



BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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 support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching, learning and assessment program for the Building and Construction General course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Critical and creative thinking is integral to the design process. Students use critical and creative thinking to develop an appreciation of different perspectives and ideas, consider alternatives and draw conclusions in the design and construction process. They acquire and use information from various sources for creative thinking, performance testing and ways to improve the design, appearance and functionality of a construction. Students conduct a critical review of which processes, materials and technologies worked well and consider ways for improvement. The process of inquiring, generating, analysing and reflecting guides students to become confident, critical and creative thinkers in their learning and production.

Literacy

The course fosters literacy skills for interactions with various people in the building and construction industry. Students communicate the integrated relationship between people and ways to apply the roles and purpose of work health and safety regulations. They access design processes, building instructions and technological content through a variety of print, oral, visual, spatial and electronic forms, including data books, texts, computer software, images and written technical materials. Students learn to investigate, interpret and apply design ideas and technologies principles from a variety of sources to design solutions for an opportunity, individual or community need. An evaluation of information for relevance and accuracy provides the opportunity to respond in writing. For design and response assessment tasks, students present findings orally, in writing or diagrammatically. Accurate language use supports clarity of ideas, processes and explanations of design solutions and for the evaluation of structures.

Numeracy

Numeracy is fundamental in calculating and evaluating quantities of materials, and in the design and construction of structures for the Building and Construction General course. Students build on their understanding and skills of numeracy while undertaking tasks to produce, test and evaluate products. This could include the application of fundamental and practical geometry and estimation of quantities, area, volume and perimeter of designated designs. The application of numbers, proportional thinking and units of measurement fosters greater understanding of mathematical and technical concepts that explain how designed and constructed products and structures are built, function and meet regulatory requirements to be safe and compliant. Students interpret and use numerical data, such as plans, specifications, material quantities and estimations, and convert scaled drawings to actual size to inform decision-making and ensure precision in building and construction.

Addressing the other general capabilities

Although the following general capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Building and Construction General 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 Building and Construction 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	Building and Construction (GEBCN, G1BCN, G2BCN)	General	✓				✓	✓	
Year 12	Building and Construction (GTBCN)	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