



UNIVERSITIES  
ADMISSIONS  
CENTRE.

# The ATAR and subject selection

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## Year 10 Information

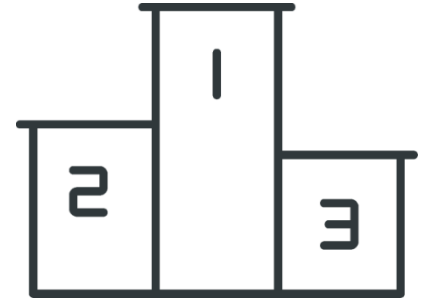


# The ATAR



# HSC vs ATAR

- **Performance vs Position.**
- HSC marks = **performance** against the standards. This is your mark for the subject.
- ATAR = your **position** against all other students in NSW.
- Good performance does not guarantee a high position as you are compared to everyone in the state. Eg if you got a HSC mark of 80 but many students in the state got above 80 then your position (ATAR) for that subject would likely be lower than 80.
- The only thing **YOU** can control is your **performance**.



Like your **position**  
in a race

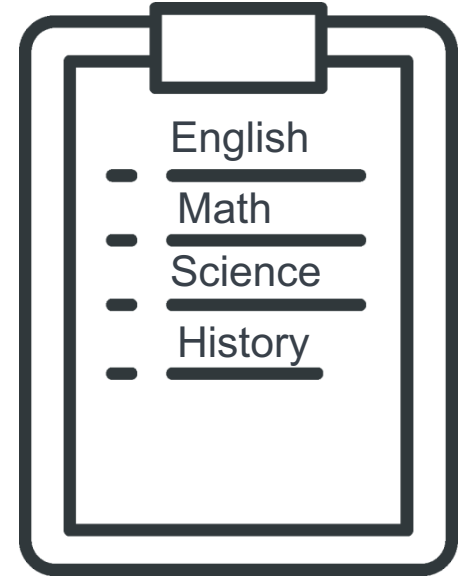
# WHAT IS THE ATAR?

The **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank** is...

- Is a **RANK** not a mark out of 100.
- It's about **POSITION**.
- A number between 0.00 and 99.95.
- Used by universities to rank and select students.

# ATAR ELIGIBILITY

- To get an **ATAR** you need at least **10 units** of Board Developed courses during year 12 – these are HSC courses that are examined by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).
- Your subject selection handbook and teachers will tell you which courses will count.
- Year 11- HSC requirements **12 units**



# ATAR CALCULATION

The ATAR is calculated at the end of year 12 using the scaled marks of 10 units of ATAR courses:

- The best 2 units of English
- The best 8 of the remaining units  
(can include up to 2 units of Category B courses)

1 unit (English)	1 unit (English)	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit
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# THE ATAR AND SCALING

- Scaling is the first step in calculating the ATAR.**
- Marks need to be adjusted before we can calculate the ATAR because of the many different patterns of study and the many different students
- This is done so no student is neither advantaged or disadvantaged because of their subject choice
- UAC doesn't scale courses, we scale the students academic abilities within the course.

# ATAR MYTHS

- It's a myth that choosing certain courses will automatically increase your ATAR.
- There is no magic formula for getting a good ATAR; it just depends on how well you've done in all your courses in comparison to other students.
- Studying courses that you are not good at or happy with may mean you won't do your best or achieve good marks.
- As long as you have chosen the courses you are good at and do well in, you will have the best chance of maximising your ATAR.



**Subject selection is about choosing courses that you are good at, are interested in and that may help you succeed in tertiary studies.**



# SUBJECT SELECTION

## STEP 1: Think about your future.

Consider:

- your interests
- your future career
- courses you show an aptitude in
- courses that will prepare you for success at uni and beyond.

**INTEREST + ACHIEVEMENT = SUCCESS**

**STILL NOT SURE?** This site can be used as a tool to help however will not show subjects specific to our school.



**SUBJECT  
COMPASS**

Access at:

