



ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

ATAR 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 Accounting and Finance ATAR 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 are integral activities that require students to think broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions, such as reason, logic, and resourcefulness.

In the course, students develop their critical and creative thinking and problem solving abilities as they identify, interpret and analyse business scenarios and financial information. They apply their skills by evaluating accounting issues, drawing conclusions and making logical recommendations.

Literacy

Students become literate by developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to use language for learning, communication and active participation in society. Literacy involves listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating oral, print, visual and digital texts, adapting language for different purposes and contexts.

In the course, students examine and interpret various business data and information. They respond to case studies, financial information and accounting scenarios, recording, reporting, analysing, and interpreting financial and non-financial information. Students learn to use the specialised language of accounting and finance to apply concepts to contemporary issues and events, effectively communicating conclusions and/or recommendations based on their analysis of business situations. Formats can include formal reports, written presentations or multimedia presentations, or a combination of these.

Numeracy

Students become numerate by developing the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all learning areas and in their daily lives. Numeracy involves students recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

In the course, students apply relevant numeracy knowledge and skills when they source, sort and identify relevant numerical data, perform calculations, solve problems, and create financial statements. They apply these skills to a variety of business scenarios including the calculation of unit costs, selling or quotation prices, break-even points, and the manual preparation of budgets and performance reports, as well as statements of comprehensive income, cash flow and financial position.

Addressing the other general capabilities

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

- Digital literacy
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding
- Personal and social capability

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 Accounting and Finance ATAR course

A representation of the general capabilities for the two years of the Accounting and Finance ATAR course is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Accounting and Finance (AEACF)	ATAR	✓				✓	✓	
Year 12	Accounting and Finance (ATACF)	ATAR	✓				✓	✓	

Key

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