

WACE breadth-of-study

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The Curriculum Council has changed the breadth-of-study requirement for the achievement of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) in 2010 and beyond. This follows feedback from schools, industry and the universities.

The WACE breadth-of-study requirement of overarching outcomes will be replaced with a requirement that students must complete, in their final WACE year (Year 12), at least one course (see page 2) from each of list A (arts/languages/social science) and list B (mathematics/ science/technology). The new lists (available on page two of this document) are similar to those previously required for the tertiary entrance rank (TER).

Council acknowledges that the breadth requirement may also constrain the course selection of students taking a vocational pathway. Council has agreed to waive this requirement for students in their final year of senior secondary schooling whose study program comprises 50 per cent of endorsed programs, including VET.

Council has recommended that the breadth-of-study requirement again be reviewed once all of the courses have been implemented. Students' enrolment patterns will provide the basis of this review.

Note that this change to the WACE requirements affects students for the first time in 2010. Schools will need to counsel their current Year 10 students accordingly.

This change does not affect current Year 11 and Year 12 students. For the achievement of the WACE in 2008 and 2009 the breadth-of-study requirement remains unchanged. This means that for 2008, there is no WACE breadth-of-study requirement and for 2009, students will need to include all 13 overarching learning outcomes in their overall program of study to achieve a WACE.

WACE breadth-of-study list (2010 onwards)

For a student to achieve a WACE in 2010 and beyond, the student must complete at least one course from each of the following lists. For this purpose, completion of a course means that the student has:

- received a grade in at least two units in their final year of senior secondary schooling in that course
- made a genuine attempt in the examination, unless exempt, for that course.

If 50 per cent of a student's final year of senior secondary schooling comprises endorsed programs, including VET, then the breadth-of-study requirement is waived.

List A (arts/languages/social science)		List B (mathematics/science/technology)	
ARA	Arabic	ACF	Accounting and Finance
ABL	Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia	AIT	Applied Information Technology
AIS	Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies	VAU	Automotive
CAE	Career and Enterprise	AET	Automotive Engineering and Technology
CFC	Children, Family and the Community	APS	Animal Production Systems
CBS	Chinese: Background Speakers	AVN	Aviation
CSL	Chinese: Second Language	CSC	Computer Science
VCS	Community Services	BIO	Biological Sciences
VAR	Creative Industries: Art	BCN	Building and Construction
VME	Creative Industries: Media	BME	Business Management and Enterprise
VMU	Creative Industries: Music	VBU	Business Services
DAN	Dance	CHE	Chemistry
DRA	Drama	VCO	Construction
ECO	Economics	DES	Design
ENG	English	EES	Earth and Environmental Science
ELD	English as an Additional Language/Dialect	EST	Engineering Studies
GEO	Geography	FST	Food Science and Technology
FRE	French	VHO	Hospitality
GER	German	HBS	Human Biological Science
HEA	Health Studies	VIT	Information Technology
HEB	Hebrew	ISC	Integrated Science
HIS	History – Modern	MMT	Marine and Maritime Technology
HAM	History – Ancient	MDT	Materials Design and Technology
IBS	Indonesian: Background Speakers	MAT	Mathematics
IND	Indonesian: Second Language	MAS	Mathematics Specialist
ITA	Italian	OED	Outdoor Education
JBS	Japanese for Background Speakers	PES	Physical Education
JSL	Japanese: Second Language	PHY	Physics
LIT	Literature	PPS	Plant Production Systems Studies
MBS	Malay for Background Speakers	VPI	Primary Industries
MPA	Media Production and Analysis	PSY	Psychology
MOD	Modern Greek	VSR	Sport and Recreation
MUS	Music	VTO	Tourism
PAE	Philosophy and Ethics		
PAL	Politics and Law		
REL	Religion and Life		
VAR	Visual Art		
WPL	Workplace Learning		

If schools have students in their final year of senior secondary schooling (Year 12) who may not meet the above breadth-of-study requirement, then they can apply for special consideration to the special provisions committee.

Please note:

- Endorsed programs are unlisted. When VET industry courses are developed they will be allocated to a list (e.g. Construction will be in list B).