. Courses such as HSC Mathematics Extension 2 and Physics traditionally scale well because of this. However, students must achieve high HSC marks (and high positions) to gain any benefit from scaling.

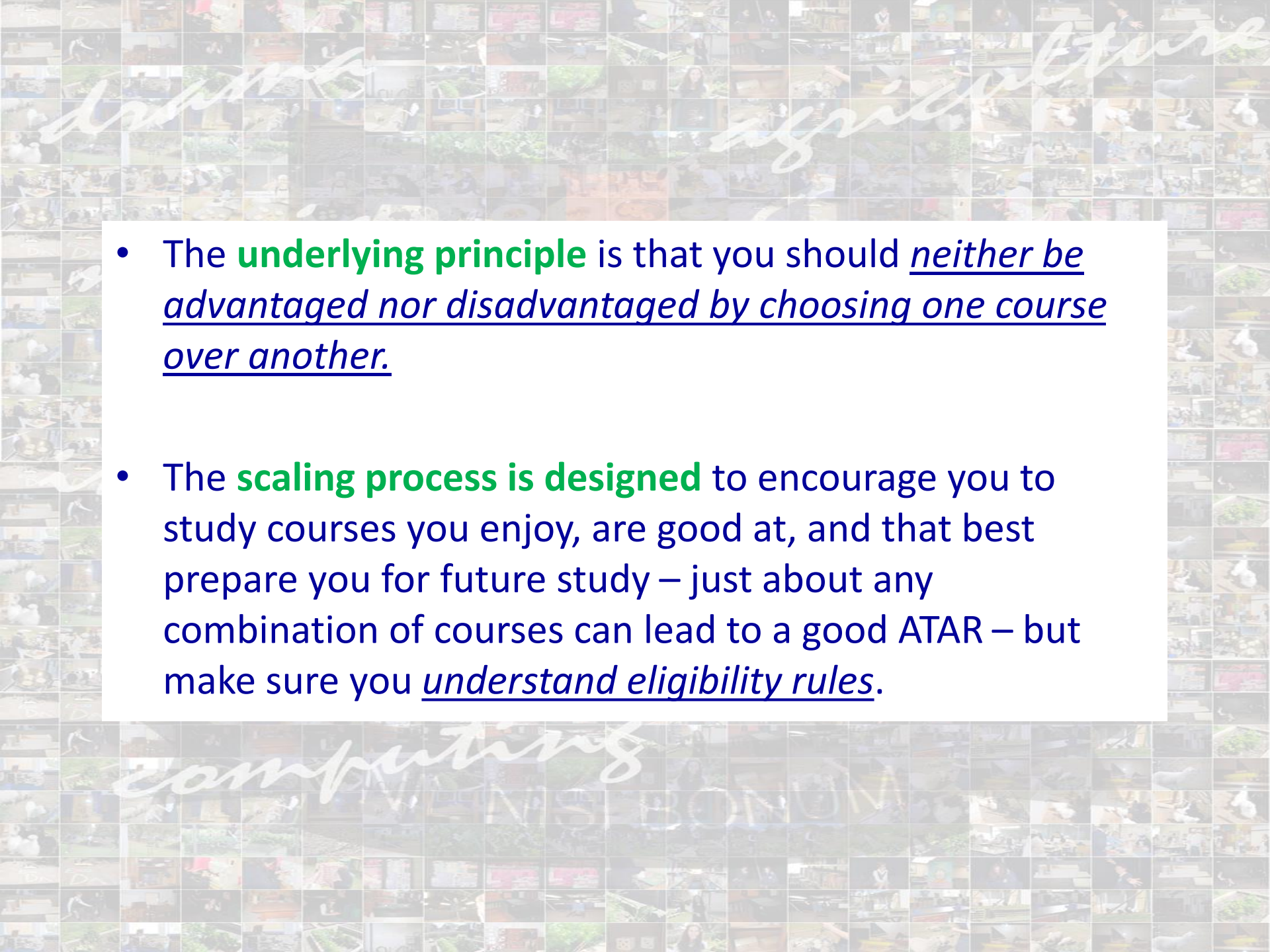


# FAQ's



## ***Can certain courses increase my ATAR?***

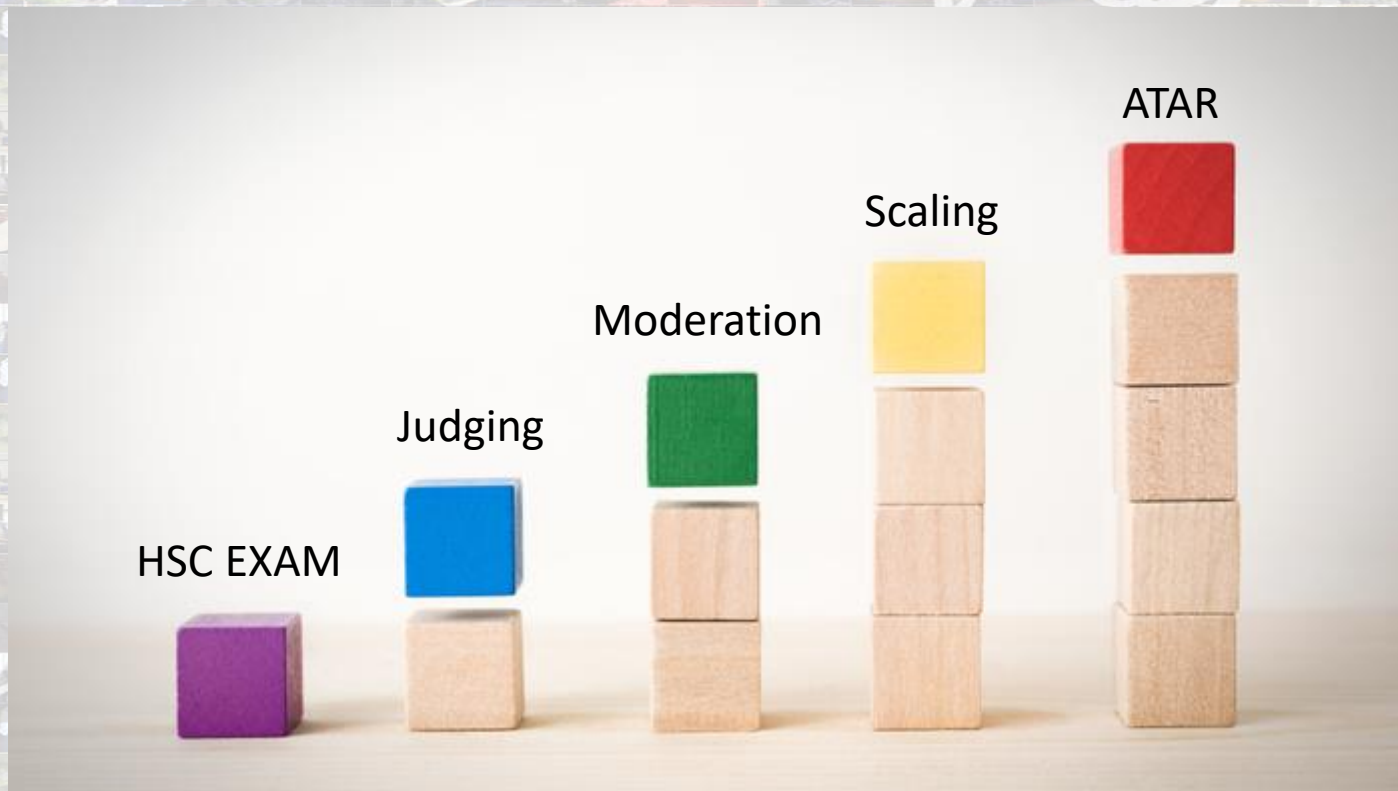
No. Your ATAR indicates your overall position; that is, how well you have performed compared to other students. You can only maximise your ATAR by choosing courses you enjoy and do well in. It is a myth that choosing certain courses increases the ATAR.

- 
- The **underlying principle** is that you should neither be advantaged nor disadvantaged by choosing one course over another.
  - The **scaling process is designed** to encourage you to study courses you enjoy, are good at, and that best prepare you for future study – just about any combination of courses can lead to a good ATAR – but make sure you understand eligibility rules.



# Question:

How is my HSC mark determined, and how does this impact my ATAR?





Internal  
Assessment  
50%



External  
Examination  
50%

HSC  
Reported  
Mark

# HSC Certificate – How your marks are reported

## Record of Achievement



This is to certify that  
**Sample Student**  
of  
**Sample High School**

has met the requirements of the Higher School Certificate and has  
received the results shown below.

