



DICKSON COLLEGE
excellence opportunity community

Parent Information Session

College Assessment

Types of Courses and Units



Courses
include

Tertiary

Modified

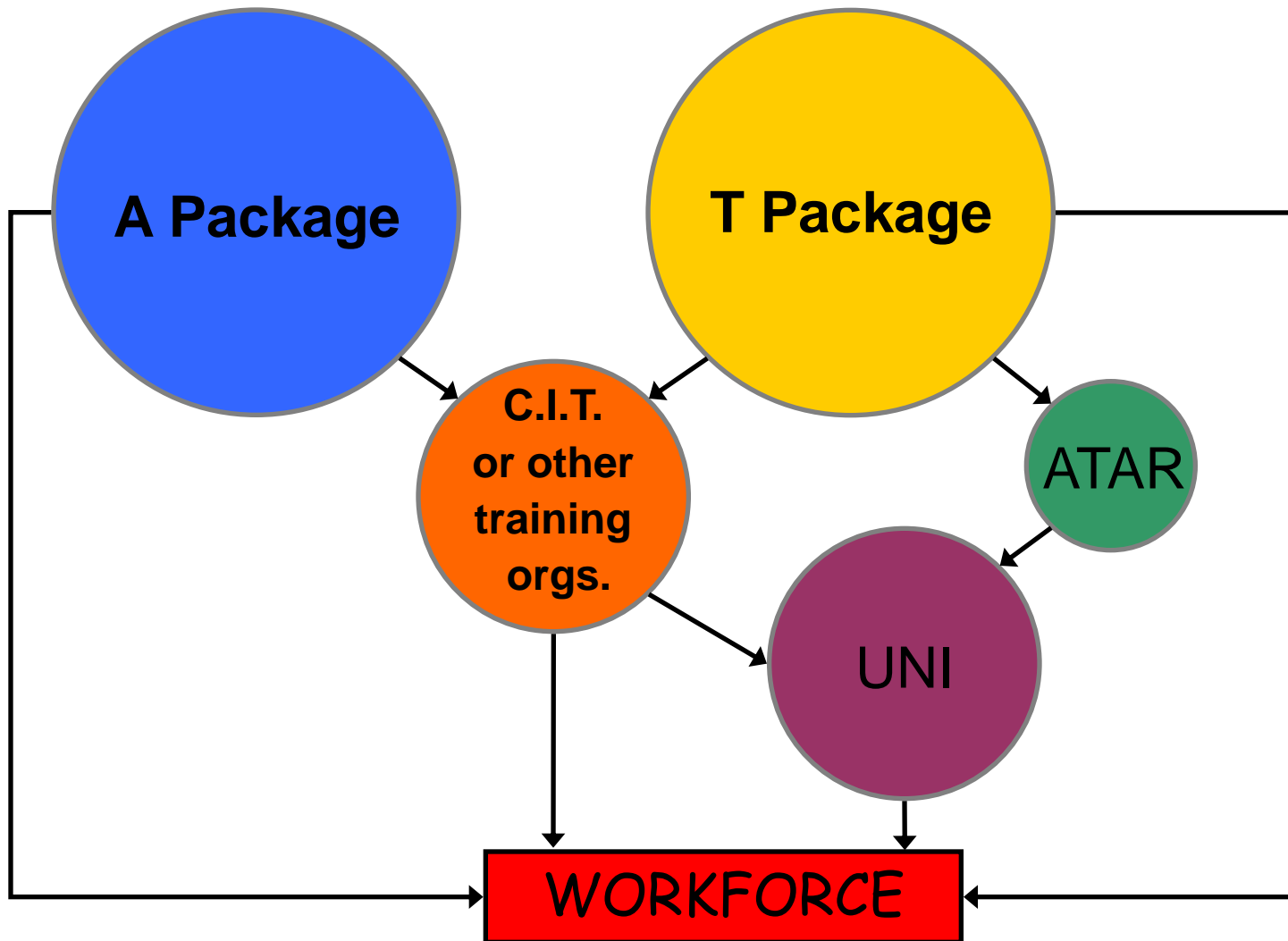
Accredited

Higher Ed

Vocational
can be TV or AV

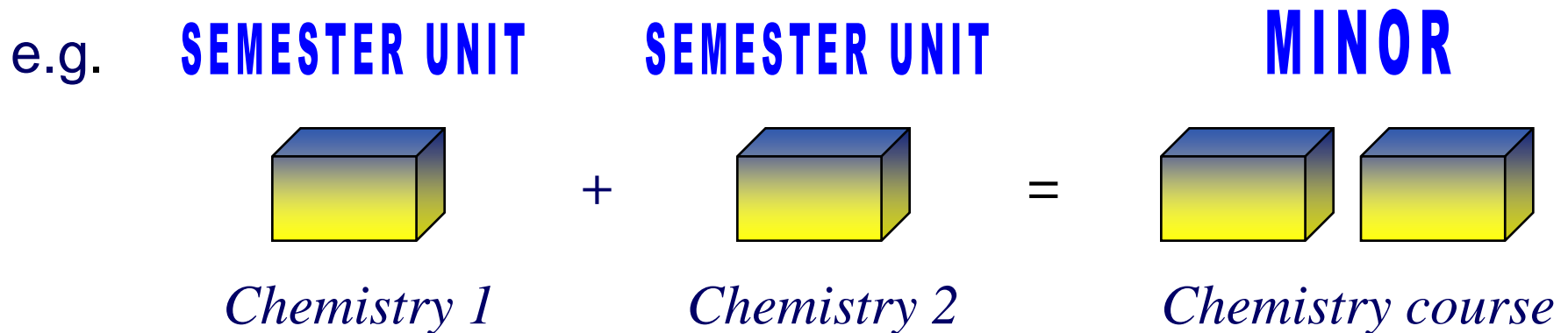
Registered

Pathways

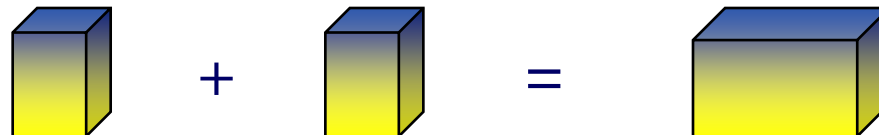


Units To Courses

Two or more semester units in the same subject area constitute a Course of Study.



2 x HALF SEMESTER UNITS = **1 SEMESTER UNIT**

