



BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

General course

Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims

For teaching in 2027

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The Building and Construction General course builds on students' appreciation and knowledge of building design and provides a context in which to integrate knowledge and practical experiences to meet opportunities and client requirements. Students are encouraged to be creative, innovative and solve problems by applying essential mathematical and engineering principles and strategies to design constructions. They consider and plan for identified individual and community needs through the application of project management skills. Students learn ways to diagnose technical terms, implement course information, communicate effectively and incorporate approved regulatory requirements while understanding the foundations of building and construction.

The course builds on students' flexibility to adapt to the continually evolving practices, conditions and requirements of the building and construction industry, with a focus on practical skills and professional expectations. Social and community responsibilities, ethical practices and environmental factors are explored in the design, evaluation of proposals and creation of structures for specified requirements. Processes required to manage production, resources, time, selection of materials and appropriate technologies are outlined and applied to complete constructions.

The course extends opportunities for students to interact and communicate effectively with varied audiences, work collaboratively and respond to the evolving demands and needs of individuals, communities and clients. In dealing with issues, such as quality assurance, time constraints, resource management, contract liability and regulatory responsibilities, students further develop ethical considerations, practices and processes to design, build and create constructions. Emphasis is placed on the importance of lifelong learning and compliance with the principles of the Western Australian *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* to equip students with the essential knowledge required for workplace safety.

Industry-related experiences acquired through this course could include, for example, aspects of computer-aided designing, working with a range of building materials, fundamental engineering, architecture and enterprising behaviours. Students acquire, develop and learn to apply practical skills for use in everyday life. These skills are transferable to a range of vocational and academic pathways to enhance employability in the building and construction industry. The skills support confidence, independent living and an appreciation of environmental resources. Key skills could include project management, working collaboratively, problem-solving, effective communication, leadership, selection and safe use of building technologies and materials, and application of regulatory requirements.

The course prepares students with and builds on essential foundations for areas such as carpentry, bricklaying, electrical trades, plumbing and gas fitting, building design and drafting, and construction project management. This knowledge will support pathways into future study at Technical and Further Education (TAFE), university or employment. Through practical experience and industry-relevant information, people become informed contributors to the community and acquire knowledge and skills for building and construction.

Aims

The Building and Construction General course aims to develop students’:

- understanding of building and construction processes and practices
- understanding of design fundamentals, materials, structural principles, spatial concepts and preferred locations for creative, safe and compliant building and construction projects
- application of structured processes to meet opportunities and needs in building and construction through informed, practical and reflective approaches
- application of organisational skills to select, use, manage and adapt building and construction technologies in safe and efficient ways
- consideration of the interconnections between community expectations, beliefs, ethical and cultural values, the environment and their effect on decision-making in building and construction.