



DANCE

ATAR 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 Dance ATAR course offers a comprehensive exploration of various genres and styles, enabling students to develop both technical and expressive movement skills. Dance is a physical art which can not only demonstrate ideas but also provide insight into the contexts and cultures of others. It encourages creative and whole-body development. The course fosters students' artistic imagination and their appreciation of this art form.

Students explore practical and theoretical aspects of dance, including choreography, performance and contextual knowledge. They develop skills through technique exercises; the use of improvisation, the elements of dance and choreographic devices; and viewing dance works. They develop their own original solo performance for external assessment in the genre of their choosing, showcasing their artistic ability to bring to life a unique piece of dance.

Through the course, students build their physical motor skills while also developing their overall strength, fitness and rhythmic abilities. They learn about dance history, including cultural influences, and understand how this knowledge can inform choreographic intent. Students broaden their use of dance-specific terminology and enhance their ability to reflect critically by evaluating dance works.

Students develop transferable skills by engaging in teamwork, collaboration and communication, which are all key requirements for group performances. Beyond the practice of dancing, students also develop an understanding of design concepts, costume, lighting, props and sets.

Through the course, students acquire lifelong skills that support both personal and professional development, whether pursuing dance or applying its skills in other fields. Although the Dance ATAR course can prepare students for post-school opportunities in dance and the performing arts, the course also provides them with valuable transferable skills which can be applied to careers in areas such as education, health sciences and event management.

Aims

The Dance ATAR course aims to develop students’:

- ability to develop, articulate and explore ideas
- skills in production and performance
- ability to create dance for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts
- understanding of the contextual relationships of dance
- ability to analyse and evaluate dance in performance
- transferable skills in creative problem-solving, collaboration, innovation, flexibility, social skills, self-regulation and leadership.