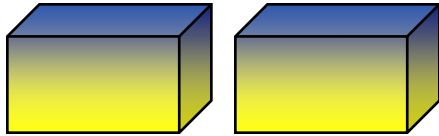




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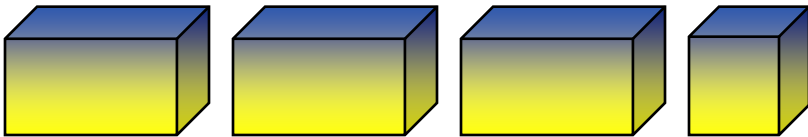
Course Types

MINOR



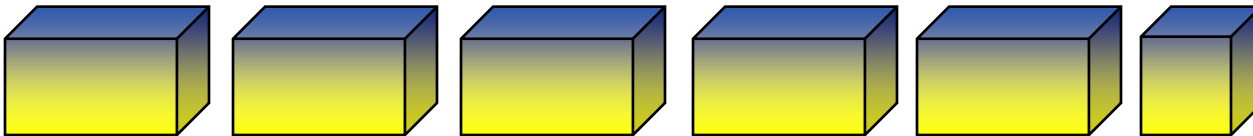
2.0 – 3.0 S.U.'s

MAJOR



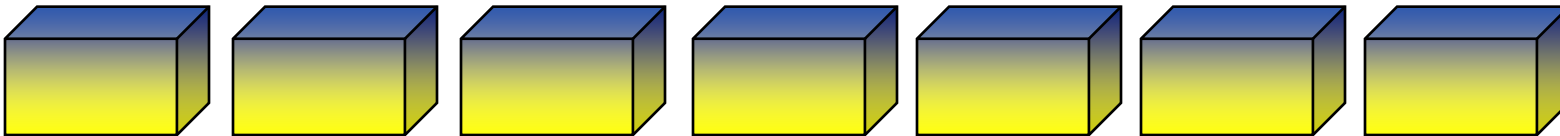
3.5 – 5.0 S.U.'s

MAJOR MINOR



5.5 – 6.5 S.U.'s

DOUBLE MAJOR



7.0 – 8.0
S.U.'s

1 Standard Unit (S.U.) =

1 Semester of Study

*A Standard Unit is a minimum
of 55 hours of timetabled
class time usually studied
over a semester.*



