



Macquarie Fields High School



Decision Time

**The Higher School Certificate
Year 10 2021 into Year 11 2022**

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SECTION 2: COURSE OUTLINES

Course outlines are provided for all subjects offered at Macquarie Fields High

FOREWORD

This information booklet has been prepared by staff at Macquarie Fields High School to assist students with subject selection and help them understand the Higher School Certificate.

The HSC was re-developed and first examined in 2001. It is now based on assessing student performance within a standards framework. The strength of the HSC is that it:

- fairly assesses students' knowledge and skills;
- links courses to further education and training;
- enables students to undertake more in-depth study in areas of special interest through Extension courses;
- leads to qualifications recognised nationally through Vocational Education and Training courses which will also count towards the HSC; and
- provides easy-to-understand reports which contain much more information showing what students have demonstrated they know, understand and can do in each course.

This handbook provides outlines of the courses available for Year 11 students in 2021. However it is not the only source of information. Students are encouraged to talk with teachers and curriculum head teachers to weigh up options and consider alternatives. This thoughtful decision making is the only way to ensure that students and parents prepare well for the two years ahead.

A parent information night and a subject selection sheet are other essential ingredients in a series of steps which students will take to make wise choices. Staff members have offered time and expertise to guarantee that students have all the information necessary to make the best and most appropriate decisions.

These measures will help to ensure that every student will qualify for a Higher School Certificate and, where one is required, an **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 Week 9 - YEAR 10 PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING

Year 10 into 11 Parent information evening – 15th June 2021.

Term 2 Week 10 - YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION INTERVIEWS

Students interviewed by Careers Adviser and team. Draft forms are collected for review.

Term 3 Week 1 – Subject Expo – 16TH July 2021

Term 3 Week 2 - Students will be provided with information for online choices. Subject selection will be online.

MEETING HSC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Know the eligibility basics

To be eligible for the HSC, you must:

- satisfactorily complete Years 9 and 10 or gain other qualifications that satisfy **NSW Education Standards Authority** (NESA)
- attend a government school, an accredited non-government school, a NESA recognised school outside NSW, or a TAFE college
- complete HSC: All My Own Work (or its equivalent) before you submit any work for Preliminary or HSC courses, unless you are only entered for Year 11 and Year 12 Life Skills courses
- satisfactorily meet the HSC minimum standards in literacy and numeracy. Please see HSC minimum standards information for parents and carers or further information is also available at <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc-minimum-standard>
- satisfactorily complete courses in the patterns of study detailed below
- sit for and make a serious attempt at the required HSC examinations.

Certain patterns of study and course requirements apply

You must satisfactorily complete:

- a Preliminary pattern of study that includes at least 12 units
- an HSC pattern of study that includes at least 10 units.

Both patterns of study must include at least:

- 6 units of NESA Developed Courses
- 2 units of a NESA Developed Course in English, or English Studies
- 3 courses of 2 or more units (either NESA Developed or NESA Endorsed Courses)
- 4 subjects.

There are also specific eligibility rules for some Languages courses, such as Beginners and Heritage, to ensure your course is at the appropriate level for your experience. There is also eligibility requirements for the EALD English course.

Enrolling in a course that you are not eligible for could put your HSC at risk, so carefully check your eligibility for all courses you are entered for. You can find out more about [eligibility, rules and prerequisites](#) on our website.

TYPES OF HSC COURSES

NESA Developed courses are the large number of courses set and examined by NSW Education Standards that also contribute to the calculation of the ATAR. View a list of all [NESA Developed Courses broken down by subject](#). See individual [course descriptions](#) also.

NESA Endorsed courses are developed by schools, TAFE and universities. They count towards your HSC but do not have an HSC examination and do not contribute towards the calculation of your ATAR.

Special Education (Life Skills) - If you have Special Education needs you can attain your HSC by studying Life Skills courses. There are specific entry requirements for the Life Skills courses and you still need to meet the general eligibility and study patterns to earn your HSC. You will need to talk with your Year Adviser or Careers Adviser to find out whether these courses are suitable for you. Life Skills courses do not count towards the ATAR.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) - VET courses can be studied either at school or through TAFE NSW and other training providers. You will need to check with your school about which courses are available and the requirements of the different courses. For example, all VET courses involve a minimum number of hours in the work place.

VET courses contribute towards your HSC and **Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** VET credentials, recognised by industry and employers throughout Australia. Some of the NESA Developed VET courses have an optional HSC examination so, if you choose to sit the examination, your results can also count towards your ATAR.

