

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank



4. Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

ATAR is used to assess and compare the results of school-leaving applicants' entry into university

Most university courses in NSW and the ACT attract greater numbers of applicants than available places. The ATAR is a system that enables universities to rank applicants for university entrance in a fair and equitable way. The [University Admissions Centre \(UAC\)](#) releases your ATAR the same day as [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) releases your HSC results.

Universities use the ATAR to select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on a selection rank (ATAR + any applicable adjustments). For detailed information see [Frequently Asked Questions about the ATAR](#).

NSW ranks to a common scale and name used by all states.

The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in their age group (i.e. all 16 to 20 year olds in NSW). So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).

Universities use the ATAR to select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments). Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students (e.g. a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test).

The average ATAR is usually around 70.00

If every school student went on to achieve an ATAR, the average ATAR would be 50.00. But because some students leave school early and the ones who stay on to receive an ATAR are a smaller, more academically able group, the average ATAR is higher.

ATARs are calculated in each state to reflect a student's rank against other students in their state. In NSW, the ATAR is calculated and released by UAC. In the ACT, it's calculated by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies, in consultation with UAC, and released by schools. NSW and ACT ATARs are equivalent to those in other states. For example, an ATAR of 85.00 in NSW or the ACT is equivalent to an ATAR of 85.00 in other states.

Your ATAR is:

- a rank, not a mark
- based on scaled marks (not on actual HSC marks)
- calculated by the universities and released by UAC.

Eligibility for an ATAR

To be eligible for an ATAR you must satisfactorily complete at least 10 units of ATAR courses. Note: only NESA developed courses can count towards an ATAR.

These ATAR courses must include at least:

- eight units from Category A courses
- two units of English

- three Board Developed courses of two units or greater
- four subjects.

A student's ATAR is a rank based on an aggregate of scaled marks in 10 units of ATAR courses comprising:

- your best 2 units of English and
- your best eight units from the remaining units, which can include up to two units of Category B courses.

UAC have created [a two-minute video](#) which explains everything you need to know about the ATAR.

Why do universities use scaled marks?

Scaling is designed to encourage students to take the courses for which they are best suited. It adjusts the students' raw marks to an estimation of what their marks would have been if all courses had been studied by all students. The underlying principle is that students should neither be advantaged nor disadvantaged by choosing one HSC course over another.

How do you apply for university?

Applying for university through UAC

You can apply for undergraduate and postgraduate (coursework) study through UAC if you are:

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen
- a permanent resident of Australia
- the holder of an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa.

You can also apply for undergraduate study through UAC if you're an international student who has completed/is undertaking one of the following qualifications in 2020 or 2021:

- an Australian Year 12 in or outside Australia
- an International Baccalaureate Diploma
- a New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3.

Everyone else needs to apply directly to the uni.

For more detailed information, visit UAC's [How to apply for uni](#) site.

How do you apply to interstate universities?

For most interstate study, applications are processed through state-based tertiary admissions centres. Contact the relevant tertiary admissions centre:

State	Tertiary Admissions Centre
Northern Territory and South Australia	SATAC
Queensland	QTAC
Tasmania	University of Tasmania (including Australian Maritime College courses)
Victoria	VTAC
Western Australia	TISC Apply directly to the University of Notre Dame for courses offered in WA.

Most tertiary admissions centres increase their processing charges at the end of September, so apply early to avoid higher charges and ensure you can apply for your chosen course.

[Course Seeker](#) - Course Seeker provides easy access to details of all undergraduate courses offered by Australian higher education institutions. Find the course that's right for you.

[ComparED](#) - The ComparED website helps you compare student and graduate experiences across Australian higher education institutions.

Lost your ATAR Advice Notice?

If you've lost your ATAR Advice Notice you can request, by purchasing, a Printed or Digital ATAR Advice Notice from the [UAC Shop](#). For more information refer to the [UAC](#) website ATAR section.

For more information contact

UAC phone

For general information before release of HSC results (phone between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday – Sydney time):

- 1300 ASK UAC (1300 275 822)
- from mobiles (02) 9752 0200
- from overseas +61 2 9752 0200.

Contact after the release of the ATARs:

- [UAC Media Centre](#)
- 1300 MY ATAR (1300 692 827)
- from mobiles (02) 9119 5012
- from overseas +61 2 9119 5012.

UAC website

uac.edu.au (includes online email enquiry service).

Pathways and Transitions
NSW Department of Education
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