<https://www.uac.edu.au/subject-compass/#/>



# YOUR FUTURE

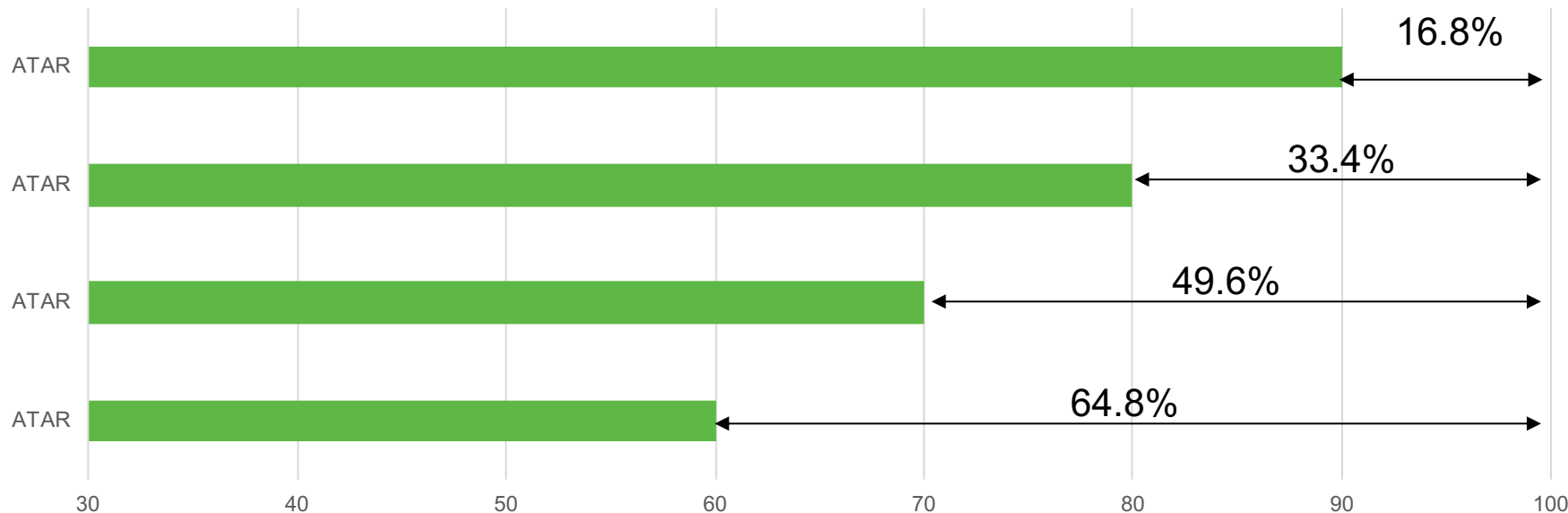
Explore and research your FUTURE career and study options:

- What do you need to do to get where you want to go?
- What study areas and courses are on offer?
  - university, TAFE, college, work
- Which courses will help you reach your potential?
- What is your back-up plan?

# 2019 State ATAR Results

Median = 69.75

Last year close to 65% of those eligible for an ATAR achieved an ATAR of at least 60 or above.



<https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/atar/preliminary-scaling-report.pdf>

There are many University courses that only require an ATAR of between 60-70.  
University may be more achievable than you think.

# SUBJECT SELECTION

## STEP 2: Consider the HSC courses on offer at your school

Is the course:

- of interest to you?
- a good foundation for success at uni?
- an ATAR course?

And does it satisfy any uni course prerequisites?

# COURSE PREREQUISITES

## Prerequisites

- HSC courses you must have studied before a uni will offer you a place in the course.

## Assumed knowledge

- HSC courses the uni assumes you have studied before you start the uni course.
- Not a requirement for entry, but set you up to succeed.

## Recommended studies

- HSC courses the uni suggests will prepare you for core first-year courses.
- Not a requirement for entry, but helpful.

# SUBJECT SELECTION

## STEP 3: Course checklist

- ☐ I have researched future careers and relevant courses.
- ☐ I have considered my abilities and interests.
- ☐ I have checked course prerequisites and assumed knowledge.
- ☐ I am interested - and prepared to study hard - in the HSC courses I've chosen.
- ☐ I've got a back-up plan.
- ☐ I am eligible to get an ATAR if I want one.

Now you're ready to make an informed choice.



# UAC RECOMMENDS

- Don't choose courses because of a perceived ATAR or scaling as this could set you up for failure.
- Take on the highest level of study you can as this will help you better understand the course content at university.
- Always have a back-up plan.
- In addition to the ATAR, be aware that many institutions have admission requirements such as prerequisites, assumed knowledge and recommended studies as well as additional selection criteria.
- Study hard and be happy with your decisions.

# WHAT IF?

What if I don't meet the course prerequisites?

## YOU HAVE OPTIONS

You can still get an offer to a similar course that has no course prerequisites.

You may need to catch up on background knowledge through:

- bridging courses
- extra subjects within the course structure.

Remember, you must be ATAR eligible regardless of the HSC courses you choose.

# WHAT IF?

What if I don't get a high enough ATAR for entry into university?

## GO TO YOUR PLAN B

- preparation courses at uni
- TAFE (TPC, Cert IV or Diploma)
- uni colleges
- private colleges.

**Remember:**

**The ATAR is a rank not a mark**

**Choose courses you like and are good at**

**Explore all your option**

**Study hard**



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