

UAC Year 10 Presentation

Choosing HSC courses:
facts and myths



Overview

- HSC and beyond
- Focus on the uni option
- ATAR facts and myths
- UAC Year 10 booklet
- Summary



Choosing your HSC courses

It's important to consider

- What you are good at
- What you are interested in
- What you think you might want to do when you leave school



Inspirations

- Who & what inspires you?
- What do you like to do?
 - Helping others
 - Being creative
 - Working with technology
 - Finding out how things work
 - Working indoors or outside
 - Working with or without others



Health Sciences

I'm interested in... health, nutrition, how the body works, people, science, alternative medicines, helping others

I'm... caring, curious, dependable, patient, a good communicator, critical thinker, curious, organised, observant, open minded

...and I'm good at... leadership, fine motor skills, solving problems, working with others, time management, listening



Health Sciences

I could be an... ambulance officer, a paramedic, podiatrist, radiographer, occupational therapist, chiropodist, chiropractor, doctor, physiotherapist, speech therapist, audiologist, sonographer, community health worker, nurse, health researcher



Health Sciences

I could study... biomedical sciences, chiropractic, Chinese medicine, clinical science, dental science, medical imaging, medical laboratory science, naturopathy, nuclear medicine, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, osteopathy, physiotherapy, podiatry, radiography, speech therapy



Health Sciences

...and these are subjects I could choose for Year 11 and 12...

Biology, Chemistry, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE), Mathematics, Physics



Post-school options

- University
- TAFE
- Other tertiary providers
- Work



Going to university

- There are many pathways but most involve the HSC
- Your selection for most uni courses will be based the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)



HSC facts

- To do the HSC you need to complete at least 12 units in Year 11 and at least 10 units in Year 12.
- English is compulsory.
- At least six units must be in courses examined by the Board of Studies.



Your HSC marks

For your HSC you will receive two marks for each course:

- School assessment – based on assessment tasks and tests
- Examination mark – based on the HSC examination

*These marks indicate the **standard** you have reached in the course.*



ATAR facts

Your ATAR ...

- allows you to be compared with other students who have completed different combinations of courses
- shows your **POSITION**, or where you are ranked amongst all other HSC students
- is a **RANK**, not a mark
- is provided by UAC



Will you be eligible for an ATAR?

- To get an ATAR you need at least ten units of Board Developed courses – these are HSC courses that are examined by the Board of Studies. Your teachers will tell you which courses do not count.
- Your ATAR is based on your best two units of English and the best eight units from your remaining courses.



Scaling

- Different HSC courses have very different groups of students studying them. To create an even playing field actual marks need to be adjusted before they are added. This is called scaling.
- What scaling does is to calculate what your mark and your position would be if all courses were studied by all students.



How the ATAR is calculated.

- Once your marks are scaled an aggregate mark is calculated using your best two units of English and the best eight of your remaining units.
- Aggregate marks lie between 0 and 500.
- Your position is then determined and your ATAR is calculated.



A couple of myths ...

- Don't choose a VET framework course such as Business Services or Hospitality – you won't get a good ATAR.

False – it doesn't matter what course you do ... it is still possible to get a good ATAR. But remember that you can only include two units from Category B (VET) courses.



A couple of myths ...

- I can only maximize my ATAR if I study hard subjects.

So what is a hard subject?

The talk is that chemistry, physics and the extension math courses are subject that will give you a high ATAR ! **WRONG**

What if you are not good at these subjects?

We advise students to do subjects they are good at and that they will do well in as this is the only way to maximise your ATAR



In summary...

How do I get a good ATAR?

- Choose courses that
 - you are interested in,
 - you are good at,
 - are relevant to what you want to do.
- Work hard
- Have a life
- Ignore the ATAR and rumours about it



and finally...

- Thank you for your attendance and your attention.
- You may wish to use the UAC Year 10 Booklet to help you choose your HSC courses.

