



Images show the 2025 Recognition of Excellence Ceremony

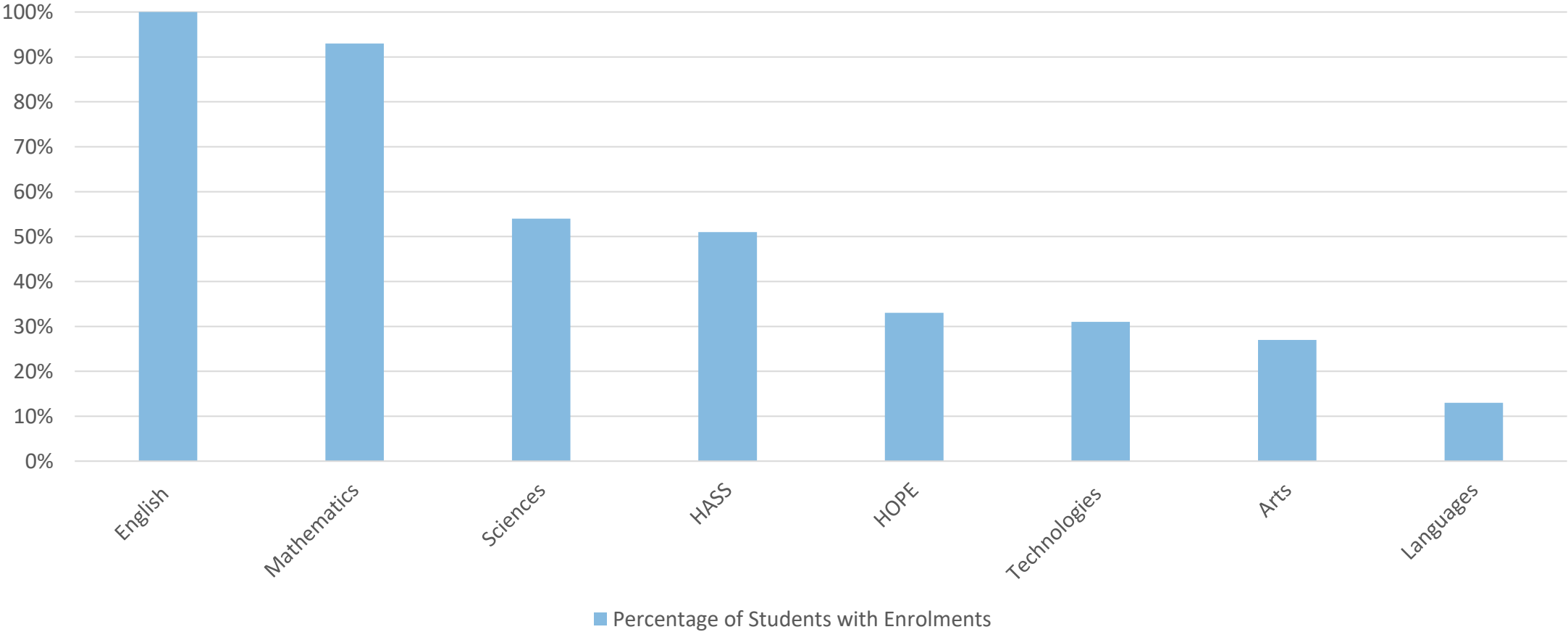
ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Overview 2025

