

Acceleration in Stage 6 courses

ACE 8043

Last Updated: 21 October 2021

Decisions about the acceleration of individual students will be made by principals.

Students may accelerate in all courses (grade advancement), in one course or in a number of courses.

Acceleration must be based on the principle of compression of work, not omission of work. Students who accelerate in one or more courses must achieve the required outcomes of the courses, but in a shorter time frame (ie one or more years in advance of their cohort).

In Years 7–12, acceleration must occur in the highest level course within the key learning area or subject.

Students may only accelerate in Board Developed Courses. The following table illustrates Stage 6 courses in each key learning area that students may accelerate in.

Key Learning Area	Courses that students may accelerate in	Notes
English	English Advanced	Students accelerating in English Advanced may also take English Extension. Once the Year 11 requirements for English Extension and English Advanced have been met, students may start English Extension 1 and English Extension 2.
Mathematics	Mathematics Advanced	Students accelerating in Mathematics Advanced may also take Mathematics Extension 1. Once the Year 11 requirements for Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Advanced have been met, students may start Mathematics Extension 2.
Science	Any Board Developed Stage 6 Science course, with the exception of Life Skills courses.	Once the Year 11 requirements for at least one of the Board Developed Stage 6 Science courses have been met, students may start Science Extension, together with at least one Year 12 Science course.
Technologies	Any Board Developed Stage 6 Technology course, with the exception of Life Skills courses.	Students cannot accelerate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing Applications • Marine Studies.
HSIE	Any Board Developed Stage 6 HSIE course, with the exception of Life Skills courses.	Once the Year 11 requirements for either Year 11 Ancient History or Year 11 Modern History have been met, students may start History Extension, together with Year 12 Ancient or Modern History. Students cannot accelerate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Studies.
Creative Arts	Dance Drama Music 2 Visual Arts	Once the Year 11 requirements for Music 2 have been met, students may start Music Extension, together with Year 12 Music 2. Students cannot accelerate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceramics • Photography, Video and Digital Imaging • Visual Design.
PDHPE	Any Board Developed Stage 6 PDHPE course, with the exception of Life Skills courses.	Students cannot accelerate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Early Childhood • Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation.
Languages	Any Board Developed Stage 6 Language course for which students are eligible.	

An accelerating student may be permitted to repeat a course in which they have been accelerated, although this would not be the expectation.

Students may undertake Preliminary and/or HSC courses in advance of their usual cohort or in less than NESA's stated indicative times.

Students who are genuine accelerants, and for whom the school confidently expects a grade 'A' to be awarded at the completion of the Stage 5 course, may begin studying a Stage 6 course in the corresponding learning area while still in Stage 5.

Where a student has demonstrated a talent in a particular course and has completed all Stage 5 requirements for that course, the student may begin studying Stage 6 in an appropriate course.

Similarly, where a student demonstrates an authentic interest in, and aptitude for, a Stage 6 course for which there is no corresponding Stage 5 course, the student may begin studying the Stage 6 course when all mandatory requirements in that particular KLA have been completed.

Accelerating students may count towards their Higher School Certificate results obtained in advance of their cohort. This means that acceleration, other than grade advancement, can be regarded as a form of accumulation.

Accelerating students should complete all assessment tasks (or their equivalent) that are undertaken by students completing the usual HSC program. This does not mean that accelerating students must complete every assessment task at the same time as other students. In some instances this will clearly be impossible, as it depends on when the student is accelerated and the amount of work that has been covered. There may need to be flexibility in the order and timing of assessment tasks. This also means, however, that accelerating students may have to do additional work at certain times and that, to some extent, programs of work may have to be specifically tailored to each student's needs.

Note 1: students accelerating in a Stage 6 course must complete the *HSC: All My Own Work* program (or equivalent) prior to commencing the course.

Note 2: for information regarding early commencement of Stage 6 VET courses, refer to Guidelines for access to Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses by students in Years 9 and 10.

Accelerated progression: procedures

ACE 8104

Last Updated: 31 January 2020

For students accelerating by less than two years, schools should simply enter students for their accelerated course(s) for the Stage 5, Preliminary or HSC study pattern(s) via *Schools Online*. Where the proposed acceleration is for two years or more ahead of the student's age cohort and is likely to lead to early entry for the secondary credentials, the principal must inform NESA prior to the acceleration of the student. The Proforma for informing the NESA of proposed acceleration of student two or more years ahead of the student's Year cohort should be used for this notification.

Entries for the Record of School Achievement or Higher School Certificate for students who are accelerants should be submitted by schools via *Schools Online*.