

Higher School Certificate Requirements for Students with Special Education Needs

Key Messages



What's new?




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NEW SOUTH WALES



What's new?

- ✿ Review of the Stage 6 Creative Arts, Technological and Applied Studies and Citizenship and Society Life Skills syllabuses
- ✿ School Developed Courses for students with special education needs for the study of Languages
- ✿ *HSC: All My Own Work* program optional for students undertaking **only** Stage 6 Life Skills courses
- ✿ Online profiling of student achievement against outcomes for HSC Life Skills courses



More flexibility in Creative Arts from 2010

- ✱ From 2010, Year 11 students will have the option to study one or more courses from the reviewed Stage 6 Creative Arts Life Skills Syllabus
- ✱ The reviewed Syllabus includes five 2 unit courses:
 - Creative Arts Life Skills
 - Dance Life Skills
 - Drama Life Skills
 - Music Life Skills
 - Visual Arts Life Skills



More flexibility in Creative Arts from 2010

✿ Creative Arts Life Skills

- Outcomes and content are drawn from any of the modules

✿ Dance Life Skills, Drama Life Skills, Music Life Skills, Visual Arts Life Skills

- Outcomes and content are drawn from a single corresponding module

Note: For students undertaking Creative Arts Life Skills and additional courses from the Syllabus, the Creative Arts Life Skills course must not duplicate outcomes or content being undertaken in additional courses



More flexibility in Technology from 2011

- ✱ From 2011, Year 11 students will have the option to study one or more courses from the reviewed Stage 6 Technology Life Skills Syllabus
- ✱ The reviewed Syllabus includes seven 2 unit courses:
 - Technology Life Skills
 - Agriculture Life Skills
 - Design and Technology Life Skills
 - Food Technology Life Skills
 - Industrial Technology Life Skills
 - Information Processes and Technology Life Skills
 - Textiles and Design Life Skills



More flexibility in Technology from 2011

✱ Technology Life Skills

- Outcomes and content are drawn from any of the modules across the technologies

✱ Agriculture Life Skills, Design and Technology Life Skills, Food Technology Life Skills, Industrial Technology Life Skills, Information Processes and Technology Life Skills, Textiles and Design Life Skills

- Outcomes and content are drawn from a single corresponding module

Note: For students undertaking Technology Life Skills and additional courses from the Syllabus, the Technology Life Skills course must not duplicate outcomes or content being undertaken in additional courses



More flexibility in HSE from 2012

- ✿ From 2012, Year 11 students will have the option to study one or more courses from the reviewed Stage 6 HSE Life Skills Syllabus
- ✿ The reviewed Syllabus includes eight 2 unit courses:
 - Human Society and its Environment Life Skills
 - Aboriginal Studies Life Skills
 - Business and Economics Life Skills
 - Citizenship and Legal Studies Life Skills
 - Geography Life Skills
 - History Life Skills
 - Society and Culture Life Skills
 - Studies of Religion Life Skills



More flexibility in HSE from 2012

- ✱ Human Society and its Environment Life Skills
 - Outcomes and content are drawn from any of the modules

- ✱ Aboriginal Studies Life Skills, Business and Economics Life Skills, Citizenship and Legal Studies Life Skills, Geography Life Skills, History Life Skills, Society and Culture Life Skills, Studies of Religion Life Skills
 - Outcomes and content are drawn from a single corresponding module

Note: For students undertaking Human Society and its Environment Life Skills and additional courses from the Syllabus, the Human Society and its Environment Life Skills course must not duplicate outcomes or content being undertaken in additional courses



School Developed Courses for Students with Special Education Needs

- ✿ Courses for students with special education needs in Stage 6 may be endorsed for the study of Languages. Courses in Religion may also be endorsed
- ✿ Other courses designed for students with special education needs will not be endorsed as the Board provides Life Skills courses as an appropriate pathway for those students



