

QCE credit: completed Core requirement

Calculating QCE credit for Year 12 students from 2020

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's internationally recognised senior secondary schooling qualification.

To be issued a QCE, students need to accrue the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. These requirements are aimed at ensuring students complete their senior schooling with the knowledge and skills they need for success in life beyond school. The QCE is issued to eligible students when they meet all requirements, usually at the end of Year 12.

Core courses of study are typically undertaken by students during senior schooling. They are courses of study that have been quality assured by the QCAA or a recognised authority.

The QCE completed Core requirement is 12 credits of the total 20 credits to meet the set amount of learning needed to be issued a QCE.

Core credit

Schools and other learning providers report students' results at intervals set by the QCAA. General and Applied subject results are reported after students complete Unit 1, Unit 2, and the Unit 3 and 4 pair. QCE credit progressively accrues in students' learning accounts (see the QCE credit allocation table below).

Credit from General and Applied courses of study will accrue when the set standard is met and reported. Results reported as satisfactory for Unit 1 or Unit 2 will accrue one credit each to a QCE.¹ A grade of C or better in a Unit 3 and 4 pair will accrue two credits to a QCE. Extension subjects will accrue credit in the Core category of learning. Two credits will accrue to a QCE when the set standard of a grade of C or better is achieved in the Unit 3 and 4 pair.

QCE credit allocation for Core courses: General and Applied subjects

| General and Applied subjects | Set standard | QCE credits |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Unit 1 | Satisfactory | 1 |
| Unit 2 | Satisfactory | 1 |
| Units 3 and 4 | Grade of C or better | 2 |
| Maximum credit available | | 4 |
| Extension subjects | Set standard | QCE credits |
| Units 3 and 4 | Grade of C or better | 2 |
| Maximum credit available | | 2 |

¹ From 2019, achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be reported as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

VET courses of study will accrue credit as results are reported, provided they meet all other QCE requirements. Certificates in the Core category of learning (II, III, IV) will accrue QCE credit at increments of 25%, 50%, 75% and completion. Certificate I qualifications are in the Preparatory category of learning and accrue credit on completion. VET courses of study in the Complementary category of learning (Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications) will accrue one QCE credit for each unit of competency reported as competent, up to eight credits (within VET credit rules).

Non-Queensland studies and recognised studies that are in the Core category of learning will accrue credit as determined by the QCAA.

Completed Core requirement

Within the QCE set pattern requirement, students must accrue 12 credits from completed Core courses. Students must complete a Core course of study from beginning to end to contribute to the 12 credits.

Students must complete all four units of study for QCAA General or Applied subjects to contribute to the completed Core credit requirement.

In a General or Applied subject, Core credits can only contribute to the completed Core requirement if a student completes Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 and achieves a grade of C or better in the Unit 3 and 4 pair. Credit will accrue for units where the set standard is met. For example, Essential English (Core course of study) completed for all four units may contribute two, three or four QCE credits to the completed Core requirement. More examples are included in the table below.

In VET qualifications, credits contribute to the completed Core requirement when a student completes a Certificate II, III or IV within other VET QCE requirements. The amount of credit for each completed certificate may vary depending on the notionally agreed nominal hours of learning required (as determined by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training).

Relaxation of completed Core credit

Relaxation of the completed Core requirement will be automatically applied for students who change from a QCAA Mathematics subject to another QCAA Mathematics subject, as well as students who change from a QCAA English subject to another QCAA English subject. Credits accrue for units that meet the set standard.

Students who transfer schools during senior secondary schooling (including transferring from interstate or overseas as well as intrastate) and are unable to continue the same course of study may apply to have the requirements for completed Core relaxed.

Example Student A program — all learning is from the Core category

| Subject | Units studied | | | Category of learning | QCE credits |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | Unit 1 (S, U) | Unit 2 (S, U) | Unit 3 and 4 (A–E) | | |
| English | U | S | C | Core | 3* |
| Mathematical Methods | S | U | | Core | 1* |
| General Mathematics | | | C | Core | 2* |
| Digital Solutions | S | S | B | Core | 4* |
| Agricultural Science | S | S | C | Core | 4* |
| Business | S | S | B | Core | 4* |
| Ancient History | U | | | Core | 0 |
| Drama | | S | A | Core | 3 |
| | | | | Total QCE credits | 21 |

*Credits meet criteria to contribute to the completed Core requirement of the QCE.

QCE requirement checklist — Student A

| Requirement | | Met by student ✓/* | Details |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| Set amount Set standard | 20 credits accrued when set standard met | ✓ | 21 credits accrued from units where set standard met. |
| Set pattern | Minimum of 12 credits accrued from completed Core courses of study | ✓ | 18 credits accrued from completed courses in the Core category of learning. (Mathematics units that meet set standard can contribute to completed Core requirement.) |
| | Maximum of 4 credits from Preparatory courses of study | ✓ | 0 credits accrued in Preparatory category of learning. |
| | Maximum of 8 credits from Complementary courses of study | ✓ | 0 credits accrued in Complementary category of learning. |
| Literacy and numeracy | Literacy standard met | ✓ | C standard achieved in Units 3 and 4 of English. Satisfactory standard achieved in Unit 2 of English. |
| | Numeracy standard met | ✓ | C standard achieved in Units 3 and 4 of General Mathematics. Satisfactory standard achieved in Unit 1 of Mathematical Methods. |
| QCE eligibility | | ✓ | The student will be issued a QCE at the end of Year 12. |

Example Student B program — with VET

| Subject | Units studied | | | Category of learning | QCE credits |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 and 4 | | |
| English | S | S | A | Core | 4* |
| Essential Mathematics | S | U | C | Core | 3* |
| Geography | U | U | | Core | 0 |
| Visual Art | S | S | A | Core | 4* |
| Media Arts in Practice | U | S | B | Core | 3* |
| Certificate II in Tourism | 100% complete | | | Core | 4* |
| Certificate III in Business | 50% complete | | | Core | 4 |
| | | | | Total QCE credits | 22 |

*Credits meet criteria to contribute to the completed Core requirement of the QCE.

QCE requirement checklist — Student B

| Requirement | | Met by student ✓/✗ | Details |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Set amount | 20 credits accrued when set standard met | ✓ | 22 credits accrued from units where set standard met. |
| Set pattern | Minimum of 12 credits accrued from completed Core courses of study | ✓ | 18 credits accrued from completed courses in the Core category of learning. |
| | Maximum of 4 credits from Preparatory courses of study | ✓ | 0 credits accrued in Preparatory category of learning. |
| | Maximum of 8 credits from Complementary courses of study | ✓ | 0 credits accrued in Complementary category of learning. |
| Literacy and numeracy | Literacy standard met | ✓ | A standard achieved in Units 3 and 4 of English. |
| | Numeracy standard met | ✓ | C standard achieved in Units 3 and 4 of Essential Mathematics. |
| QCE eligibility | | ✓ | The student will be issued a QCE at the end of Year 12. |