



Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Assessments	School assessments are marks that describe a student's achievement in the given course relative to those of the other students in the school.
Board Developed Course	Board Developed courses are courses which have been developed by the Board of Studies. They are examined externally at the Higher School Certificate examination and contribute to the ATAR. NB: Financial Services, Tourism, Automotive and all VET courses are NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Developed Courses.
Board Endorsed Courses	Designed by TAFE or University or private providers. They can be counted as (BEC) units towards the HSC, are not examinable and do not contribute to the ATAR.
NESA	The NSW Education Standards Authority, under the Education Reform Act 1990 (NSW awards certificates to students who comply with the Act and the Board's rules.
Category A, B courses	Board Developed courses are classified by the universities as Category A or Category B. The universities allow no more than 2 units of Category B courses to be included in the calculation of the ATAR. Category B courses include all VET framework courses delivered by the school and Financial Services, Electrotechnology, Automotive and Tourism and Events delivered by TAFE.
Content Endorsed courses	Designed by NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). They appear on the HSC, are not HSC examinable and do not contribute to the ATAR.
Course	A course is a program of study within a subject. For example, courses within the subject of Music are: Music Course 1 and Music Course 2.
Extension Courses	Additional Study of a subject at a higher level. Each extension is of 1 unit value.
EVET	Externally Delivered VET courses for secondary students by Registered Training Organisations.
Competency	An Industry recognised skill.
Competency Based	Tasks which provide evidence that a student has achieved industry Assessment recognised skills in a course.

Higher School Certificate	The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is an exit certificate that marks the (HSC) completion of 13 years of schooling. It is awarded and released by NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).
Preliminary & HSC courses	Each 2 unit Board Developed course is divided into a Preliminary course (Year 11) and an HSC (Year 12) course. Students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before undertaking the HSC course.
ROSA	Record of Student Achievement is an exit certificate that is awarded to students who leave school after year 10 and before they complete the HSC.
Subjects	A subject is the general name given to an area of study; some subjects have more than one course.
Unit	Each course is divided into units of study. Most courses are of 2 unit value, but it is possible to take more than 2 units in some subjects. There are some 1 unit courses.
University Admission	The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank is a rank calculated by the universities. It is a number between 0 and 99.95 which indicates a student's academic ranking based on their HSC performance in the state. The ATAR is used to assist universities to select students. There is no concept of passing or failing with the ATAR.
VET Framework courses	Vocation Education and Training courses are dual accredited. They are recognised by industry and tNSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for the HSC and are based on national industry competency standards.