Internal  
(after moderation)

Final Mark

External

(after judging)

### STAGE 6 HSC COURSES

Year	Course	Examination Mark	Assessment Mark	HSC Mark	Performance Band
2016	English (Advanced) (2 unit)	68/100	68/100	68	3
	Hospitality (2 unit)	Refer to Vocational documentation			
	Hospitality Examination (Food and Beverage)	83/100	N/A	83	5
	Mathematics General 2 (2 unit)	68/100	68/100	68	3
	Modern History (2 unit)	74/100	70/100	72	4
	Society and Culture (2 unit)	77/100	77/100	77	4

#### Board Developed Courses



# How is the HSC assessment mark determined?



## School based assessment:

- Number of tasks capped
  - 3 tasks in Year 11
  - 4 tasks in Year 12
  - task types suited to the course
  - one formal written examination style task option

Accounts for **half of the final HSC mark.**

# Moderation of assessment marks

- All raw HSC assessment marks submitted by schools are moderated by NESA in a process called **Moderation**
- **Moderation** adjusts the raw assessments submitted by schools so that the mean (average) of the group's assessments is set to equal the **mean** of the HSC exam marks obtained by the group
- The top assessment mark is set to equal the top exam mark
- The **rank order as submitted by the school** of students remains unchanged in their group





# Example Results for 2 unit Yodelling

Student	Raw School assess mark	School Rank	Aligned Exam mark	Exam Rank	Moderated assess mark	Final assess Rank
John	90	1	93	1	93	1
Tim	70	2	60	3	67	2
Peter	65	3	65	2	59	3
Matt	64	4	50	5	57	4
<u>Rianna</u>	60	5	55	4	52	5
Sue	55	6	35	7	43	6
Paula	50	7	41	6	35	7
Total	390		348		348	
Mean	65		58		58	

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#### Board Developed Courses



## 2016 Australian Tertiary Admission Rank Advice

MR FRED CITIZEN  
8 PARKVIEW DRIVE  
HOMEBUSH BAY NSW 2128

DRAFT  
ATAR Notice

**Your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR):** 74.30 \*SEVEN\*FOUR\*\*\*THREE\*ZERO

Shown below are the ATAR courses which were available for inclusion in your ATAR, together with the units that were actually included in the calculation. Information about ATAR eligibility and the calculation of the ATAR is shown over the page.

Your BOSTES Student Number: 12345678

Course name	Category	Year completed	Unit value	Units included in calculation of ATAR
Business Studies	A	2016	2	1
English Standard	A	2016	2	2
Mathematics	A	2016	2	2
Studies of Religion 1	A	2016	1	0
French Continuers	A	2016	2	2
French Extension	A	2016	1	1
Financial Services Examination	B	2016	2	2

**Your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR):** 74.30 \*SEVEN\*FOUR\*\*\*THREE\*ZERO

Issued by UAC without alteration or erasure (see reverse for details of security features)

Dr David Christie  
Managing Director  
16 December 2016



The ATAR is a rank between 0.00 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05. It is used by UAC participating institutions to rank and select school leavers for admission to most undergraduate courses. Some courses use selection criteria other than, or in addition to, the ATAR. For more information about the ATAR read pages 39–42 of the *UAC Guide 2016–17* or pages 29–32 of the *UAC International 2016–17* booklet or visit UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/) or [www.uac.edu.au/international/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/international/atar/)

The message 'Not eligible' appears on this advice if you did not satisfactorily complete the requirements for an ATAR as listed over the page.

If you are eligible to have a Limited ATAR calculated it will be sent to you on a separate advice. The Limited ATAR is calculated differently to the ATAR. The calculation of the Limited ATAR is described on page 42 of the *UAC Guide 2016–17* or page 31 of the *UAC International 2016–17* booklet or visit UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/) or [www.uac.edu.au/international/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/international/atar/)

# General aspects of the ATAR

- The ATAR assists universities in **RANKING** (top to bottom) applicants for universities
- The **best 10 units** (2 of which could be a category B) of ATAR-eligible courses are used to determine your ATAR based on your performance vs. that of your peers. **2 units of English will be included**
- The ATAR is calculated and released by the Universities Admissions Centre (**UAC**)
- **The ATAR is a rank. It is not a mark.**
- A student's ATAR indicates the **POSITION** of that student relative to their Year 7 cohort
- **2021 – ATAR of 80.00 placed in top 20% of their Year 7 cohort if all the 2016 Year 7 students completed Year 12**
- **Schools do not receive ATARs**





# ATAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**NESA**

**NSW**

**Examination + Assessment  
Mark**

**Universities Admissions Centre**

The scaled mark for  
each course is based  
on the quality  
of the candidates in  
that course in that  
year

[www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au)

**Scaled**

**2 units of English +  
next best 8 units**

**ATAR**



# How does the scaling work?



Good rankings are **more difficult** to obtain when students are **competing** against students of high quality.

