



DESIGN

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 and learning program for the Design General course. The General Capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Students develop critical and creative thinking skills as an integral part of the design process. They develop understandings and skills in critical and creative thinking during periods of evaluation at numerous stages of the design process. Students devise plausible solutions to problems, and then through interrogation, critically assess the performance of the most efficient solution. They identify possible refinements in their design solutions and analyse, evaluate and modify the developing solution to create a prototype.

Ethical understanding

Students explore and understand the diverse perspectives and circumstances that shape the design process, actions and possible motivations of people in the past compared to current day. Students work independently and collaboratively to explore the values, beliefs and principles that have influenced past design achievements, and the ethical decisions required by global design processes today.

Intercultural understanding

Students explore different beliefs and values of a range of cultural groups and develop an appreciation of cultural diversity. They develop an understanding of different contemporary perspectives with regard to design inspiration, product styles, building materials, energy supply and use, and design influences on different groups within society, and how they contribute to individual and group actions in the contemporary world.

Personal and social capability

Students practise and develop personal and social capability skills by enhancing their communication skills and participating in teamwork. They work collaboratively during stages of investigation and production of products. Students increase their social awareness by studying the impact of materials and manufacturing technology on society and the environment.

Addressing the other General Capabilities

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

- Digital literacy
- Literacy
- Numeracy

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 Design 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	Design (GEDESD) (GEDESG) (GEDESP) (GEDEST)	General	✓		✓				✓
Year 12	Design (GTDESD) (GTDESG) (GTDESP) (GTDEST)	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