UNDERSTANDING HSC PATHWAYS

While most students complete their HSC over two years during Years 11 and 12, there are other options. If you want to study while you work, care for your family or, for example, take part in elite sports or cultural activities, one of these five pathways may be suitable for you.

Pathway	Description
1. Accumulating	You can take up to five consecutive years to finish your studies, starting from the first year you complete an HSC course. After five years, you must have met all HSC requirements.
2. Repeating	You can repeat one or more courses within the five years (see pathway 1) without penalty. Your Record of Achievement will show the results of all attempts. The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) will calculate your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) from the results of your most recent attempt.
3. Transferring credit and recognition of prior learning (RPL)	You may be able to count courses you did at TAFE or other educational institutions towards your HSC as 'credit transfer'. Or, you may not need to complete some course components if you can show that you have met the necessary outcomes in another way, such as through interstate study, as 'RPL'. This may apply to a Preliminary course, part of a Preliminary course or part of an HSC course.
4. Accelerating	You may be able to accelerate in a course, sit for the HSC examination for that course (usually at the end of Year 11) and accumulate your results.
5. Studying during an apprenticeship or traineeship	You can complete a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship while you study. These combine paid work and training, lead to a recognised Vocational Education and Training (VET) credential and count towards your HSC.

HSC – UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS

If you have achieved high-level results at school you can apply to undertake university studies while you are studying for the HSC. For students from Year 11 onwards. Macquarie University and the University of New England offer HSC-University Pathways programs. For further details about the program and the application process, contact the university directly.

Useful links

- [Education and Training - State Training Services](#)
- [Careers Advisory Service](#)
- [Universities Admissions Centre](#)
- [My Future - Occupations](#)
- [TAFE NSW](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)

(Source: <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/subject-selection>)

GETTING STARTED

Reflect on who you are and who you want to be

- ◆ Know your personality – are you a ‘people-person’, a team worker, a leader or are you a follower? Do you enjoy solving problems? Are you friendly, confident, outgoing OR quiet, shy and not very skilful in social situations?
- ◆ Know your talents – be honest and self-critical about your artistic, musical, design, technical, manual and athletic skills.

Reflect on study habits

- ◆ Know your motivation and study habits – are you working near capacity or ‘cruising’ and doing the minimum?

Set Achievable Goals

- ◆ Set a long-term goal – where do you want to be in 10 years time? Set a short-term goal and find out if you need an ATAR to achieve your career ambitions?

What do universities expect?

- ◆ What is the range of ATAR scores required at different universities to study the courses you are interested in? Do you need to improve your motivation and/or study skills?

Learn how to compromise and be flexible

- ◆ University or TAFE work loads and the level of difficulty may be vastly different from what you are used to. The course you choose may not be what you expected, or wanted, to do. Will you be able to cope?
- ◆ Compromise does NOT mean giving up before you have reached your goal; it means adjusting realistically to new circumstances and altering your short-term goals.

Know your options

- ◆ Familiarise yourself with as many jobs, professions and trades as possible including ones with confusing or complicated names.
- ◆ Broaden your focus to include double degrees, link business skills with others knowledge, and **research equivalent TAFE and university qualifications.**

Know the terminology

- ◆ Don't assume anything – if you don't understand tertiary courses, traineeships, apprenticeships, casual employment – make sure you find out!
- ◆ TAFE may offer alternatives to university. TAFE courses are skills-based whilst university courses develop critical-thinking and problem-solving ability
- ◆ Private providers offer intensive, well regarded courses which usually involve job placement. They may, however, have a high cost.
- ◆ At our school, studying a combination of VET courses and ATAR HSC courses provides valuable credentials for employment and provide necessary personal development and work related skills.

Be Prepared for Employment

- ◆ Be ready for a highly competitive job market. Be realistic about the available work opportunities – 3,4,5 or 6 years of study is a major investment.
- ◆ Your priority is to maximise your HSC results, but don't lose sight of your long term dreams.

Careers Adviser / Transition Adviser

- ◆ Use the resources that are available to you in the Transition Hub at school.

NOTE: All the reference material used or referred to in this booklet is available from the Careers Adviser or Transition Adviser.

PLEASE USE IT.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR A FLEXIBLE FUTURE

The key to success

The key to success is **flexibility**. Being flexible will allow you to follow different options but only if you choose the right subjects now. Today's most employable people are those who are **flexible, multi-skilled** and with a **wide variety of employment experiences**. Many vocational and employment opportunities begin at school.

In Years 11 and 12, students have the opportunity to develop skills that will contribute to future flexibility. The wise selection of senior subjects will provide different levels of entry to tertiary study and the workplace.

