

Eligibility requirements for the Higher School Certificate

ACE 8004

Last Updated: 20 July 2018

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the Summary of Changes that may impact the below.

To be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate, students must:

- a. have gained the Record of School Achievement or such other qualifications as the NSW Education Standard Authority (NESA) considers satisfactory;
- b. have attended a government school, an accredited non-government school, a school outside New South Wales recognised by NESA or a college of TAFE;
- c. have completed *HSC: All My Own Work* (or its equivalent);
- d. have satisfactorily completed courses that comprise the pattern of study required by NESA for the award of the Higher School Certificate; and
- e. sit for and make a serious attempt at the requisite Higher School Certificate examinations.

Note: Students undertaking only Stage 6 Life Skills courses are not required to complete the *HSC: All My Own Work* program or its equivalent.

Students re-entering the NSW school system without a Record of School Achievement

ACE 8053

Last Updated: 25 July 2018

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the [Summary of Changes](#) that may impact the below.

Students re-entering the NSW school system who do not hold a Record of School Achievement may still be eligible to enter for the Higher School Certificate. If the principal deems that the student has achieved other qualifications that the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) considers satisfactory, the principal may allow the student to begin the Preliminary course. The student's prior learning and experience, including study in other systems, participation in Board Endorsed Alternative Education Programs and life/work experience, may be included in the principal's considerations.

Students re-entering the NSW school system with TAFE Certificate II in General and Vocational Education or Certificate II Foundations for Vocational and Further Study

ACE 8054

Last Updated: 3 June 2013

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the [Summary of Changes](#) that may impact the below.

Students who have these credentials issued by TAFE NSW are eligible to proceed to study for the award of the Higher School Certificate.

Higher School Certificate students not eligible for a Record of School Achievement

ACE 8055

Last Updated: 25 July 2018

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the [Summary of Changes](#) that may impact the below.

The principal may allow provisional entry to Preliminary courses to students who had their Record of School Achievement withheld by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) or who did not satisfactorily complete all requirements for the award of the Record of School Achievement. In such cases, at the time of Higher School Certificate entry, the principal must be satisfied that the student has achieved the equivalent of the Record of School Achievement. This judgement may be based on the student's satisfactory study of Preliminary courses.

Higher School Certificate students entering the NSW system from interstate or overseas

ACE 8056

Last Updated: 25 July 2018

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the [Summary of Changes](#) that may impact the below.

A student who enters the NSW system from interstate or overseas for the first time and wishes to enter for HSC courses in that year must demonstrate to **the principal's satisfaction** that they:

- have the equivalent of a Record of School Achievement
- have achieved the outcomes of the requisite Preliminary courses
- are able to enter in sufficient time:

- for the student to meet all the requirements of the HSC courses
- for the school to provide assessment mark(s).

They will normally enter by 30 June.

Alternatively, students may enter (by 30 June) to study HSC courses by self-tuition.

Students entered to study by self-tuition are eligible to receive a Result Notice only.

Note: students arriving after 30 September of the HSC course year may not sit for the examination.

Requirements for the Higher School Certificate for students with special education needs

ACE 8029

Last Updated: 18 December 2017

Changes to ACE rules and procedures are occurring to reflect the Stronger HSC Standards reforms.

NESA strongly encourages all ACE users to review the [Summary of Changes](#) that may impact the below.

To qualify for the award of a Higher School Certificate all students must fulfil the requirements detailed in ACE 8004 Eligibility requirements for the Higher School Certificate.

Students with special education needs can meet requirements for the Higher School Certificate using a combination of Board Developed Courses (including Life Skills courses) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Industry Curriculum Framework courses/options or a combination of Board Developed Courses and Board Endorsed Courses (including Content Endorsed Courses).

Students with special education needs may access Vocational Education and Training (VET) Industry Curriculum Framework courses by undertaking the course under regular course arrangements or by undertaking selected units of competency within the course, identified through the collaborative curriculum planning process. For more information, see the Stage 6 Industry Curriculum Frameworks Support Document for Students with Special Education Needs.

This flexibility allows schools to develop a pattern of study that challenges each student according to his or her needs and that facilitates a successful transition from school to adult life.

Stage 6 Life Skills courses have Board Developed status, 240 indicative hours (120 hours Preliminary courses and 120 hours HSC courses) and can be used to meet the requirements for the award of the Higher School Certificate. To satisfy pattern of study requirements for the Higher School Certificate a student may count a maximum of six units from courses in Science (including Life Skills courses) in each study pattern.

Stage 6 Life Skills courses have no HSC examinations and results cannot be used in the calculation of a student's ATAR.

Board Endorsed Religion and Language Courses

Schools may develop courses for students with special education needs for Religion and in a Language for Stage 6 for Board endorsement.

For more information see School Developed Board Endorsed Courses.

For information on the Stage 6 Languages Life Skills Syllabus Framework contact the Board Inspector, Languages.