College Assessment
Types of Courses and Units

Courses include:

- **Tertiary**
- **Modified**
- **Accredited**
- **Higher Ed**
- **Vocational**
  - can be T/V or A/V
- **Registered**
Two or more semester units in the same subject area constitute a **Course** of Study.

\[ \text{Chemistry 1} + \text{Chemistry 2} = \text{Chemistry course} \]

\[ 2 \times \text{Half Semester Units} + 1 \text{ Semester Unit} = \]

**Units To Courses**
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.
**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)
## Two Year Package

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject area</th>
<th>2011 Sem. 1 Points</th>
<th>2011 Sem. 2 Points</th>
<th>2012 Sem. 1 Points</th>
<th>2012 Sem. 2 Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Majors/Minors Ungrouped units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Maths (T)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. English (T)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Glob. Relat. (T)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Art (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Automotive (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minor (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Chemistry (T)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sociology (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minor (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Two Year Package

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject area</th>
<th>2011 Sem. 1</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>2011 Sem. 2</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>2012 Sem. 1</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>2012 Sem. 2</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Majors/Minors Ungrouped units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Maths (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. English (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Info Tech (A/V)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Automotive (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Major (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wood Tech (A)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Construction (A)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Photography (A)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minor (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
<th>Responding critically</th>
<th>Evaluation and synthesis of ideas</th>
<th>Imagination and originality</th>
<th>Use of language</th>
<th>Control of medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A student who achieves an A grade typically</td>
<td>responds to texts critically and with a high degree of insight&lt;br&gt;justifies viewpoint through well-structured, logical argument and highly effective use of textual references</td>
<td>synthesises and evaluates material in a complex manner to construct a perceptive response</td>
<td>demonstrates a high degree of creativity and originality</td>
<td>communicates with a sophisticated control of language for a range of purposes and audiences</td>
<td>demonstrates a highly developed control and use of the conventions of the medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student who achieves a B grade typically</td>
<td>responds to texts critically and with insight&lt;br&gt;justifies viewpoint through structured, logical argument and effective use of textual references</td>
<td>synthesises and evaluates material in an effective manner to construct a competent response</td>
<td>effectively demonstrates creativity and originality</td>
<td>communicates with effective control of language for a range of purposes and audiences</td>
<td>demonstrates an effective and consistent control and use of the conventions of the medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student who achieves a C grade typically</td>
<td>responds to texts critically and with some insight&lt;br&gt;justifies viewpoint through structured argument and some use of textual references</td>
<td>synthesises and evaluates material to construct a satisfactory response</td>
<td>demonstrates some creativity and originality&lt;br&gt;may present work that is derivative in nature</td>
<td>communicates with developing control of language for a range of purposes and audiences</td>
<td>demonstrates understanding of the conventions of the medium but applies them inconsistently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student who achieves a D grade typically</td>
<td>responds to texts with occasional insight&lt;br&gt;shows some capacity to justify and support viewpoint</td>
<td>synthesises and evaluates material in a limited manner to construct a response</td>
<td>demonstrates limited creativity and little in the way of originality&lt;br&gt;may present a literal interpretation</td>
<td>communicates with inconsistent control of language with limited understanding of purposes and audiences</td>
<td>demonstrates a partial understanding of the medium and limited use of its conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student who achieves an E grade typically</td>
<td>paraphrases or retells&lt;br&gt;shows little capacity to justify and support viewpoint</td>
<td>constructs a simplistic or incomplete response</td>
<td>demonstrates an understanding of simple and concrete ideas&lt;br&gt;presents a literal interpretation</td>
<td>communicates with limited control of language</td>
<td>demonstrates little understanding of the conventions of the medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.
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 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.
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.