

My Future,  
My Culture,  
My Way.

## The HSC sets you up for a great future

Factsheet for Aboriginal students



### What is the Higher School Certificate (HSC)?

School students in New South Wales generally work towards the Higher School Certificate or 'HSC' in Years 11 and 12. It is the highest level of attainment you can reach at school.

### How will the HSC help me?

Completing the HSC gives you the best opportunities for your future, helping you on the path to becoming a leader in your community. A good education is the key to a great future, and will help you discover and achieve your goals and dreams.

Students who finish the HSC get better jobs, earn more, and live healthier lives than students who leave school early. The HSC is a great way to show employers that you are a great bet – and it's something you can use all through your life.

### How does the HSC work?

The HSC starts in Term 4, Year 10, and you keep working toward your final exams at the end of Year 12.

- You choose 5–7 subjects to study for Year 11 and 12. The only compulsory subject is English, and there are different levels to suit you.
- Your subjects can include vocational education, or a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship, so you can get out of the classroom and into paid work, while still working toward the HSC.
- You have to show that you've got basic reading, writing and maths skills to get you through life – this is called the Minimum Standard.
- In Term 4 of Year 12, every HSC student takes the same exams.

**If you tick all of these boxes, you will receive your HSC.**

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, waterways and mountains on which we learn, grow and share.  
We acknowledge Elders past and present for their tireless effort in paving the way for our future young people.  
We extend that respect to our future leaders and youth of today.*



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Aboriginal artwork created by Felicity Adams who is a proud descendant of the Kamilaroi people, currently living and learning on Dharug Country.

# What do I need to do?

## Plan for success

Choose the best subjects that will set you up for success.

You'll probably hear all sorts of theories about maximising HSC results, but you should pick subjects which:

- you enjoy and are good at and;
- help you move towards a career that interests you.
- This may include combining your HSC with a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

## Prepare for Year 12

- The end of Year 11 is a chance to review how things are progressing. Look at your marks so far and identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Work with teachers you trust to come up with a plan and make any changes you need to help with exams and your final year.
- Reach out to any friends also sitting the HSC to support each other and study together. Year 12 is way less stressful with friends!

## Be positive and informed about the HSC

Remember exams are not a 'make or break' moment and reliable sources will always support this underlying message.



## Connect to culture

Year 12 student Penelope Fisher said her education had been transformed by feeling valued and connected.

*"I am part of the dance group here at Northlakes. I love coming to school and learning about my culture, and it's helped me feel supported and more motivated to focus on studying for my HSC exams next year"*

-Year 12 student, Penelope Fisher

## Information to support you on your journey

- HSC Subject Selections
- HSC Pathways
- HSC Disability Provisions
- HSC exam tips for the lead up to exams
- HSC exam tips for exam day
- COVID-19 Special Consideration Program
- Student Illness or Misadventure information
- Minimum HSC Requirements

For more information, head to:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/resources>



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