



DESIGN

ATAR course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: General Capabilities
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 to investigate the assessment and reporting of the General Capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the General Capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the General Capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the General Capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These General Capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the General Capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

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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Representation of the General Capabilities

The General Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the capabilities into the teaching, learning and assessment program for the Design ATAR course. The General Capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Students develop critical and creative thinking as an integral part of the design process. They develop understandings and skills in critical and creative thinking during periods of evaluation at numerous stages of the design process. Students devise plausible solutions to problems, and then through interrogation, critically assess the performance of the most efficient solution. They identify possible refinements in their design solutions and analyse, evaluate and modify the developing solution to create a prototype.

Digital literacy

Students use digital tools and strategies to locate, access, process and analyse information. They use digital literacy skills and understandings to investigate and devise design ideas. Students access information from websites and software programs to develop design solutions and use computer-aided drawing software and computer control software to develop design outcomes.

Ethical understanding

Students explore and understand the diverse perspectives and circumstances that shape design processes, and the actions and possible motivations of people in the past compared to current day. They work independently and collaboratively to explore the values, beliefs and principles that have influenced past design achievements, and the ethical decisions required by global design processes today.

Literacy

Students access design content through a variety of print, oral, visual, spatial and electronic forms, including data books, texts, computer software, images and written technical materials. They learn to investigate, interpret and apply design elements and principles from a variety of sources to design solutions for tasks. Students analyse and evaluate information for reliability, relevance and accuracy. They learn to monitor their own language in the accurate use of design terms for clarity of ideas, processes and explanations of design activities and development, and evaluation of design outcomes.

Personal and social capability

Students practise and develop personal and social capability skills by enhancing their communication skills and participating in teamwork. They work collaboratively during stages of investigation and production of products. Students increase their social awareness by studying the impact of the use of materials and manufacturing technology on society and the environment.

Addressing the other General Capabilities

Although the following General Capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Design ATAR Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate these capabilities into the teaching and learning program.

- Intercultural understanding
- Numeracy

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

Summary representation of the General Capabilities in the Design ATAR course

A representation of the General Capabilities for the two years is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General Capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Design (AEDES)	ATAR	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Year 12	Design (ATDES)	ATAR	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, , PSC: Personal and social capability