Many pathways

There are two elements to tertiary study (*not always distinct*) - **Higher Education** and **Vocational Education**.

1. **Higher Education** is obtained at university and entry requirements include an **ATAR** (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) and in some cases, an industry specific aptitude test, interview, questionnaire response or portfolio presentation.
2. **Vocational Education** is obtained at TAFE and Private Colleges where NO ATAR is required. At Macquarie Fields High School, students can choose subjects, which provide **Credit Transfer** into many TAFE courses. Some vocational subjects have a direct Work Placement Component. These provide **Advance Standing** into some TAFE courses and provide students with a nationally recognised qualification on completion.

Value of a combined HSC & VET Course

This credential is a valuable achievement, The combination of VET as part of your HSC can provide you with many opportunities for your future. Dual accreditation means gaining a HSC and a TAFE qualification as part of that HSC.

Where to get advice

There are many people available to help you make these decisions:

Deputy Principal	Mrs H Costa
Careers Adviser and Vocational Education	Mrs J Buckler
Head Teacher English	Ms J Hall (Rel)
Head Teacher Mathematics	Mr G Plowes
Head Teacher Science	Mr B Matchett
Head Teacher Creative Arts	Mrs L McDermott (Rel)
Head Teacher Social Sciences	Mr P Celestino
Head Teacher History/Language	Mr T Neale
Head Teacher PD/H/PE	Miss N Boyles (Rel)
Head Teacher Technological & Applied Studies	Mr G Byrne
Head Teacher Special Education	Ms P O'Sullivan (Rel)
Transition Adviser	Ms K Ford (Rel)

HOW DO I CHOOSE SUBJECTS FOR THE HSC?

Follow Your Interests

- ◆ Study subjects you are interested in and believe you will do well in. Do not study a subject that does not interest you. If you enjoy drawing, consider Visual Arts. If you like researching interesting historical events, either Ancient or Modern History are possible choices. If you are passionate about sport, think about PDHPE.

Know your abilities

- ◆ Look for subjects in which you can excel. For example, if you are good at Commerce, consider Business Studies or Economics.

Think about where you are headed

- ◆ Check that you satisfy *required knowledge* and *assumed knowledge* for entry to courses you are interested in.
- ◆ Unless you are certain that university is not for you, choose subjects which count for the ATAR so that the university pathways will be open to you at the end of the HSC.
- ◆ If you are interested in a vocational pathway, you should explore VET courses that are available.
- ◆ VET courses are also a good way to develop skills for casual work to supplement university study.
- ◆ If you decide to enter the workforce after Year 12 and prefer not to do further study, remember you will always need further training. The acquisition of new skills and knowledge is the norm today
- ◆ Any subject which helps to achieve the highest ATAR or helps to get you into a TAFE course will eventually be of benefit to you when you take on further study.

NOTE: various tertiary areas can be integrated, with educational institutions acting as stepping stones so that students can progress from TAFE to University through credit transfer.

Understand the value of learning

- ◆ Education involves the acquisition of knowledge and skills and is a pathway towards personal growth and desirable lifestyles. Many subjects in the HSIE, Science, Languages, and Creative Arts Key Learning Areas help us to **think critically**, become skilled in **solving problems** and become better **communicators**.
- ◆ All these abilities and skills are highly valued by employers and thus will ensure your success in your chosen career.
- ◆ **Learning is a life-long experience and aimed at multi-skilling and flexibility**

THINKING AHEAD – WHAT YOU CHOOSE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FUTURE

This is a general guide only. You should always check with the institution of your choice to confirm the relevant information.