So.....

The scaling model adjusts HSC Marks to compensate for the “**strength of the competition**” by comparing the overall performance of each individual subject’s cohort against each other to determine how they compare in relation to each other...



# The most common question:

Why is my ATAR low  
compared to my Year  
12 marks?





Scaling allows for your marks to be compared against not just those of other students in the same courses you studied, but also to the marks of other students in other courses...

### Raw HSC marks

#### Performance

Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) aligns raw marks to performance bands and calculates **HSC marks**

#### Position

UAC undertakes scaling process and calculates **ATARs**

Your HSC marks	Your ATAR
<b>Your HSC marks</b> provide information about how well you have performed in each of the courses you have completed.	<b>Your ATAR</b> provides information about how you are positioned overall against other students.
<b>Your HSC marks</b> indicate your performance in the different courses you have studied.	<b>Your ATAR</b> allows you to be compared with students who have completed different combinations of courses.
<b>Your HSC marks</b> are reported against standards.	<b>Your ATAR</b> is a rank, not a mark.
In NSW, <b>your HSC marks</b> are provided by BOSTES. In the ACT, <b>your Senior Secondary Certificate marks</b> are provided by ACTBSSS.	In NSW, <b>your ATAR</b> is provided by UAC. In the ACT, <b>your ATAR</b> is provided by ACTBSSS.



**Marks and ATAR have different meanings, like different currencies –**  
**ATAR is a rank**

Course	Riley		Jordan	
	HSC mark	Percentile	HSC mark	Percentile
Biology	70	43	80	75
Business Studies	70	36	80	67
English (Advanced)	70	11	80	47
Mathematics	70	21	80	51
Modern History	70	30	80	59
Visual Arts	70	14	80	51
ATAR	57.50		79.65	

# Year 10: A year of decisions

If you plan to apply for tertiary study you should select HSC courses that keep your options open for entry to a range of tertiary courses.



Good factors to consider

- Level of Interest
- Level of ability
- Relevance to career interest
- Course requirements/credit for Uni/TAFE entry
- Good variety
- Type and size of workload



Bad factors to consider

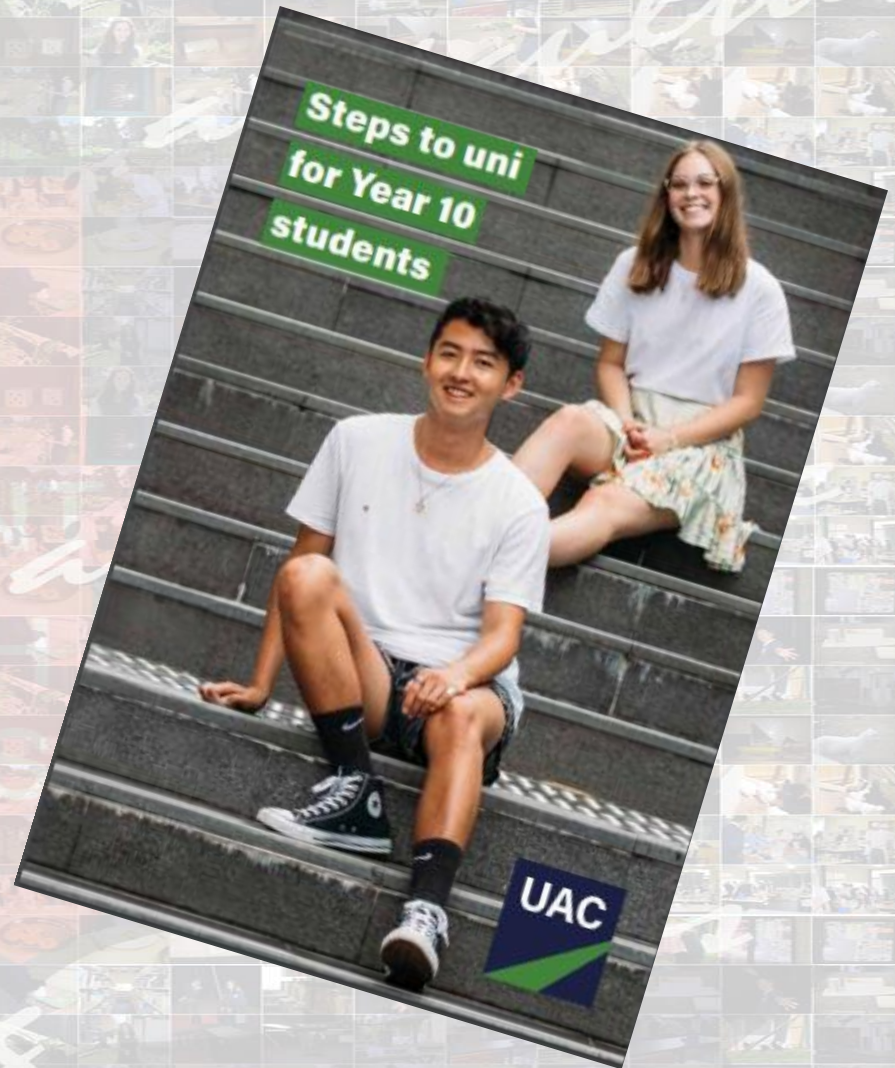
- Scaling
- Friend's choices
- Perceived "difficulty" of a subject
- PG -> M-15+