Media Release: ACT Board of
Senior Secondary Studies

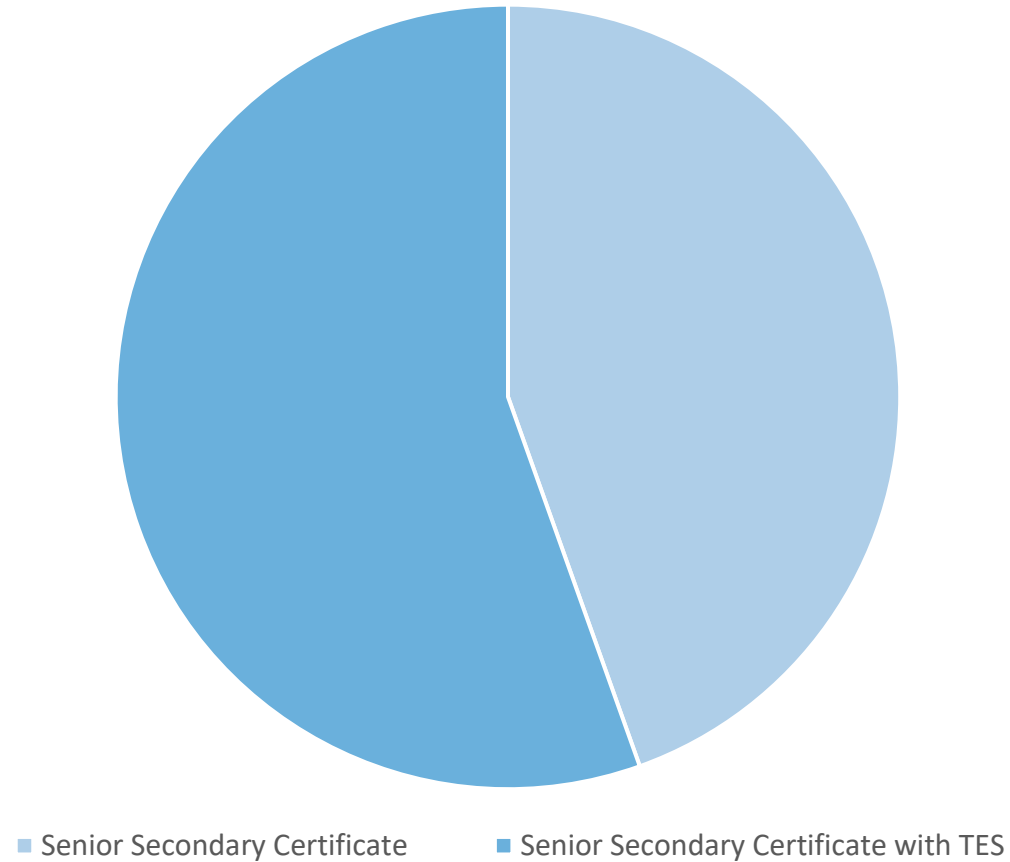
5235 students
achieved the
ACT Senior
Secondary
Certificate in
2025

- 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.

Areas of Study in 2025



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).

Students in all ACT schools producing ATARs achieved ATARs equal to or greater than 95.

Individualised Programs

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

14% of graduating students were awarded competencies at school-based Registered Training Organisations.

5% of graduating students undertook training within an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASbA).

4% of graduating students undertook training at non-school Registered Training Organisations.

287 students included an extension course studied at university on their Senior Secondary Certificate.



2025 Awards



B S S S



Recognition of Excellence

- The annual Recognition of Excellence ceremony celebrates the achievements of students in the ACT Senior Secondary System.
- This ceremony recognises student achievement in a range of areas, including leadership, academic achievement, and achievement in vocational studies.
- The 2025 Recognition of Excellence ceremony was held on December 15 at the ANU's Kambri precinct.
- Families, school and system representatives, and students gathered to celebrate together.

System Leadership Awards

Awarded to students who show a commitment to the Student Forum over 2 years whilst studying in College.

Axl Beeby	Canberra College
Ruby Gifford	Daramalan College
Sangay Wangmo	Erindale College
Aban Mimar	Hawker College
Jonathan Price	Marist College
Rebecca Batt	Melba Copland Secondary School
Emma Tom	Melba Copland Secondary School
Tahlia Hunt	Radford College
Sean Clark	St Edmund's College
Tom Love	St Edmund's College
Simone Walker	St Francis Xavier College
Anton Steinhauser	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra

System Leadership Awards

Artwork (detail): "Frame of Mind" Jade Norwood



ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Excellence Awards

Awarded to the eligible student from each school who achieved the highest weighted average of grades at their school.

Sophie Lawler	Canberra College
Elijah Wilson	Daramalan College
Chaeli Timbs	Dickson College
Jake Hately	Erindale College
Hayley Sillis	Gungahlin College
Maggie Bristow	Hawker College
Cassidy Bredenmann	Lake Tuggeranong College
Jessica Green	Merici College
Kayley Maguire	St Clare's College
Emerson Peters	St Francis Xavier College
Jasmine MacDonald	Trinity Christian School
Alina Roberts	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra

ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Excellence Awards

Photo: BSSS Staff Contribution





ACT Vocational Studies Awards

Vocational Studies are recognised with two awards.

Vocational Studies Award – School based

Awarded to the eligible student from each school who achieved the highest GPA in a VET major in their in-school vocational studies.

Vocational Studies Award – External

Awarded to the eligible student from each school who achieved the highest number of E units from an apprenticeship or program of study with an external RTO.

