

## **Alternative format practical examinations for ATAR course examination candidates with long-term injury or illness 2026**

School Leaders, Teachers of Dance, and Music

Candidates with long-term injury or illness preventing participation in a standard practical performance examination should sit an alternative format practical performance examination.

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## **Alternative format practical examinations for ATAR course examination candidates with long-term injury or illness 2026**

### **Contact:**

**Glenn Carroll** 9273 6327

[glenn.carroll@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:glenn.carroll@scsa.wa.edu.au)

Candidates with an injury or illness existing at the start of Term 3 must have their school apply for them to be examined in an alternative format, if the injury or illness will affect their participation in the standard practical performance examination of any course. **There will be no sickness/misadventure consideration for candidates on the basis of an injury or illness existing at the start of Term 3.**

The alternative format examination will be designed to assess the same aspects as the standard practical examination. An alternative, but equitable, marking key will be developed for these candidates.

Application is to be made by the school on the *Application for Equitable Access Adjustments* form, received by all schools in January. The application is to be supported by appropriate medical information. The school will be advised of the outcome of the application through SIRS. It will be the responsibility of the school to discuss the decision with the candidate. Details of the alternative format practical examination are provided to the school and candidate at the same time as the decision.

Candidates will report at the designated time and location for completion of an alternative format practical examination as specified in the *Personalised practical examination timetable*. The scheduling of these examinations will coincide with the standard practical examinations for that course.

Candidates studying Dance and Music are the most likely to need to be examined using the alternative format.

Where the nature and duration of the candidate's condition is definite and known early (e.g. an elective knee reconstruction), the application should be made by the deadline of **Thursday, 26 March 2026**. Where the injury or illness occurs after that date, application should be made as soon as it is known that the candidate will be unable to participate in the standard format of the practical examination. Unless a candidate with an injury or illness existing as of the start of Term 3 can be guaranteed to recover sufficiently to sit the standard practical examination, the school must apply for the student to sit an alternative format practical examination. The last date for application is **Wednesday, 29 July 2026**. There are no extensions to this date. Applications should be emailed to [specialprovs@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:specialprovs@scsa.wa.edu.au).

Failure to submit an application will jeopardise the candidate's completion of the examination requirements for that course. It may also impact on their achievement of the WACE and affect their ATAR. Completion of the alternative format practical examination by a candidate with a long-term injury or illness is not discretionary. Failure to complete the practical examination due to long-term injury or illness will mean that the candidate will **not** have their school grade for that ATAR Year 12 course count towards meeting any of the WACE requirements.

As this is the thirteenth year of operation for this requirement, no leniency will be provided for candidates or schools not following the required process. In recent years a number of candidates did not achieve a WACE as a direct result of ignoring this requirement.

Relevant staff should note this information and plan a reminder for the end of Term 2 to allow applications to be prepared in time for submission to the Authority by the deadlines.

It is advisable that this information be included in the school newsletter for parents and students during Term 2.