



OP to ATAR

UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND



From 2021, The University Of Southern Queensland (USQ) will be accepting students with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) rather than an Overall Position (OP).

What is an ATAR?

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is the primary criterion to assess and compare the results of high-school applicants for undergraduate-entry into University.

ATARs are expressed as a number on a scale from 99.95 (highest) to 0.00 (lowest) in 0.05 increments. The amount of students in each increment is determined by the Year 12 population in Queensland. ATARs below 30.00 are reported at "30.00 or less". The ATAR is a percentile rank, not a mark, relevant to other students in any given year. An ATAR of 75.00 does not mean you score of 75%, it indicates you were placed in the top 25% of Queensland in their Year 12 cohort.

How it an ATAR calculated?

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate ATARs for Queensland school leavers. The ATAR is calculated based on an aggregate of scaled results from your five best ATAR eligible inputs from the following three different schemes:

- 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.

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) then provides QTAC with students subject results (Units 3 and 4 only) and completed VET qualifications. The subject scaling process is undertaken. Students are placed in a descending order of merit based on their best five subject aggregates.

There is no magic formula for getting a good ATAR. It all depends on how well you have done in your best 5 subjects compared to other students.

QTAC does not endorse or support the use of "ATAR calculators" due to the changing nature of the student cohort from year to year.

Further information is available on the QTAC webpage qtac.edu.au/atar-my-path/ATAR

What about scaling?

Scaling allows for fair comparison between subjects. Each subject has its own syllabus, objectives and assessment criteria assessing differing knowledge and skillset. Results achieved in one subject can be significantly different to another subject. QTAC is not able to predict how an individual subject will scale. The quality and performance of students will determine the scaling of a subject.

How will an ATAR be used for admissions at USQ?

From 2021, the ATAR will be used for Year 12 students seeking admissions into The University of Southern Queensland undergraduate degrees. The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) will remain as Queensland's senior secondary school qualification.

QCE vs ATAR

QCE and ATAR are different and have different purposes. QCE certifies learning, shows an individual has achieved a specified standard of learning at senior schooling level and may be considered by employers and the general community. ATAR tells us the students ranking compared to other students in the state. The only intended purpose of ATAR is to assist tertiary study institutions with selecting applicants.

QCE is awarded and released by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) whereas the ATAR is calculated and released by QTAC.

How and when will students receive their ATAR?

Students will be able to access their ATAR result notification at qtac.edu.au on 19th December 2020 at 9:00am, the same time as the release of their QCE results by the QCAA.

What if I don't qualify for an ATAR?

If you do not receive an ATAR or achieve the result you were hoping for, then there are pathway options into USQ. USQ will continue to accept certificate III or higher as a pathway option. For further information regarding pathways, visit usq.edu.au/pathways

** General subjects are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to tertiary studies and to pathways for vocational education and training and work.*

***Units 3 / 4 are typically studied in Year 12*

**** Applied subjects are suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work.*

CRICOS: QLD 00244B, NSW 02225M TEQSA: PRV12081

USQ Prerequisites

General subjects will replace authority subjects in the new ATAR system. Some USQ degrees only require assumed knowledge, however some have English as a prerequisite and some degrees may require Mathematics and/or Science. To meet the prerequisites you must have a minimum grade C in Units 3 & 4.

It is important students check what prerequisites are required for the program they want to study when they make their year 10 subject selection.

OP Subjects	ATAR Subjects
English	English
English as a second language	English as an additional language
N/A	Literature
N/A	English & Literature Extension
Mathematics A	General Mathematics
Mathematics B	Mathematical Methods
Mathematics C	Specialist Mathematics
Physics	Physics
Chemistry	Chemistry
Biology	Biology
N/A	Psychology

Prerequisites subject equivalency

There are many general subjects you can choose from to meet prerequisites for English, Mathematics and Science.

Categories	General Subjects
English	English English as an additional language Literature English and Literature Extension
Mathematics	General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics
Science	Agricultural Science Biology Chemistry Earth & Environmental Science Marine Science Physics Psychology

Want to know more?

usq.edu.au/apply
1800 269 500
study@usq.edu.au