UAC's 2022 Year 10 booklet, Steps to Uni for Year 10 Students, will help you choose courses for years 11 and 12 in preparation for tertiary study in 2025.

In the Year 10 booklet, each UAC institution lists:

- areas of study
- course and subject prerequisites
- assumed knowledge, and recommended studies.





# University Open Days

A great way to research courses and get a feel for institutions and campuses is to attend open days.

[www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au)

The screenshot shows the UAC website with the following structure:

- Header:** UAC logo, UNIVERSITIES ADMISSIONS CENTRE, and navigation links: Future applicants, Current applicants, Schools, Media Centre, About, and a search icon.
- Main Content Area:** Divided into three columns:
  - Search courses:** Undergraduate, International, Postgraduate.
  - Applicant information:** How to apply, Admission criteria, Schools Recommendation Scheme, Educational Access Scheme, Equity Scholarships, ATAR, Qualifications Assessment Service, Institution profiles, Fees, FAQs and forms, Key dates.
  - Explore your options:** Parents, Year 10 students, Subject Compass: for Year 10s, Year 11 and 12 students, International Year 12 students, Post-school applicants, Interstate applicants, Postgraduate applicants, Course Compass, and **Uni open days** (highlighted with a red box).



# Why EVET?

- Practical, competency-based learning
- 70 hours of work placement
- An additional qualification to earn as part of your HSC
- Targeted at areas of demand
- Small class sizes
- Individual learning support plans
- Accelerate your learning pathway
- Can form part of your ATAR





# But...

- It's not easy
- Missed classwork to be caught up = Student's Responsibility
- Representing PHHS in an adult environment



# ATAR-Eligible courses

- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Entertainment
- Financial Services
- Hospitality – Food and Beverage
- Hospitality – Kitchen Ops (also offered as VET at PHHS)
- Human Services (Nursing, Allied Health)
- IDT –Digital Animation, Games Dev, Networking, Software
- Primary Industries – Horticulture
- Tourism, Travel and Events

Note: Only one (1) course is eligible to be counted towards an individual ATAR.  
If a student is studying English Studies and an ATAR-eligible TAFE course, the TAFE course will not count towards an ATAR.



# PHHS Expectations

- Attendance
- Time Management
- Embrace the challenge
- Team effort
- RIA



Lachlan Dunlop – Class of 2017

1<sup>st</sup> in State – Financial Services (Hornsby TAFE)



# Tips for HSC Success

- 1. Choose subjects you have the capacity to achieve in
- 2. Choose subjects you have a passion or interest in
- 3. Be honest with yourself
- 4. Don't give up all your extra-curricular activities (especially those that might come in handy when applying for your next course!)
- 5. Approach the next two years with an open mind, but with the intent to develop your focus.
- 6. 70 is the new 50...





# 5 Lessons of COVID

- Year 11 matters.
- All the little things will add up.
- The HSC is more than a mark, it's a measure of intent.
- If it's not difficult, challenging and intense, then don't expect any rewards at the end of it.
- Your community/network will support you, but it is a two-way street.



# Recommended Resources...

- UAC Digital Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1s0OQdLq16Ee3mwajbhfA>)
- UAC Subject Compass (<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/subject-compass>)
- The Careers Department (<https://app.thecareersdepartment.com/home>)
- StudyWorkGrow (<https://studyworkgrow.com.au/>)
- PHHS Careers (<https://phhscareers.com/>)
- TAFE NSW (<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/>)
- NESA HSC Subject Selection Advice (<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/subject-selection>)
- NESA HSC Syllabus Database (<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/syllabuses-a-z>)



# Questions...

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[www.phhscareers.com](http://www.phhscareers.com)