



Special provisions for examination candidates

SICKNESS/MISADVENTURE

Sickness/misadventure – special consideration for ATAR course examination marks. Application **after the examinations.**

Who can apply for sickness/misadventure?

Candidates who believe their performance in the ATAR course examinations may have been affected by:

- a temporary sickness or non-permanent disability, or
- an unforeseen event beyond their control close to or during the ATAR course examinations.

The provisions do **not** cover:

- courses enrolled in as a non-school candidate
- loss of study time during the year
- alleged deficiencies in tuition
- misreading the examination timetable or instructions
- long-term illness or injury
- attendance at sporting, cultural or social events
- school assessment.

How does a candidate apply?

Application forms are available from the end of Term 3 from examination centres, and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) office and website – <http://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/special-provisions>.

Evidence of the sickness or misadventure is to be provided on the form by:

- the student
- a registered health professional (sickness claims)
- an independent witness (misadventure claims).

The student must submit the application to the Authority immediately after the examinations. Check the form for the closing date.

What happens then?

After the ATAR course examinations are over, a committee meets to consider all applications. The committee comprises representatives of:

- the medical profession
- government schools
- non-government schools
- the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

If an application is approved, an estimated examination mark, based on the candidate's school assessment in the course, will be calculated. The candidate will be awarded whichever is the higher of the estimated mark or the actual examination mark.

How are applicants informed of the outcome?

Notification will be via the student portal at the same time as the candidate's results.

SPECIAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Special examination arrangements – special arrangements for sitting the ATAR course examinations. Application **before the examinations.**

What are special examination arrangements?

Provisions made by the Authority that will assist candidates who have a permanent or temporary disability to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in the ATAR course examinations. Special arrangements are available for practical or written examinations.

Special examination arrangements are not:

- provided to students other than those sitting an ATAR course examination
- given to provide some candidates with an advantage over other candidates
- a solution for poor achievement in assessments
- to be viewed in isolation from school assessment.

What types of disabilities are considered?

- physical disability, e.g. muscular dystrophy
- illness, e.g. diabetes, chronic fatigue syndrome
- vision impairment
- hearing loss
- fine motor disability
- specific learning disability
- psychological/neurological disability
- ADD/ADHD.

What type of arrangements might be granted?

Arrangements that may be granted include:

- extra reading time
- extra working time
- rest breaks (non-working time)
- specialised equipment, e.g. desks, chairs, magnifying aids
- food and extra drink
- supervisor's instructions in writing
- use of a scribe
- use of a computer
- paper modification, e.g. coloured, in Braille, enlarged
- alternative format practical exam.

Where do students who are granted special arrangements sit their examinations?

This depends on the disability and special arrangement granted. Wherever possible, the location will take into account the individual student's needs.

- Own school – usual examination room or separate room
- Designated special examination centres or other regional venue
- Hospital – for illness/neurological condition
- Central venue – use of a computer.

Who grants these special examination arrangements?

The applications are assessed according to their disability category by suitably qualified panels. Arrangements are approved in line with policy determined by the Authority. It is the aim of the Authority to provide candidates with the examination conditions that will enable them to demonstrate their knowledge, understandings and skills fairly in the ATAR course examinations.

What information is needed to grant special examination arrangements?

The granting of special examination arrangements is not automatic, but depends on the provision of medical and/or psychological and school-based evidence to justify the decision.

Application forms are sent to schools in January. Application is made by the candidate's school by the due date (check form for details). Refer to the website <http://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/special-provisions> for information of the application process.

The application form requires statements in relation to special assessment arrangements trialled at school to cater for the student's disability and/or specific learning disability. These statements should be from the candidate's medical practitioner or psychologist and the school.

All applicants requesting additional working time, a scribe or a computer must also provide essay evidence completed to the Authority's requirements. Applicants with a reading disability must also provide results of the PAT-R Comprehension test, 4th edition.

What is involved in school case management?

Case management is vital to illustrate residual functional impact of the disability after targeted intervention:

- identify students at educational risk early
- appoint a case manager
- implement targeted intervention strategies
- trial, monitor and review arrangements starting at the lowest level considering:
 - o the needs of the student in each course
 - o Authority guidelines
- develop a student profile, including:
 - o feedback about trialled arrangements
 - o student input
 - o teacher judgement
 - o input from other agencies e.g. medical, therapy
- compile a clear and concise application for special exam arrangements.

What about psychometric assessment?

Is psychometric assessment needed?

It depends on the disability.

When is it required?

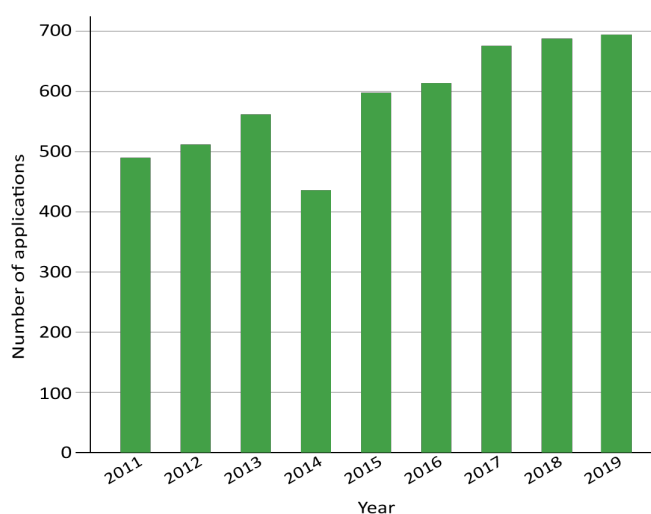
Assessment, analysis and a report are required for all applications for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD).

Who can conduct this assessment?

Any registered psychologist. It can be done through the school or privately.

What assessments are acceptable?

Common assessments used include WISC V, WAIS IV, academic skills tests. Refer to the Authority website for more details.



What was the application profile in 2019?

Category	Male	Female	Total	Approved	Partially approved	Not approved	With-drawn	Total
ADD/ADHD	27	26	53	45	3	3	2	53
Fine Motor	62	41	103	53	39	5	6	103
Hearing	5	7	12	8	4	0	0	12
Illness	35	69	104	93	8	2	1	104
Physical	30	30	60	58	1	0	1	60
Psychological	44	126	170	117	39	3	11	170
SLD	87	84	171	149	7	12	3	171
Vision	14	6	20	14	2	4	0	20
Total	304	389	693	537	103	29	24	693

Special examination arrangement applications are due at the School Curriculum and Standards Authority by **Thursday, 2 April 2020**.

For injuries or illnesses diagnosed after this date, please contact the Authority.

Contact details

Carolyn Hackett
Principal Consultant – Special Provisions
Examination Logistics
School Curriculum and Standards Authority
PO Box 816, Cannington, Western Australia 6987
Phone: 9273 6307
Email: carolyn.hackett@scsa.wa.edu.au
Internet: www.scsa.wa.edu.au