



## FAQs (Students and parents/carers)

Updated 08.09.2021

### Introduction

The purpose of this FAQ is to provide guidance to students and parents/carers on the impact of COVID-19 on senior secondary curriculum delivery and assessment.

This FAQ will be updated as required.

### Questions

**Q 1: Will Year 12 T students receive an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) in 2021?**

**A:** It is the intention of the BSSS that students who meet the requirements of the Tertiary Entrance Statement (TER) will receive an ATAR in 2021.

**Q 2: Will Year 12 T students sit the ACT Scaling Test (AST)?**

**A:** As the ACT is in lockdown, the AST has been postponed until **Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 October 2021**.

The Board is committed to the health and well-being of students and to processes that support the validity of academic results. The AST is not an examination that can be studied for and schools have implemented familiarisation and practice opportunities for the test.

The AST is designed to evaluate higher order critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for success at university. Students develop these skills throughout their senior secondary education. The AST is system wide and supports the comparison of school-based assessment results between subjects and across schools.

**Q 3: My son/daughter has an assessment planned but the school is now encouraging students to work from home. What should they do?**

**A:** The BSSS and each individual school are working cooperatively to ensure an appropriate assessment program is available to all students.

Schools have flexibility to revise the assessments as described in the Unit Outline and offer appropriate tasks for the circumstances.

Students are responsible for being proactive and diligent in completing work and assessment provided by their school.

**Q. 4: My son/daughter has to complete a practical project which requires them to be at school. However, they are now required to work from home. What should they do?**

**A:** The teachers in each school are working to maximise the opportunity for students to complete assessment.

The type of assessment may change from a practical project to a journal or a different kind of practical project. Students will be required to complete alternative tasks.

Students are responsible for being proactive and diligent in completing work and assessment provided by their school.

**Q. 5: Does my son/daughter have to complete any assessments now? Can they get Status instead?**

**A:** All students are expected to complete their work, even though it may be at home and in an online environment. The award of Status is not appropriate for students because they are working at home.

The general experience of this pandemic is not grounds for Status. Where students experience a specific adverse circumstance, they may apply to their school for special consideration. Board policies and procedures as implemented by schools are designed to accommodate these circumstances.

**Q. 6: My son/daughter has a medical condition. What can they do regarding their assessment whilst working at home?**

**A:** The same procedures apply to your child as if they were at school. You need to supply documentary evidence from a medical practitioner about the medical condition to your school.

**Q. 7: What are the current expectations of my son/daughter undertaking senior secondary education?**

**A:** Students are responsible for being proactive and diligently completing online work and assessment set by the school.

In the current situation, students are expected to be continuously engaged with the course work provided by the school.

Teachers will aim to continue the learning of students and provide students with appropriate assessment opportunities.

To be awarded units towards the Senior Secondary Certificate, students are expected to meet engagement with learning and assessment requirements. However, there may be variations in the continuity of delivery as schools' transition to the online environment or transition back to face-to-face teaching in school.

**Q 8: My son/daughter is undertaking an ASBA. What can they do now their workplace is closed?**

**A:** If students are not be able to complete an ASBA they should consult with the Registered Training Provider, employer, and their school as a matter of urgency.

Students in partnership with their schools, should explore other options for students who may be reliant on these courses to complete their Senior Secondary Certificate.

**Q 9: Some schools are, or are considering, resuming face-to-face teaching, will I be disadvantaged in either case?**

**A:** No. There are a variety of ways to engage with coursework and assessment.

Schools have mechanisms in place to ensure that each unit will have a minimum of 55 hours of structured learning activities regardless of the mode of delivery.

Teachers at your school are aware of your context and consider this in your assessment arrangements. Teachers will address any disadvantage at their school. The delivery or assessment arrangements at other schools will not impact you due to the ACT's school-based assessment system.

**Q10: What should a student who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms on the days of the AST do? Will they still receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement and ATAR?**

**A:** The conduct of the test will be consistent with health advice and guidelines at the time.

As always if a student is unwell, they should seek medical advice, and if experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms should be tested. Absence from one or more of the test components would require appropriate and verifiable Medical documentation.

The BSSS has processes to enable scaling if individual students within a school cohort meet all other requirements for a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES) but cannot sit an ACT Scaling Test (AST) due to illness or misadventure. These students would still receive an ATAR.

End