HSC: All My Own Work

- ✿ From 2010, students undertaking only Stage 6 Life Skills courses are **exempt** from the requirement that *all* students undertaking Preliminary or HSC courses must complete the *HSC: All My Own Work* program (or its equivalent)
- ✿ The *HSC: All My Own Work* program (or its equivalent) is optional for students undertaking **only** Life Skills courses



Online profiling – HSC Life Skills

- ✿ From 2011, schools will be required to enter students' achievement of Life Skills outcomes for the HSC via *Schools Online*
- ✿ This process will mirror that which is already in place for the School Certificate:
 - For Life Skills courses in which the student is enrolled for the HSC, schools will be required to indicate which outcomes have been achieved, either individually or with support
 - Schools may download Life Skills Outcomes Worksheets for each subject to assist them with data collection prior to entering information on *Schools Online*. Personalised versions of these Worksheets can also be downloaded from *Schools Online*.



Online profiling – HSC Life Skills

- ✿ **As part of the credential for the HSC, students will now receive from the Board of Studies NSW:**
 - HSC Testamur
 - HSC Record of Achievement, listing all courses undertaken
 - Assessment mark, examination mark, HSC mark and performance band recorded for regular courses
 - “Refer to Profile of Student Achievement” recorded for Life Skills courses



Online profiling – HSC Life Skills

- Course reports for each course with an external examination that has been completed satisfactorily
- HSC Profile of Student Achievement, listing all outcomes achieved for each Life Skills course undertaken

For further information, see the Board's website:

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/lifeskills_studentprofile.html

What's the same?



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Patterns of Study for the HSC

To qualify for the HSC **all** students must fulfil the pattern of study requirements

✿ 12 units of Preliminary courses

✿ 10 units of HSC courses

- 6 units from Board Developed courses
- 2 units of English
- 3 courses of 2 units or greater
- at least 4 subjects
(no more than 6 units of Science courses)

(ACE Manual, Section 8.2.1)



Curriculum Options

- ✱ Students with special education needs can meet the requirements for the HSC using:
 - Board Developed courses (including Life Skills courses and Industry Curriculum Framework courses/options)

or

 - a combination of Board Developed courses and Board Endorsed courses (including Content Endorsed courses and School Developed courses)

(ACE Manual, Section 7.3)



Curriculum Options

- ✿ **All students with special education needs** should choose the most appropriate courses for the HSC in keeping with their goals, interests and learning needs
- ✿ **Most students with special education needs** will undertake regular Board Developed courses and/or Board Endorsed courses. These students may require adjustments for coursework and/or assessment
- ✿ **For a small percentage of students with special education needs**, particularly those with an intellectual disability, it may be appropriate to develop a pattern of study that includes one or more Life Skills courses

(ACE Manual, Section 7.2)



Decisions about Curriculum Options

Decisions about curriculum options are made in the context of the collaborative curriculum planning process.

A team including the student and their parent/carer meet to discuss:

- the student's priorities, goals, strengths and learning needs
- the student's transition to post-school life
- how the student's pattern of study will meet the requirements for the award of the HSC
- the adjustments required by the student
- any special examination modifications required by the student



Board Developed Courses

- ✿ an HSC examination is typically completed (except Life Skills courses)
- ✿ a moderated assessment mark is awarded (except VET and Life Skills courses)
- ✿ may count towards an ATAR (except Life Skills or VET courses where the student is not undertaking an examination)
- ✿ 10 units required for ATAR

(ACE Manual, Sections 6.1 and 6.2)



Board Endorsed Courses

- ✿ no HSC exam
- ✿ school assessment mark; not moderated
- ✿ does not count towards an ATAR, but counts towards the HSC
- ✿ Content Endorsed courses can be studied as 1 or 2 unit Preliminary and/or HSC courses
- ✿ School Developed courses are submitted to the Board for endorsement



VET Courses

- ✱ Qualifications are recognised Australia-wide (AQF)
- ✱ Competency based assessment
 - Completed competencies are signed off in a logbook
- ✱ Optional examination in the framework courses
- ✱ Students must complete mandatory work placement
 - 35 hours per 120 hours of coursework



