

1.1.2 WACE points of clarification

Repeating a subject or course unit

A subject (D or E code) can be repeated; however, it counts only once towards meeting the WACE requirements.

Repeat units that are completed can be counted in the total number of subjects/units required for a WACE. A unit is completed when all of the assessment requirements have been met and achievement is recorded for the unit. Any course units can be used for the purpose of determining the C grade average.

Unit combinations (from 2009)

For every six course units at least one two-unit combination must be included in the program completed. The two-unit combinations may include two units of an English course. Each two-unit combination must be from a different course. Repeat units can count in the two-unit combination.

Calculation of the C grade average

Please refer to the *Revised WACE Manual 2008*, page 48, for information on calculation of the C grade average.

Endorsed programs

Endorsed programs are awarded unit equivalence according to specific criteria and an endorsement process. Partial equivalence is also recognised for community organisation and personal development programs. Endorsed programs can contribute up to 50% of the WACE unit completion requirement. The table on page 18 provides a summary of how each category of endorsed programs contributes to the WACE. Endorsed program policy and procedures are outlined in Section 3.

Endorsed program equivalence (2008 and 2009)

A unit equivalent of an endorsed program will equate to half a subject equivalent (two course units are equivalent to one subject). Please refer to the table below for the sliding scale.

Table 2: Endorsed program equivalence

No. of endorsed program unit equivalents	Subject equivalent	No. of subjects/ course equivalents used in C grade calculation	Min. no. of Year 12 subjects/course equivalents incl. in calculation
0	0.0	8	4
1	0.5	7.5	4
2	1.0	7	4
3	1.5	6.5	4
4	2.0	6	3
5	2.5	5.5	3
6	3.0	5	3
7	3.5	5	3
8	4.0	5	2
9	4.5	5	2
10	5.0	5	2

Unit equivalence for VET stand alone

VET programs will be allocated unit equivalence according to the number of nominal hours where one unit is equivalent to 55 nominal hours. See Table 3 on the following page.

Table 3: Unit equivalence for VET stand alone

Nominal hours	Unit equivalents	Nominal hours	Unit equivalents
less than 54	0	330-384	6
55-109	1	385-439	7
110-164	2	440-494	8
165-219	3	495-549	9
220-274	4	550-604	10
275-329	5	605-659	11*

*Up to 10 unit equivalents can be counted towards meeting WACE requirements.

In allocating unit equivalence:

- there is no limit to the number of unit equivalents that can be accumulated for VET stand alone
- unit equivalence is awarded consistently according to nominal hours, irrespective of delivery strategies, clustering or packaging of units of competency or class contact time allocated, and
- a unit of competency is awarded the same unit equivalence whether it is undertaken as a single unit, as part of a cluster or a complete qualification, and irrespective of the qualification to which it is linked.

School based traineeships (2008 and 2009)

Students who have completed school-based traineeships are accommodated in these requirements, as their program could include up to five subject equivalents in VET or endorsed programs as well as two Structured Workplace Learning subjects. Apart from two units of English completed in their final year of senior secondary studies these students need to meet the requirements for two other subjects (or four course units) for the number of subjects required for the WACE.

Endorsed programs provide credit towards the WACE

Details of how endorsed programs provide credit towards the WACE can be found on page 18 of the *Revised WACE Manual 2008*.

Curriculum Council English language competence

The table below clarifies the standard for English language competence required for the WACE from 2008 to 2015.

