

# St. Andrew's Anglican College

The Senior Phase –  
The Queensland  
Certificate of Education

# What is the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)?

- The Queensland Certificate of Education is a broad-based school qualification awarded to young people who have achieved a **significant amount of learning** at a **set standard** and have met certain **literacy and numeracy** requirements.
- The QCE is your passport to move confidently from school to work, training, and further education.

## Who will be the first to get the new qualification?

- From 2006, students in Year 10 began working towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. It replaces the Senior Certificate for this cohort onwards.
- The first QCEs were awarded to Year 12 students in 2008 achieving 20 credits in the required pattern at the required standard, and meeting the literacy and numeracy requirements. Your students will be the fourth cohort to achieve this.

# Why is there a different senior school certificate?

The QCE is different from the Senior Certificate it replaces because:

- it recognises a broad range of learning including learning in the workplace and the community
- it is flexible and can be completed over different periods of time
- it sends a positive and clear message that you have achieved a significant amount of learning, including literacy and numeracy.
- The QCE is needed because from 2006 all young people must have completed Year 10 and then take part in further education and/or training for two years (government legislation).
- It is important that young people who are not planning to go to university — about 70% — have a qualification that providers of further education and training and employers value and respect.

# What is the difference between the QCE and the Senior Statement?

- The Senior Statement is a record of all your learning achievements banked to your Learning Account. It records the details of where and when the learning took place and the level of your achievement.
- The QCE, on the other hand, is awarded only when a specified study pattern has been achieved, that is at least 20 credits including completed courses of study at a set standard and a literacy and numeracy requirement.

# What study pattern will I need to follow to be awarded the QCE?

- The study pattern for the QCE includes requirements for a significant amount of learning, at a set standard, and meeting literacy and numeracy standards.

To be awarded the QCE, you:

- must complete between 12 and 20 credits from core courses of study
- may include up to 8 credits from a combination of core, preparatory, enrichment or advanced courses
- must meet the literacy and numeracy requirements.
- **THE MAJORITY OF SAAC STUDENTS WILL STUDY 5 OR 6 AUTHORITY SUBJECTS TO A SATISFACTORY STANDARD, THUS OBTAINING THEIR QCE**

## What learning options count towards the QCE?

- The QCE recognises a broad range of learning options. This means you can design a study pattern to match your career goals.
- The learning options include:
- Authority and Authority-registered subjects (we currently don't offer any Authority-registered subjects)
- subjects taken in the Senior External Examination (not available)
- VET Certificates I–IV, diploma or advanced diploma courses (VET Hospitality, embedded VET certificates in BCT and ITS)
- school-based traineeships and apprenticeships
- tailored training programs (not available)
- international learning programs
- university courses/subjects/units (i.e. Headstart)

And:

- *employment skills development programs*
- *re-engagement programs*
- *recognised certificates or awards*
- *negotiated workplace, community or self-directed projects*
- *structured workplace learning.*

## **To be awarded the QCE do I have to attain Sound Achievement in all my school subjects?**

- The set standard for credit in Authority and Authority-registered subjects is at least **Sound Achievement**.
- When you acquire 20 credits in the study pattern and have met the literacy and numeracy requirements, you will be awarded a QCE.
- However, in a program of study consisting solely of Authority and/or Authority-registered subjects, provided you have acquired 16 credits and 12 of these are from completed subjects (i.e. 4 semesters), you can count a maximum of four semesters at Limited Achievement from partly completed subjects toward the achievement of a QCE.

## **When is the QCE awarded?**

- For most young people, the QCE will be awarded at the end of the year they complete Year 12.

## **What happens if I don't have enough credits for a QCE by the end of Year 12?**

- A key feature of the new system is that your Learning Account remains open until you have enough credits banked for the award of the QCE.
- This means you keep open your option of achieving a QCE at a later date. To do this you can undertake some more learning or continue your studies in an incomplete course.

# Queensland Certificate of Education

## Stages of the senior phase of learning

### 1 Plan

Each student needs to identify and plan what they will study and learn during the senior phase of learning (usually Years 10, 11 and 12).

Planning can start at any time. Schools and other learning providers will work with each young person to help them develop a plan to meet immediate and longer-term learning and employment goals.

**SET plan.** From 2006, students in Queensland will develop a senior education and training (SET) plan. Some schools call this process "career education". Whatever the name, the process usually covers the same steps. The SET plan is agreed between each student, their parents or carers and the school. It should be finalised by the end of Year 10.

Each school has its own process for developing and storing the plans, so check with your school for details.

Once agreed, the SET plan or career education plan is implemented and courses are planned around the agreed approach. Schools and learning providers will help monitor progress against the plan.



