



ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies

ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Overview

2023



Student awardees and special guests who attended the 2023 BSSS Recognition of Excellence Ceremony

Congratulations to all the students who received their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and to the teachers, support staff, parents and carers, family, and friends who guided and assisted them through a significant and sometimes challenging time in their lives.

Education is a key element in enabling young adults to achieve their best in life and the attainment of the senior secondary certificate can have a profound impact on students' opportunities and life choices. The Class of 2023 is encouraged to pursue their learning, regardless of the context, in the years beyond school.

An extensive range of contemporary ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) courses can be offered by schools. These provide multiple pathways and opportunities to address the needs and interests of a diverse range of learners. Schools deliver courses that prepare students for life, and pathways including vocational and university opportunities.

The ACT Senior Secondary Certificate indicates the completion of a senior secondary educational program and certifies that students have demonstrated particular knowledge and skills. 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. A number of certificates demonstrate learning that reflects both vocational and university aspirations. 4898 students achieved their senior secondary certificate in 2023.

A requirement of the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate is to study a course in English. A total of 4585 students studied a course in Mathematics, 2736 in Sciences and 1712 in Technologies.

Sixty two percent of students received a senior secondary certificate that included a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES). Eighty seven percent of students eligible for a TES earned an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) equal to or greater than 60. Students in twenty-three schools achieved ATARs equal to or greater than 95.

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

1403 students were awarded competencies as part of a vocational qualification. 329 students undertook training within an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASbA). 86 students undertook training at non-school Registered Training Organisations.

A total of 255 students included an extension course studied at university on their senior secondary certificate.

The leadership of schools has always been and will continue to be paramount to the quality of opportunity and outcomes for students. ACT Principals and their leadership teams have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication and expertise in the carriage of the educational mission, providing skilled and measured guidance that enabled schools to be places of compassion and learning.

Most importantly, and without doubt or question, it is the teacher in the classroom that we must thank. The teacher in the classroom is the reason that learning can be such a wonderful experience – that students may be inspired by their teachers, and that in turn students may themselves aspire to learn, to know, and to understand.

Mr Martin Watson
Executive Director
BSSS