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BSSS Requirements

Year 12 Certificate

- Minimum of 17 Standard Units over Years 11 and 12
- Minimum of 3 Minors in 3 different course areas
- The 3 Minors can be a mix of different course types (e.g. “A”, “T”, “M”, “H”, “C” and “E” units)
- Only one “C” or “E” course can be counted in the 3 Minors
- “R” unit points can count towards the 17 S.U. requirement.

T.E.S. and ATAR

- Minimum of 20 Standard Units
- 3 Majors and 3 Minors, OR
4 Majors and 1 Minor, OR
5 Majors
- Of these, 18 units must be BSSS units (i.e. “A”, “C”, “E”, “T”, “M” or “H” units – not “R” units!)
- Minimum of 3 Majors and 1 Minor in “T” Courses
- Students must sit the AST (ACT Scaling Test)



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Two Year Package

Subject area	2011 Sem. 1 (Year 11)	Points	2011 Sem. 2 (Year 11)	Points	2012 Sem. 1 (Year 12)	Points	2012 Sem. 2 (Year 12)	Points	Total Points	Majors /Minors Ungrouped units
1. Maths (T)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (T)
2. English (T)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (T)
3. Glob. Relat. (T)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (T)
4. Art (A)	✓	1							1	
5. Automotive (A)	✓	1	✓	1					2	Minor (A)
6. Chemistry (T)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (T)
7. Sociology (T)					✓	1	✓	1	2	Minor (T)
TOTALS		6		5		5		5	21	



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Two Year Package

Subject area	2011 Sem. 1 (Year 11)	Points	2011 Sem. 2 (Year 11)	Points	2012 Sem. 1 (Year 12)	Points	2012 Sem. 2 (Year 12)	Points	Total Points	Majors /Minors Ungrouped units
1. Maths (A)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1			3	Minor (A)
2. English (A)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (A)
3. Info Tech (A/V)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (A)
4. Automotive (A)	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1	4	Major (A)
5. Wood Tech (A)	✓	1							1	
6. Construction (A)			✓	1					1	
7. Photography (A)					✓	1	✓	1	2	Minor (A)
TOTALS		5		5		5		4	19	

Unit Grades

Award of Unit Grades

- Each semester unit generates a grade.
- The grade is awarded based on a published standard. Students will receive these grade standards either on their unit outline or they will be displayed in the classroom or on the *MyClasses* page for the class.
- Moderation Days are conducted twice a year where all college teachers review samples of student work and the grades awarded against the standards. This is to ensure that grades awarded across the ACT are consistent.



Grade Standards

UNIT GRADE DESCRIPTORS for T COURSES

Assessment criteria	Responding critically	Evaluation and synthesis of ideas	Imagination and originality	Use of language	Control of medium
A student who achieves an A grade typically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to texts critically and with a high degree of insight justifies viewpoint through well-structured, logical argument and highly effective use of textual references 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> synthesises and evaluates material in a complex manner to construct a perceptive response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a high degree of creativity and originality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicates with a sophisticated control of language for a range of purposes and audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a highly developed control and use of the conventions of the medium
A student who achieves a B grade typically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to texts critically and with insight justifies viewpoint through structured, logical argument and effective use of textual references 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> synthesises and evaluates material in an effective manner to construct a competent response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively demonstrates creativity and originality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicates with effective control of language for a range of purposes and audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates an effective and consistent control and use of the conventions of the medium
A student who achieves a C grade typically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to texts critically and with some insight justifies viewpoint through structured argument and some use of textual references 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> synthesises and evaluates material to construct a satisfactory response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates some creativity and originality may present work that is derivative in nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicates with developing control of language for a range of purposes and audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates understanding of the conventions of the medium but applies them inconsistently
A student who achieves a D grade typically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to texts with occasional insight shows some capacity to justify and support viewpoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> synthesises and evaluates material in a limited manner to construct a response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates limited creativity and little in the way of originality may present a literal interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicates with inconsistent control of language with limited understanding of purposes and audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a partial understanding of the medium and limited use of its conventions
A student who achieves an E grade typically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paraphrases or retells shows little capacity to justify and support viewpoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> constructs a simplistic or incomplete response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates an understanding of simple and concrete ideas presents a literal interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicates with limited control of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates little understanding of the conventions of the medium

