



Senior Schooling: Information for Parents

What is an ATAR?

Some students at Bundaberg State High School may choose to be eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) at the completion of their Senior Studies. It serves as a ranking system that reflects a student's overall academic performance in their final years of secondary education, providing a standardised measure for university admissions. The ATAR is a percentile rank rather than a mark, indicating a student's position relative to their peers within the same age group for a given year.

The ATAR helps tertiary institutions select applicants for their courses by indicating each student's position relative to their peers.

How can a student be ATAR-eligible?

An ATAR is calculated based on an aggregate of scaled results from a student's five best ATAR-eligible inputs. [To be eligible for an ATAR](#), a student's program at school must include one of the following combinations:

- Five General subjects (at Units 3 and 4); or
- Four General subjects (at Units 3 and 4) plus an Applied subject (at Units 3 and 4); or
- Four General subjects (at Units 3 and 4) plus one completed VET qualification at Certificate III level or above.

To be eligible for an ATAR, students must satisfactorily complete (ie achieve a minimum grade of C or higher) an English subject. The result in English will only be included in the ATAR calculation if it is one of the student's best five scaled results.

What is a selection rank?

A selection rank is a numerical value used by tertiary institutions to assess an applicant's suitability for a specific course. It is derived from various criteria, including academic achievements and other factors like adjustments for certain circumstance (eg equity, location). The ATAR is often mistaken for the selection rank, but they are distinct. An ATAR value is converted into a selection rank, which may or may not include additional adjustments. Note that a selection rank can be achieved by non-ATAR eligible students through completion of VET competencies such as Certificate III courses, providing an alternate pathway to tertiary study.

How does a student receive their ATAR?

ATARs are calculated by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) and released via the QTAC ATAR portal after students have completed Year 12. Students will be guided through a process of registering for the ATAR Portal, exploring University entry requirements and completing QTAC application forms during Senior Skills (SSK) sessions and/or in individual appointments with the Senior School Guidance Officer.