



Senior Schooling Information for Year 10 Parents

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School

Senior Schooling Team:

A/ Principal- Senior School- Ms Alyce Cleary
A/ Deputy Principal- Senior School- Mr Mitchell Kennedy
Head of Department- Senior School- Mr Mick McDougall
Dean of Studies- Senior School- Ms Cathy Clipson
Dean of Students- Senior School- Mr Brad Dixon
Year 10 Coordinator- Ms Amanda Stewart
Guidance Officer- Senior School- Mr Steve Jones

Key Terms:

QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education)

- Effectively means a student has passed Year 12 in QLD.
- Student must have a Year 12 level of literacy & numeracy and have accumulated 20 points through studying subjects at school or TAFE or doing a traineeship etc.
- Points are awarded when a student passes a subject or is deemed competent in a VET certificate, most subjects studied over year 11/12 give a student 4 points.

ATAR Pathway to attaining a QCE

- This pathway is for students achieving a B or higher in Year 10 English and Maths and is only relevant if they want to go to University.
- 99.5 is the highest ATAR and 30 is the lowest.
- The ATAR is developed by combining results in 5 general subjects or 4 general subjects and a certificate.
- 3 subjects must remain the same throughout Year 11 and 12, students should study 6 subjects in total at all times.

Personalised Pathway to attaining a QCE

- In this pathway students study up to 3 general subjects, at least one certificate course and the remainder of applied subjects, totalling 6 subjects all together.
- University pathways are still possible by attaining a certificate or diploma and studying any prerequisite courses, however no ATAR is awarded.

QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority)

Monitors/regulates all matters to do with Senior Schooling – subject outlines, assessment results, quality assurance of senior courses etc. (www.qcaa.qld.edu.au)

QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre)

- QTAC is responsible for all university offers in Queensland
- They release a “Tertiary Prerequisites” (booklet) each year in June/July, this is essential to all Year 10’s planning on attending university as it helps with Year 11 subject selection. (www.qtac.edu.au)

Prerequisites

- A subject, audition, special test or portfolio which must be done in order to gain a place in a Uni degree/TAFE diploma.
- Eg : Mathematical Methods is needed for Engineering, Science degrees.
- Eg : General English or Literature is needed for most degrees at most universities.
- Eg : Auditions are usually required for Dance, Drama and Music courses.
- Eg: UMAT exam is need for Dentistry and some Medical courses at some universities.



Changes to the Senior System- FAQ's

Why change the current system?

The reforms are the biggest change to senior education in more than 40 years. The senior assessment system in its current form began in the early 1980s, and the existing tertiary entrance system was introduced in 1992. In 2014, a report by the Australian Council for Educational Research found that while the existing arrangements are serving Queensland students well, they will not be sustainable over the longer term.

What are the key changes?

The new systems will include:

- a new senior assessment model that combines school-based assessment developed and marked by classroom teachers, with external assessment set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA); and
- a move from the current Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), as used by other Australian states and territories.

What will be different about senior assessment?

- Year 12 students typically complete up to seven final assessments in each Authority subject. Under the new system, students will complete four assessments for each subject, leaving more time for teaching.
- In senior General subjects, three of these assessments will be school-based and one will be externally set and marked.
- External assessments are designed to give an extra layer of information about what students have learnt and can do in a subject. They will generally contribute 25% towards a student's final result in most senior subjects. In Mathematics and Science subjects, they will generally contribute 50%.

What will be different about tertiary entrance?

- Eligible students will be awarded an ATAR. The ATAR will replace the OP.
- ATARs will be calculated by comparing student results using a process known as 'inter-subject scaling', as used in a number of other Australian jurisdictions. The current Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test will be discontinued, allowing more time for subject-based teaching and learning.
- A broader range of learning will be able to contribute to the ATAR than the OP.

What's the difference between the OP and the ATAR?

The ATAR is a finer grained rank order of students than the OP and is commonly used in other states and territories. It's a number between 0.00 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05, whereas the OP consists of 25 bands. The ATAR will be more useful in selecting students in very high demand courses.

How will ATARs be calculated?

ATARs will be based on five subjects, which can either be five Authority subjects; or four Authority subjects, plus one vocational education and training qualification at Certificate III or above. Students will have to satisfactorily complete an English subject to be eligible for an ATAR, but their English result will not be a mandatory inclusion in the calculation of their ATAR.