Tobias Stefanou	Canberra College
Isobel Olivier	Daramalan College
Declan Dunne	Dickson College
Alysia Steil	Erindale College
Hester McDonald	Gungahlin College
Ryan Taylor	Hawker College
Anastasia Perkovic	Lake Tuggeranong College
Luca Aloisi	Marist College
Cohen Strong	Melba Copland Secondary School
Sienna Dal Cortivo	St Clare's College
Gabriel May	St Edmund's College
Jacob Fitzpatrick	St Francis Xavier College
Neve O'Byrne	St John Paul II College
Elizabeth Bond	St Mary MacKillop College
Matilda Skillin	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra

Vocational Studies Awards – School-based





Vocational Studies Awards – School-based

Artwork (detail): “Home” Anna Hewett



Tara Goodwin	Brindabella Christian College
Laetitia Tavenet	Burgmann Anglican School
Hayden Jamieson	Canberra College
Mikayla Metcraft	Canberra Institute of Technology
Billie Withers	Daramalan College
Joshua Sparks	Dickson College
Evelyn Weickhardt	Erindale College
Erin McGinty	Gungahlin College
Jessica Hutcheson	Hawker College
Annalise Van Ewyk	Lake Tuggeranong College
Lachlan Smith	Marist College
Lillie Williams	Melba Copland Secondary School
Liesbeth Fittler-van Tilburg	Merici College
Lily Higgs	Narrabundah College
Oliver Muir	Orana Steiner School
Lily Stumbles	St Clare's College
Kieran Greenwood	St Edmund's College
Charlie Sturt	St Francis Xavier College
Tessa Barden	St Mary MacKillop College
Grace Bennett	Trinity Christian School
Athelie Hays	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra

Vocational Studies Awards – External



Vocational Studies Awards - External

Artwork (detail): "Alone" Anna Hewett



Selwyn Giddy	Brindabella Christian College
Vineth Hewamadduma	Burgmann Anglican School
Samuel Xholi	Canberra College
Jaya Pitchford	Canberra Girls Grammar
Taidaishe Muchenagumbo	Canberra Institute of Technology
Lachlan Hynd	Daramalan College
Michael Thow	Dickson College
Stefan Mitrev	Erindale College
Perry Harkness	Gungahlin College
Aimee Ehlers	Hawker College
Anastasia Perkovic	Lake Tuggeranong College
Andre Vincent	Marist College
Peregrine Guiver	Melba Copland Secondary School
Ishita Gupta	Merici College
Sunmin Hwang	Narrabundah College
Katherine Stewardson	Orana Steiner School
Brynten Au	Radford College
Louise Hill	St Clare's College
Evan Richards	St Edmund's College
Kate Piper	St Francis Xavier College
Zachary Cook	St John Paul II College
Alexander Kwiatkowski	St Mary MacKillop College
Joshua Mansell	Trinity Christian School
Anton Steinhauser	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra

ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Excellence Awards: TES

This award is made to the eligible student in each school who attained the highest aggregate score in the graduating cohort.

ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Excellence Awards (with TES)

Artwork (detail): Samantha Rankin





Highest Achievement Awards

- In 2025 a new category of Highest Achievement Awards was introduced.
- These awards recognise the top score in each course Framework.
- A Framework is an overarching document that sets out the rules and standards for courses in a particular area; e.g., Mathematics, English, The Arts.
- There are no external subject-based exams in the ACT; these awards are based on students' scaled course scores.

Elizabeth Coghill	The Arts	Brindabella Christian College
Aimee Ehlers	Commerce	Hawker College
Selwyn Giddy	English	Brindabella Christian College
Luca Talbot-Hogg	Health, Outdoor and Physical Education	Dickson College
Akira Lee	Humanities and Social Sciences	Canberra College
Aban Mimar	Languages	Hawker College
Sunmin Hwang	Mathematics	Narrabundah College
Anton Steinhauser	Science (tie)	UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra
Sunmin Hwang	Science (tie)	Narrabundah College
Shonali Banerjee	Technologies	Canberra College

Highest Achievement Award



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 2025 recipient is Joshua Miller, Radford College, pictured with Kylie Shea.



China	
Shanghai Cunzhi Senior High School	Weixin Zhao
Shanghai Fengxian Bohua Senior High School	Zihan Xu
Papua New Guinea	
Lae International School	Mahek Shah
Kimbe International School	Lorraine Gorie
Port Moresby International School	Ronie Titus
Fiji	
International School Suva	Aiden Jamnadas
Indonesia	
Sekolah Cita Buana	Keysha Cahyadi



International
School
Awards:
Excellence
with TES



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 not be referred to as a “mark” or “score”; it is neither. It is a percentile rank.
- The ATAR is only used for Tertiary entrance. It is created for no other purpose.

ATARs in the ACT

- The median ATAR in the ACT in 2025 was 78.35.
- Students at all Canberra schools undertaking the ACT Senior Secondary System received ATARs over 95.
- The top ATARs in 2025 came from public schools.

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.

What other pathways do ACT students have?

- Students in the ACT can choose to study a standard ACT Senior Secondary Certificate to attain their certificate without an ATAR. This can be used for work, internships, and further study outside the ATAR institutions.
- Students receiving an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate can study Vocational Education as part of their school subjects, or as a school-based apprenticeship.