Table 4: English language competence requirement 2008-2015

2008	2009 to 2015
<p>At least two units from an English course must be completed in the final year of senior secondary schooling. Part-time students must study two units of an English course in their final year of study.</p> <p>The English language competence standard is a way of providing public assurance that students can deal with everyday written and spoken communications, including in the workplace (e.g. read instructions and textbooks, write personal letters, give and follow everyday instructions, complete forms etc.).</p> <p>The standard will be related to the standard required to achieve a C grade or better in stage 1 English. The English language competence standard will be defined by work samples. A set of student work/assessment samples will be developed to illustrate and define the required standard.</p>	<p>Students will be required to successfully complete four units of an English course in their final two years of study in senior secondary school. If students are part-time they must study two units of an English course in their final year of study.</p> <p>The English language competence standard, defined by work samples, will be related to the standard required to achieve a C grade or better in stage 1 English. A set of student work/assessment samples will be available to illustrate and define the required standard.</p> <p>Once students achieve the English language competence standard, schools will be able to submit this information to the Council.</p>

2008	2009 to 2015
<p>Teachers will use the students' assessments during the year as evidence of attainment of the language competence standard. Work sample exemplars and descriptors will be provided to assist teachers to make these judgements. The emphasis will be on the key functional skills of reading and writing.</p> <p>An average of C grade or better in an E code English subject, or an average of Level 4 or better across two units studied in Year 12 in the English course (achieved 2006 or 2007), or an average of C grade or better across two units studied in Year 12 in English as an Additional Language/Dialect or Literature (achieved in 2007) will also satisfy the competence requirement.</p>	<p>An average of C grade or better in an E code English subject, or an average of Level 4 or better across two units studied in Year 12 in the English course (achieved 2006 or 2007), or an average of C grade or better across two units studied in Year 12 in English as an Additional Language/Dialect or Literature (achieved in 2007) will also satisfy the competence requirement.</p>

A pass in the Curriculum Council English language competence test is acceptable for meeting the English language competence standard required for a WACE.

Schools should apply to the special provisions committee if they believe a student has been disadvantaged by the requirements for English language competence.

Sitting WACE examinations (from 2009)

To be eligible for the WACE, students who are in their final year of compulsory schooling and are enrolled in a pair of stage 2 or 3 units, must sit for and make a genuine attempt at the examination (unless exempt).

Students who are enrolled in three or fewer stage 2 and/or stage 3 paired units, and who are working towards completion of an Australian Qualification Framework VET Certificate 1 or higher in the year they are completing the WACE requirements, are exempt from sitting the examination. This includes students completing a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship and those involved in the school apprenticeship link program.

Students enrolled solely in stage 1 and/or preliminary units are not required to sit the examinations for the achievement of the WACE. However, they may sit the examination if they so wish.

Breadth of study requirement (from 2009)

This requirement is under review and will be communicated to schools via the Council Circular early in Term 1, 2008.

Completion of the equivalent of senior secondary studies

Guidelines for 2008 to 2009

Schools may enrol students in their final year of senior secondary studies if they consider that studies completed elsewhere indicate that the students have the potential to achieve in the final year program.

If such students successfully meet these requirements for WACE, then recognition will be given for having achieved the equivalent of one year of senior secondary studies (Year 11) elsewhere. Students in this situation are required to complete at least five full-year Curriculum Council subjects (or equivalent), achieve an average C grade across four E code subjects (or equivalent) and achieve English language competence.

In 2009, students who have received a full year of block credit will also be required to complete two units of an English course, 10 hours of community service and meet the breadth of study requirement.

Where recognition is given for the achievement of the equivalent of one semester of senior secondary studies elsewhere, students need to meet 75% of the WACE requirements during the remainder of their senior secondary years. That is, they will need to complete at least 7.5 full-year (or equivalent) Curriculum Council subjects (including an average C grade over six subjects, four of which are in their final year), and achieve English language competence.

In 2009, students who have received a full semester of block credit will also be required to complete three units from an English course (of which two must be studied in Year 12), complete 15 hours of community service and meet the breadth of study requirement.

Guidelines for 2010-2015

Schools may enrol students in their final year of secondary studies if they consider that studies completed elsewhere indicate that the students will be successful in their WACE studies. Students who complete the equivalent of an eleventh year of schooling overseas, interstate or through TAFE can have this study recognised toward meeting the WACE requirements.