VET Courses

- ✱ May be studied at School, TAFE or with a private provider
- ✱ Flexible
 - 120 hours minimum
 - 1 unit x 2 years 120 hours
 - 2 units x 1 year 120 hours
 - 2 units x 2 years 240 hours
 - Extension courses can also be added to the 240-hour course



VET Framework Options

Students with special education needs may access the industry curriculum framework courses in one of two ways:

☀ **Option 1**

The student undertakes the course under regular course arrangements

OR

☀ **Option 2**

The student undertakes selected units of competency within the course that have been identified through the collaborative curriculum planning process

(VET Courses and Students with Special Education Needs)

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/vet-students-with-special-edu-needs.html



Accumulation of courses

✿ Pathways

- ✿ Students may accumulate HSC courses towards the HSC (and ATAR) over a 'rolling' period of up to 5 years
 - No time restriction for accumulation of Preliminary courses
- ✿ Students may accumulate extension courses by completing the 2 unit course in one year and the extension course in a subsequent year

(ACE Manual, Section 8.7)



Assessment and students with special education needs

- ✿ School principals have the authority to grant adjustments for assessment tasks
- ✿ Alternative assessment strategies may need to be used for students with special education needs

(ACE Manual, Section 8.13.3)



Assessment and students with special education needs

- ✿ Schools must submit marks for students undertaking a course at a school as a single group

(ACE Manual, Section 8.13.9)

- ✿ The same academic standards are to be applied to all students, so that students can be placed on the same scale

Stage 6 Life Skills Courses



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Eligibility for Stage 6 Life Skills Courses

- ✿ For a small percentage of students with special education needs, it may be determined that the regular Board Developed or Board Endorsed courses are not appropriate
- ✿ The decision to access one or more Stage 6 Life Skills courses is made collaboratively
- ✿ Schools do not need to seek the Board's permission to enrol students in Life Skills courses
- ✿ Before making the decision, consideration should be given to other ways of assisting the student to achieve the regular outcomes. This assistance may include:
 - adjustments for course work and/or assessment tasks
 - accumulation of courses
 - disability provisions for the HSC examinations



Eligibility for Stage 6 Life Skills Courses

- ✿ In general, students will have undertaken at least 4 courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content in Stage 5
- ✿ In special circumstances a student may be enrolled who has not undertaken at least 4 courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content, eg the student:
 - has attempted regular courses for the School Certificate but has experienced significant difficulty
 - transfers from interstate or overseas
 - has a deteriorating condition

(ACE Manual, Section 7.2)



Stage 6 Life Skills Syllabuses

There are eight Stage 6 Life Skills syllabuses:

- ✿ English Life Skills
- ✿ Mathematics Life Skills
- ✿ Science Life Skills
- ✿ Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Life Skills
- ✿ Citizenship and Society Life Skills / HSIE Life Skills
- ✿ Creative Arts Life Skills
- ✿ Technology & Applied Studies / Technology Life Skills
- ✿ Work and the Community Life Skills



Stage 6 Life Skills Courses

☀ Life Skills courses have:

- Board Developed status. Each comprises a 2 unit Preliminary and a 2 unit HSC course
- an indicative time allocation of **120** hours in each of the Preliminary and HSC courses
- no HSC examination, and cannot contribute to the ATAR



Satisfactory Completion of a Life Skills Course

- ✿ If in the principal's view, there is sufficient evidence that the student has:
 - followed the course of study developed or endorsed by the Board; and
 - applied themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the course by the school; and
 - achieved some or all of the outcomes

(ACE Manual, Section 7.6)



Assessment and Life Skills Courses

✿ Assessment:

- is an opportunity for students to demonstrate evidence of learning
- tasks and/or opportunities are developed by the school in response to the needs of individual students
- is based on outcomes identified in the planning process
- may be conducted in a variety of ways, eg observation, interviews, written responses
- may be conducted across a range of environments, eg school, community

(ACE Manual 3.7, p. 20)