Unit Scores

Calculation of Unit Scores

- Each “T” unit generates a score.
- The score is based on an aggregation of assessment items within the unit. The unit outline will show students the weighting of each assessment item towards the unit score.
- The unit scores maintain the ranking and spacing of the aggregated assessments for all students in a cohort undertaking the unit.
- The unit scores are scaled to historic parameters. This scale is a ‘predictor’ of a likely scaled score at the end of Year 12.

Course Scores

Calculation of Course Scores

- Calculated for “T” students who have completed a course of study (e.g. minor, Major, etc...) in a Course Area.
- Course Scores are calculated using the “80% Rule” where the best 80% of unit scores are aggregated.

Aggregate Score

Calculation of a student's Aggregate Score

- An Aggregate Score is calculated for each “T” student.
- The Aggregate Score is the addition of the student's best three scaled Course Scores from T Major courses and 0.6 of the next best T (Major or Minor) Course Score.

The AST

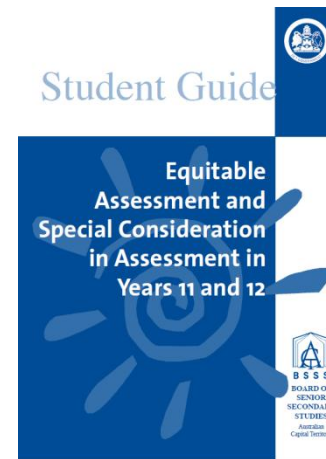
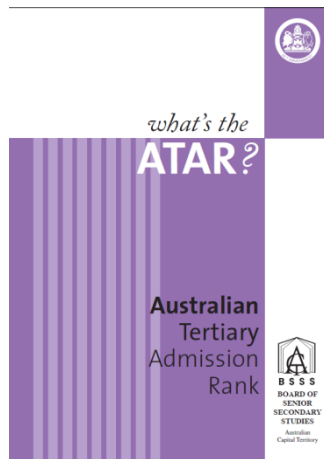
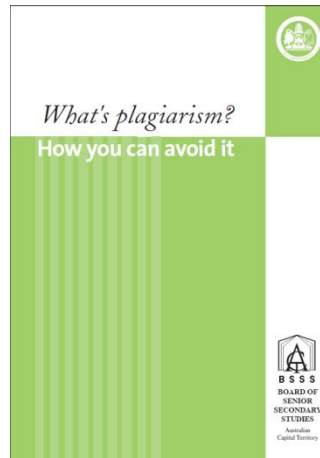
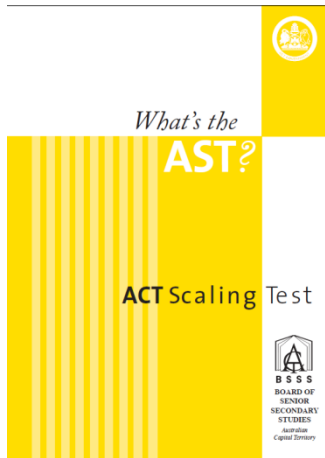
The ACT Scaling Test

- The AST is a test attempted by all ACT Year 12 students wishing to gain an ATAR.
- The test is designed by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) and aims to measure a range of general skills considered to be relevant to success in a variety of courses and to studies at university.
- The AST has three components – a Multiple Choice Test, a Short Response Test and a Writing Task.
- The AST is the system moderator – helping to scale course scores awarded to students by the colleges they attend.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

The ATAR is a ranking of a student relative to their full age cohort. It is a number within a range from 99.95 for the highest ranked students down to 30.00.

BSSS Publications



The BSSS Website (www.bsss.act.edu.au) has a Publications Section where a range of brochures is available.

**Thank you for your
attendance tonight.**

*If you have further questions please
speak with Lynne or Rob.*