### 2 Register

**From 1 January 2006, every young Queenslander must be registered with the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) in Year 10 or in the year before they turn 16, whichever comes first.**

Major elements of the *Youth Participation in Education and Training Act 2003* start on 1 January 2006.

All schools must register:

- all students in Year 10 in 2006
  - all other students who turn 16 during 2006 and who have not yet completed Year 10.
- Registration records details including name, address, date of birth, sex and the intended learning option.

Registration automatically opens an individual learning account and a learner unique identifier (LUI) is allocated to each student.



### 3 Learning account

**An individual, online learning account records a student's progress towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).**

It records what, where and when learning is undertaken during the senior phase of learning (usually Years 10, 11 and 12) and the results that have been achieved. The learning account is viewed online through the Career Information Service at [www.cis.qsa.edu.au](http://www.cis.qsa.edu.au).

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#### a Senior Statement.

This reports all learning undertaken and the results achieved during the senior phase of learning.



#### a QCE.

This confirms a significant amount of learning at a set standard, which meets literacy and numeracy requirements.



#### an OP.

This indicates a student's rank order position based on overall achievement in QSA subjects.



#### a CPCSE (Certificate of Post-Compulsory School Education).

This certifies achievements by students with special needs on individualised learning programs.



#### a VET certificate.

This certifies competence in a course or qualification level.

# Queensland Certificate of Education

## Credit table

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's new senior schooling qualification.

To be eligible for a QCE, a young person must:

- complete 20 credits
- achieve the required standard and
- meet literacy and numeracy requirements.

This credit table lists the types of learning that can contribute towards a QCE, their values and the standards required.

### Types of learning and their values

The required amount of learning:

- must include between 12 and 20 credits from completed core courses of study
- may also include up to 8 credits from a combination of core, preparatory, enrichment or advanced courses.

Core	credit	Preparatory	credit	Enrichment	credit	Advanced	credit
• Authority or Authority-registered subject	4	• VET certificate I (maximum of 2 can count)	2	• a recognised certificate or award in areas such as: music, dance, drama, sport and community development	1	• a 1-semester university subject achieved while at school	2
• a Senior External Examination	4	• an employment skills development program (only 1 can count)	2	• a negotiated community or self-directed learning project	1	• a 2-semester university subject achieved while at school	4
• VET certificate II	4	• a re-engagement program (only 1 can count)	2	• 160 hours (20 days) structured workplace learning project	1	• competencies in a diploma or advanced diploma over at least 1 semester (or its equivalent)	2
• VET certificate III-IV <sup>v</sup>	8						
• school-based apprenticeships and traineeships*	4						
• tailored training program	4						
• international learning program	4						

### Required standard

Course of study	Set standard
• Authority subjects and Authority-registered subjects	• at least a Sound Level of Achievement <sup>†</sup>
• vocational education and training	• competence
• university subjects achieved while at school	• at least a pass as defined by the course
• international learning course of study	• at least a pass as defined by the course
• recognised awards and certificates	• awarded
• workplace, community and self-directed learning projects	• at least a pass as defined by the project

<sup>v</sup> Some VET certificates III and IV attract less than 8 credits.

\* A young person completes 30% as part of a school-based apprenticeship.

<sup>†</sup> A young person studying only Authority and/or Authority-registered subjects must achieve at least a Sound Level of Achievement to be awarded 16 of the required 20 credits. Up to 4 credits may be achieved from part-complete subjects at Limited Achievement.

### Literacy and numeracy

Literacy	Numeracy
• at least a Sound Level of Achievement in a semester of an Authority or Authority-registered English subject <i>or</i>	• at least a Sound Level of Achievement in a semester of an Authority or Authority-registered mathematics subject <i>or</i>
• competence in VET modules 39153Qld course in vocational literacy 3 <i>or</i>	• competence in VET modules 39163 Qld course in vocational numeracy 3 <i>or</i>
• a pass in a literacy course recognised by the QSA (NRS Level 3 or above) <i>or</i>	• a pass in a numeracy course recognised by the QSA (NRS Level 3 or above) <i>or</i>
• at least a Sound Level of Achievement in the new single-semester literacy course to be developed by the QSA <i>or</i>	• at least a Sound Level of Achievement in the new single-semester numeracy course to be developed by the QSA <i>or</i>
• at least a C on the Queensland Core Skills Test	• at least a C on the Queensland Core Skills Test

### Find out more

- visit the website at [www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)
- call the Queensland Studies Authority on 07 3864 0299
- email us at [qce@qsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:qce@qsa.qld.edu.au).

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