

Essential advice for Year 11 students

Dropping courses

Before you drop an HSC course at the end of Year 11, ask yourself the following questions:

– **Will you still be eligible for an ATAR?**

To be eligible for an ATAR, NSW Year 12 students must satisfactorily complete at least 10 units of ATAR courses. These ATAR courses must include at least:

- 8 units from Category A courses
- 3 Board Developed courses of 2 units or greater
- 2 units of English
- 4 subjects.

A subject is an area of study (eg mathematics). Within that subject there may be a number of courses (eg Mathematics Standard 1, Mathematics Standard 2, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2). If you study, for example, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2 and Biology you will not meet the four subjects requirement because you have only studied three subjects: mathematics, English and biology.

Also be careful if you change to English Studies or Mathematics Standard 1. These are Category B courses. Make sure you still have 8 units of Category A courses.

– **Is it a prerequisite for a tertiary course you might want to study?**

Some institutions specify HSC courses you need to have completed in order to be offered a place in certain tertiary courses. If prerequisites exist, they are listed in the course descriptions on UAC's website.

– **Is it assumed knowledge for a tertiary course you might want to study?**

Many institutions assume you have knowledge of specified HSC courses when you begin certain tertiary courses. If you haven't studied these HSC courses you can still be selected for the course but you may have some difficulty coping with your studies. Assumed knowledge is also listed in the course descriptions.

Don't think about how your courses are going to scale: you won't get a higher ATAR simply by studying, or not studying, a particular HSC course. The underlying principle of scaling is that you should be neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by choosing one HSC course over another.

Accelerating courses

If you accelerate your studies by attempting an HSC course in Year 11, your scaled marks for that course will be calculated in the year you complete it and contribute to your ATAR the following year.

Your Year 11 results

Your studies this year do matter. They are the foundation for your Year 12 courses. Also, if you apply for an early offer to university through the Schools Recommendation Scheme then the institutions will base part of their assessment on your Year 11 results. Early offer schemes run by individual institutions often assess your Year 11 results, too.

What you can do now

- If you are thinking of studying a law degree at UNSW Sydney, you can sit the Law Admission Test (LAT) in Year 11 because the results are valid for two years. If you're not happy with your results, you can try again in Year 12. Read more at lat.acer.edu.au.
- It's a good idea to get to as many uni open days (virtual or on-campus) as you can before you make your final course preference decisions next year. Many are held on the same day or weekend, so take the opportunity to attend some open days while you're in Year 11.

Around 49% of HSC students do only 10 units in Year 12.
The next most common pattern is 11 units (around 17%).
