

## Accessing Stage 6 Life Skills courses

ACE 7002

*Last Updated: 4 December 2017*

All students are entitled to participate in and progress through the curriculum. Life Skills courses provide course options for students with disability in Years 11–12 who cannot access the regular course outcomes, particularly students with an intellectual disability.

Before deciding that the student should access a Life Skills course, consideration should be given to other ways of helping the student to engage with regular course outcomes. This may include a range of adjustments to teaching, learning and assessment activities. If the adjustments do not provide a student with sufficient access to some or all outcomes in Years 11-12, one or more Life Skills courses might be appropriate.

Life Skills courses are not an appropriate option for students:

- performing below their cohort
- who could be helped with appropriate adjustments and support.

All decisions about curriculum options for students with disability should be made through the collaborative curriculum planning process.

A student studying any Stage 6 Life Skills course will usually have completed one or more courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content in Years 7–10.

In special circumstances a student who has not undertaken one or more courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content in Years 7-10 may wish to enrol in Life Skills courses for Stage 6. These special circumstances might include situations where:

- a student has attempted regular courses in Years 7-10 but has experienced significant difficulty
- a student transfers from interstate or overseas
- a student has a deteriorating condition.

Schools are not required to seek permission for students to access Life Skills courses or submit planning documentation to NESA.

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

Students undertaking Stage 6 Life Skills courses in Year 12 may be exempt from the HSC minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

## Higher School Certificate requirements for students undertaking Life Skills courses

### ACE 7005

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

Students are able to satisfy the requirements for the HSC by completing Life Skills courses.

Students with disability can also meet requirements for the HSC 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).

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

### Time allocation for courses

When programming Life Skills courses all indicative hour requirements should be met. This will ensure the courses are credentialled on the HSC. Each Stage 6 Life Skills course has an indicative hour requirement of 120 hours in Year 11 and 120 hours in Year 12 with the exception of the Studies of Religion I Life Skills course which requires 60 indicative hours in both Year 11 and Year 12.

In some cases it may be necessary to vary the time allocated by increasing the number of hours of study for a course. When considering whether an increase in time is necessary, schools should ensure that indicative hour requirements for each enrolled course are met.