



CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

General 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 assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Careers and Employability General course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Students develop capability in critical and creative thinking as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking is integral to activities that require students to think broadly and deeply, using skills, behaviours and dispositions, such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation, in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.

Students apply research skills to collect reliable information. They will develop the skills to analyse, compare and evaluate information to create solutions to given tasks. Students will also build capacity to use open and closed questioning techniques to determine the nature of a situation, generate potential solutions, and apply decision-making models to plan, implement and evaluate solutions.

Digital literacy

Students develop digital literacy skills as they learn to use digital technologies effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems, and work collaboratively, both within school and in their lives beyond school. The capability involves students learning to make the most of digital technologies available to them, adapting to new ways of doing things as technologies evolve, and limiting the risks to themselves and others in a digital environment.

Students learn to navigate the internet to locate reliable sources of information and apply online safety measures to protect their digital footprint and reduced their exposure cyber risks. They learn to effectively use electronic media to communicate information via email, text messages, video calls and webinars. Additionally, they develop capacity to use work-related software applications to create documents, presentations and spreadsheets.

Literacy

Students become literate as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently for learning and communicating in and out of school and for participating effectively in society. Literacy involves listening to, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating multimodal texts to develop the knowledge and skills required for the modern-day workplace and to manage their own careers. Students develop an understanding and make use of career-related terms to communicate ideas associated with self-management, career building and learning experiences.

Career options and success in the workplace are improved through well-developed literacy skills. Students will learn to use appropriate terminology, spelling and grammar to convey information effectively and clearly. They also develop written and verbal communication skills to communicate messages for an intended purpose and audience, and in a suitable format. Additionally, students will

build capacity to use non-verbal communication, such as body language, facial expressions, tone of voice and active listening to build connections with a target audience.

Numeracy

Students become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across other learning areas at school and in their lives more broadly. Numeracy includes students recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully. Students use mathematical practices and conventions to collect, analyse and organise data to investigate labour market trends to make informed career decisions.

The course develops financial literacy skills through teaching students how to manage personal finances, track income and spending, and budget. It also helps students interpret labour market data, identify trends in industry growth and understand the impact of megatrends on employment.

Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning effectively. The capability involves students demonstrating a range of practices, including recognising and regulating emotions; developing empathy for others and understanding relationships; establishing and building positive relationships; making responsible decisions; working effectively with others and handling challenging situations constructively; and developing leadership skills.

In the course, students explore key concepts such as a growth mindset, emotional intelligence, resilience and personal development. They learn strategies to enhance self-awareness, motivation, and social skills, helping them adapt to different personal and workplace situations. Additionally, students apply self-reflection to assess their career suitability by considering their strengths, values, skills and interests.

Addressing the other general capabilities

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

- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding

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 Careers and Employability General 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	Careers and Employability (GECEM)	General	✓	✓			✓		✓
Year 12	Careers and Employability (GTCEM)	General	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

Key

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