



Achieving a WACE

Learning is a lifelong process that doesn't end when students finish Year 12. Schooling should prepare students for multiple educational pathways. The WACE is flexible and accommodates students with diverse backgrounds, interests and abilities and from different learning communities.

After thirteen years of schooling students should demonstrate a minimum level of literacy and numeracy, and be prepared for further study in either training or university or entry to the workplace.

To achieve a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) – 2016 and beyond

The minimum requirements to receive a WACE in 2016 and beyond are listed below.

Achieving a WACE will signify that students have successfully met the breadth and depth requirements of the WACE and the achievement standards for the courses they choose.

General requirements

Students must:

- demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and a minimum standard of numeracy based on the skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work in a knowledge-based economy. The literacy and numeracy standard can be met either through the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment or by achieving Band 8 or above in the associated components of reading, writing or numeracy in the Year 9 NAPLAN tests
- complete a minimum of 20 units or equivalents as described below
- complete at least four Year 12 ATAR courses or complete* a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification. Note: the partial completion of a Certificate III or higher VET qualification may meet this requirement according to predetermined criteria.

*Note: In the context of VET in the WACE, the term 'complete' requires that a student has been deemed competent in all units that make up a full qualification.

Breadth and depth

Students will complete a minimum of 20 course units or the equivalent. This requirement must include at least:

- a minimum of 10 Year 12 units or the equivalent
- two completed Year 11 English units and one pair of completed Year 12 English units
- one pair of Year 12 course units from each of List A (arts/English/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology).

Achievement standard

Students will be required to achieve 14 C grades in Year 11 and Year 12 units, including at least six C grades in Year 12 units (or equivalents, see below).

There will be provision for students to gain unit equivalence by completing:

- VET qualifications – a Certificate I can replace two Year 11 units, a Certificate II, two Year 11 and two Year 12 units, and a Certificate III or higher, two Year 11 and four Year 12 units
- endorsed programs – an endorsed program can replace two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units.

For unit equivalence, students may only use up to eight units of VET and endorsed programs with a maximum of four unit equivalents from endorsed programs.

Note: For additional detail refer to the WACE Manual available from the Authority website.