



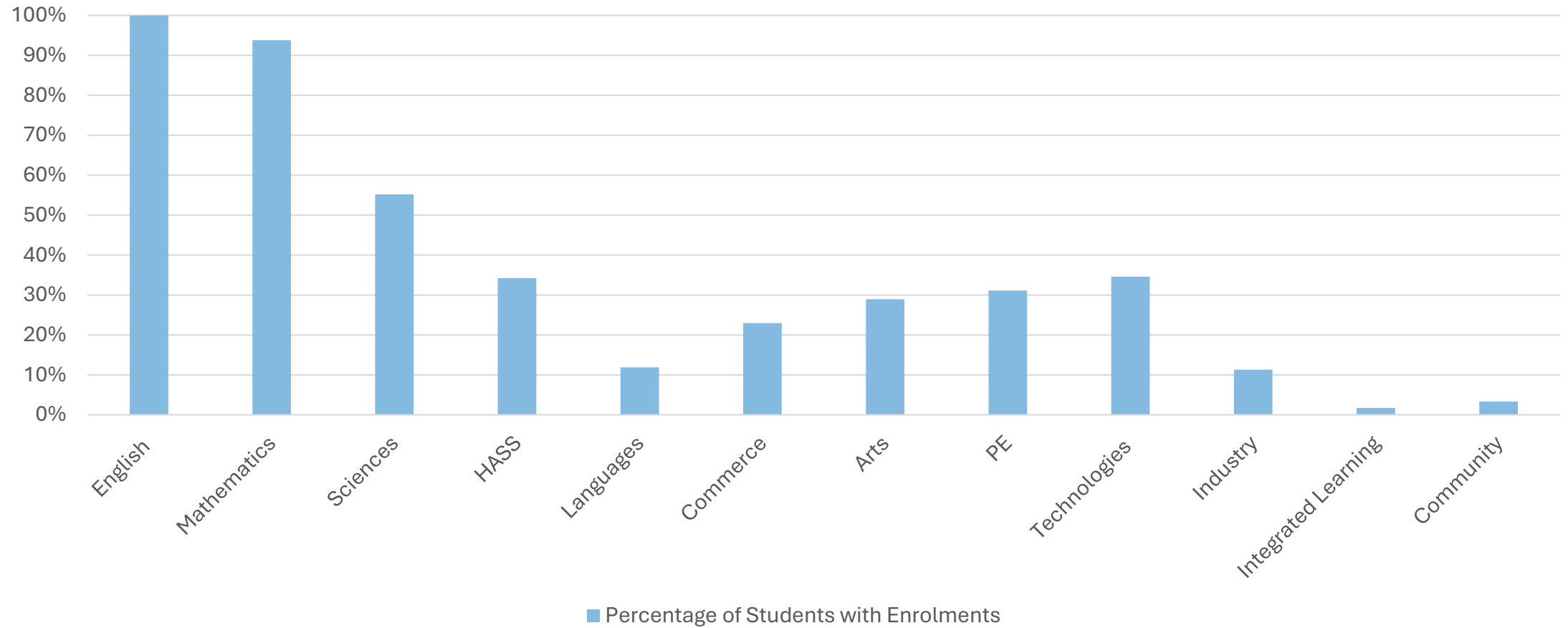
ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Overview 2024

Media Release: ACT Board of
Senior Secondary Studies

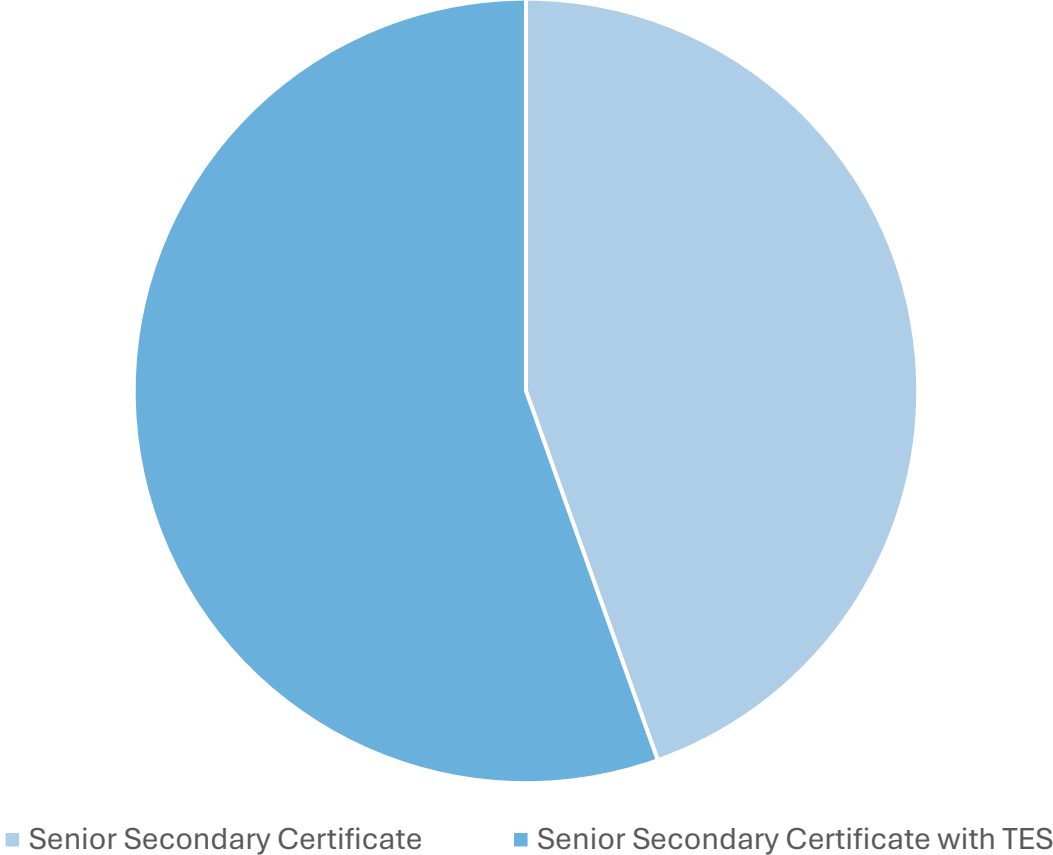
5083
students
achieved the
ACT Senior
Secondary
Certificate in
2024

