

# Higher Education & Career Planning

The South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) is awarded to those students who satisfy the prescribed conditions. It is a pre-requisite for entry to institutions of higher education, under normal circumstances, but the SACE does not, by itself, guarantee that student' applications for entry will be accepted. Applicants for entry to higher education must meet certain additional criteria.

## Terminology

The 2014 entry requirements for TAFE SA and the Universities refer to the following terms:

## Tertiary Admissions Subjects (TAS)

These are SACE Stage 2 subjects, which have been approved by TAFE SA and the universities as providing appropriate preparation for tertiary studies. Both TAFE SA and the universities require students to study a minimum number of credits of TAS to be eligible to receive a selection score or rank. At least 4 subjects from this category must be selected to be eligible for University entrance.

## Recognised Subjects

Recognised Subjects are those International Baccalaureate, interstate year 12, higher education studies or VET awards deemed by the SACE Board and the universities and TAFE SA as being eligible to be included in the calculation of the ATAR (Australian tertiary Admissions Rank) and TAFE SA Selection Score. For Recognised Subjects, scores approved by the Scaling and Tertiary Monitoring Committee will be used in calculations. Further information on Recognised Subjects will be made available to schools and students on the SATAC website.

## Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR)

The ATAR is converted from the University Aggregate. Your competitiveness in relation to other applicants is based on your ATAR which is a rank given to students on a range from 0 to 99.95. Your ATAR is calculated from your university aggregate.  
(Refer to the SATAC Tertiary Entrance Booklet).

## Precluded Combinations

Two subjects are a Precluded Combination if they are defined by TAFE SA and the universities as having significant overlap in terms of content. They cannot both count towards your ATAR or TAFE SA Selection Score.

## Counting Restrictions

Counting Restrictions are used where it is deemed desirable to limit the number of credits that can be counted towards a university aggregate & the ATAR in a specific subject area. This is to ensure students study a broad range of subjects. For example, a subject area might have eight 10 credit subjects available but the universities might set a Counting Restriction of 40 credits meaning only four can ever count towards the calculation of an ATAR.

## Completion and Successful Completion of Subjects

Subject Completion means achieving a grade of E or better, based on performance standards. Successful completion of a subject means achieving a grade of "C" or better.

## Prerequisites

Some university courses/programs require students to have studied one or more specific Stage 2 subjects to a minimum standard in order to be eligible for selection into the course/program. These subjects are known as prerequisites.

In order to fulfil a prerequisite subject requirement, you must obtain a minimum grade of C or better. The grade is used (rather than the scaled score) because the course/program administrators are interested in how well you performed in the subject itself as measured against the learning requirements of the Subject Outline.

Since prerequisites are used to determine eligibility, not rank, they do not have to contribute to the university aggregate.

## Assumed knowledge

Many university courses/programs recommend that commencing students have background knowledge in one or more specified Stage 1 or Stage 2 subjects or have an identified skill, which will enhance the student's understanding of the course/program content. This is known as assumed knowledge. Assumed knowledge is not compulsory and is not used in the selection process for entry to university courses/programs. Statements of assumed knowledge are intended purely to assist students in understanding course/program content and to allow them to make subject choices, which may be of benefit to them in their future tertiary studies.

## Prerequisite Subject Requirements

Parents and students need to check for

- Precluded combinations of subjects – see SATAC Tertiary Entrance Booklet
- Counting Restrictions on subjects – see SATAC Tertiary Entrance Booklet

All applications for University courses must be made through SATAC.

Further information is available in the SATAC Booklet, which will be provided to all students. It can also be

accessed from the SATAC website – the web address is provided in the front of this booklet.

# Tertiary Requirements

## University Entrance

Selection to university courses is based on both eligibility and rank. Eligibility allows you to be considered for selection; rank determines whether you are competitive enough to be selected. Your competitiveness in relation to other applicants is based on your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) which is a rank given to students on a range from 0 to 99.95. Your ATAR is calculated from your university aggregate

## To obtain an aggregate

To obtain a university aggregate and an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) a student must:

- qualify for the SACE
- comply with the rules regarding precluded combinations;
- comply with the rules regarding counting restrictions;
- complete at least 90 credits of study in Tertiary Admissions Subjects (TAS) and Recognised Studies at Stage 2 from a maximum of three attempts;
- include in these 90 credits
- a minimum of 60 credits must be 20 credit TAS
- a maximum of 20 credits can be Recognised Studies.

All Stage 2 subjects (except Community Studies and locally developed programs) may now be used for calculation of the ATAR. Whilst there are no grouping restrictions, there may be pre-requisite and / or assumed knowledge requirements for some tertiary courses.

Students and parents are advised to check the SATAC (South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre) guide or the SATAC website [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au) for details of pre-requisite requirements, assumed knowledge, precluded combinations of subjects, counting restrictions and further details of application procedures and timelines for TAFE and University entrance.

Tertiary institutions also provide their own information about courses and selection requirements in printed form and via their websites, as well as during open days in term 3.

## Scaling

All results for SACE subjects contributing to a student's ATAR are scaled.

Scaling is a process, which converts students' subject scores into tertiary admission points in each of their SACE Stage 2 (Year 12) subjects.

Please refer to

[www.satac.edu.au/pages/scaling](http://www.satac.edu.au/pages/scaling)

for more information on scaling.

## TAFE Entrance Requirements

All applications for TAFE courses will be ranked individually and must be made through SATAC (South Australian Tertiary Admission Centre).

Each TAFE SA course offered through SATAC has minimum entry requirements (MER) which all applicants must meet in order to be eligible for selection. For many courses, SACE completion or achievement at SACE Stage 1 meets the MER.

Details regarding entry requirements can be found in the TAFE Selection Criteria Guide and the TAFE Courses and Admissions Guide 2014.

Application instructions and information will be published on the TAFE SA Website [www.tafesa.edu.au](http://www.tafesa.edu.au).

## Alternative Entrance Requirements

Applicants who do not complete their SACE may be able to access Tertiary Education by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- TAFE SA Assessment of Basic Skills (TABS) test results.
- A completed certificate course at a designated level STAT results (adult entry test)
- Performance in a course /specific skills test/audition/portfolio/interview
- Satisfactory completion of a course specific application form
- Work experience (voluntary or paid)
- Personal competencies in other courses.