- The ACT Senior Secondary Certificate is a qualification completed by students in the ACT and in approved schools in China, Fiji, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
- For some students, their certificates will reflect a generalist or vocational orientation. For others, their certificates will reflect courses directed specifically towards preparation for immediate post-school study at university. Many certificates demonstrate learning that reflects both vocational and university aspirations.

Courses studied in 2024



Students can choose to study a certificate with or without a Tertiary Entrance Statement



Certificates with a Tertiary Entrance Statement

61% of students receiving a senior secondary certificate also chose to receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES).

88% of students eligible for a TES earned an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) equal to or greater than 60.

Students in **80%** of schools producing ATARs achieved ATARs equal to or greater than 95.

Individualised Programs

85 students studied one or more Modified courses, designed for students with a mild to moderate intellectual disability, and received a senior secondary certificate.

1155 students were awarded competencies at school-based Registered Training Organisations.

330 students undertook training within an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASbA).

101 students undertook training at non-school Registered Training Organisations.

238 students included an extension course studied at university on their senior secondary certificate.

The Inaugural Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Community Service Award

- 2024 marks the first year of the Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Community Service Award
- The award celebrates the legacy of Aunty Agnes Shea OAM.
- Aunty Agnes Josephine Shea OAM was a proud Aboriginal woman and a senior Ngunnawal Elder who dedicated her life to bettering the world for future generations of Aboriginal Australians. She worked tirelessly in many different roles for the varying range of communities that call Ngunnawal Country home.
- The award is judged by a panel, including representatives from the Indigenous community in Canberra and members of the Shea family.
- The 2024 recipients are Yvette Lapworth, Jaharn Mundy-Drazevich, and Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga.



ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies
2024
Recognition of Excellence
BSSS Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Leadership and Community Service Award
Tahalianna Mahanga
Evandale College



ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies
2024
Recognition of Excellence
BSSS Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Leadership and Community Service Award
Yvette Lapworth
Melba Copland Secondary School




ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies
2024
Recognition of Excellence
BSSS Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Leadership and Community Service Award
Jaharn Mundy-Drazevich
Saint Mary Mackillop College





Images show:

- The Recipients of the Aunty Agnes Shea Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Community Service Award
- Parents and students at the ceremony
- Nicola, a student, giving the farewell address
- Front cover: The BSSS Student Forum members who graduated in 2024



Information about
the ACT Senior
Secondary system



B S S S

What is the ACT Senior Secondary System?



The ACT College System began in the 1970s with the intent of allowing students and schools greater choice in teaching to their communities.



Students create an academic package of courses in at least three course areas. These courses may be a major (equivalent of two years) or a minor (equivalent of one year).



There are no subject-based external examinations in this system.



The ACT BSSS sets the curriculum for the ACT, but the schools choose which lens to interpret the curriculum through – for example, schools decide which novels to study, or which case studies to focus on.

What is the BSSS?

- The ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies is the statutory authority responsible for senior secondary schooling in the ACT.
- The responsibilities of the Board include setting curriculum, quality assuring assessment, setting the scaling test for university aspirants, and calculating ATARs.
- The current Board Chair is Ms Catherine Hudson.
- The Board is described under the BSSS Act 1997.



B S S S

What is an ATAR?

- Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank.
- A number between 30 and 99.95 representing where students rank against others in their age cohort. ATARs cannot be compared across calendar years.
- In the ACT, awarded based on how students perform in their school-based assessment.
- In the ACT school-based scores are made comparable through a process called “Other Course Score Scaling”, which uses the scores from students’ courses and the results of a scaling test.
- The ATAR should **never** be referred to as a “mark” or “score”; it is neither. It is a percentile rank.

What is the AST?

- The AST is the ACT Scaling Test. It comprises of three papers: multiple choice, short response, and writing task. It will be sat in August in 2025.
- The AST is not subject-based; all students sit the same test.
- It is not possible to study for the AST. The AST is a test of verbal and quantitative reasoning, and of the students' ability to articulate a persuasive argument about a set topic.
- AST results are used alongside the students' school-based scores to scale students' results.
- Scaling in this context means to make directly comparable; i.e., to put the results from different schools and subjects on the same scale.