UNIVERSITY		TAFE
Areas of Study (Recommended by universities)	What might help?	Range of Courses
<p>Architecture/Design and Planning:</p> <p>Students are advised to study two or more units of Mathematics. A general background in Science, particularly Physics, may be helpful but is not essential.</p> <p>Visual Arts or Industrial Technology may also be useful</p>	<p>Maths Physics Engineering Studies Geography Visual Arts Industrial Technology</p>	<p>Dip Quantity Surveying, Dip Land & Engineering Survey Drafting Dip Building Studies Adv Dip Product Design & Development Dip. Architectural Technology/Architectural CAD Technology</p>
<p>Arts/Humanities</p> <p>Degree program in arts and liberal studies do not normally require a particular program of study at secondary school. A satisfactory level of English (Standard, Advanced or Extension) is recommended by some institutions, and recommended for all students in this field.</p> <p>If you wish to study foreign languages as your major subject, you should include the language of your choice in your HSC program although it is possible to take introductory language courses without prior study.</p>	<p>English</p>	<p>Library & Information Services</p>
<p>Business/Commerce/Economics/Marketing and Hospitality</p> <p>Courses in accounting, banking, economics, econometrics, finance, management and marketing may require or recommend at least two units of Mathematics as either a prerequisite or assumed knowledge. HSC Economics or Business Studies are considered useful but not essential preparation for courses in these areas.</p> <p>Students wishing to complete Actuarial Studies must complete Maths Ext 1 or 2.</p>	<p>Maths Economics Business Studies Legal Studies</p>	<p>Adv. Dip. Property Valuation Adv. Dip. Accounting Dip. Business Studies Adv. Dip. Marketing Management Dip Management.</p>
<p>Communication/Media Studies</p> <p>Most courses in these areas do not require a particular course of study at secondary school. A minimum score in English is required by some institutions. However, a questionnaire and/or interview may be required, in addition to the ATAR, for admission.</p>	<p>History English</p>	<p>Dip Advertising Dip Arts (Visual Merchandising) Dip Film and TV Production</p>

UNIVERSITY		TAFE
Areas of Study	What might help?	Range of Courses
<p>Earth and Environmental Sciences (<i>Human and physical geography, geology, geophysics, environmental science, resource & environmental management.</i>) Most courses do not require a particular program of study. However, a background in Science subjects and Mathematics is recommended by most institutions.</p>	<p>Maths Geography Chemistry Physics Biology</p>	<p>Dip. Horticulture Dip Viticulture Dip Agriculture Dip Horse Industry Management Dip Agribusiness</p>
<p>Education/Teaching</p> <p>As well as courses in a specific subject area there are teacher education programs in early childhood, primary and secondary education. For secondary teaching students must also fulfil the entry requirements in their proposed area of specialisation. For early childhood or primary teachers, some institutions require satisfactory or test for satisfactory levels of Mathematics and/or English.</p> <p>Students must achieve a Band 5 in English and two other subjects to gain entry into Teacher Education programs.</p> <p>The NSW Department of Education and Training requires all intending primary education teachers to have included at least two units of Mathematics and two units of English in the HSC program.</p>	<p>English (Mark cut-off applies) Maths CAFS</p>	<p>Dip Community Services (Children Services)</p>
<p>Engineering</p> <p>At least Extension 1 Mathematics is recommended for the study of all branches of engineering. At least two units of Physics and Chemistry are also recommended. Engineering Studies is considered useful but not essential preparation for engineering.</p>	<p>Maths Engineering Studies Physics Chemistry Industrial Technology SDD</p>	<p>Adv. Diplomas in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Electrical Technician ◆ Mechanical Technician / Surveying ◆ Manufacturing Systems ◆ Structural Engineer ◆ Telecommunications
<p>Human Movement/Sport Sciences/PE</p> <p>Most courses in these areas do not require a particular area of study at secondary school. However, a background in science subjects (Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics) is recommended by some institutions. Some institutions also require you to provide additional information relating to your sporting achievements. PDHPE is also considered useful.</p>	<p>PDHPE Maths Biology Chemistry</p>	<p>Dip Sport (Massage Therapy) Dip Sport, Fitness & Recreation</p>
<p>Information Technology</p> <p>Studies in this area usually require Mathematics or Extension 1 Mathematics as a prerequisite or assumed knowledge. Computer science is generally taught on the assumption that Extension 1 Maths has been studied.</p>	<p>Maths SDD IT</p>	<p>Dip of Information Technology Adv Dip Product Design & Development</p>
<p>Law</p> <p>Generally, there are no prerequisites or levels of assumed knowledge associated with any legal course, although students contemplating a Law program combined with arts, business, commerce, economics, engineering, science, social sciences or social welfare must comply with the requirements for those courses. English Extension 1 is beneficial.</p>	<p>Legal Studies History Geography English</p>	<p>Adv. Dip. Conveyancing</p>

UNIVERSITY		TAFE
Areas of Study	What might help?	Range of Courses
<p>Medical Sciences (including, medicine, optometry, pharmacy and veterinary sciences) Students intending to take up studies in these areas are advised to include at least two units of Mathematics, Chemistry and either Physics or Biology in the HSC program. ESL English is not considered as appropriate</p>	<p>Maths Physics Chemistry Biology</p>	<p>Dip Lab Technician</p>
<p>Nursing Students intending to undertake nursing studies are generally advised to include at least two units of Mathematics and two or more units of Science, preferably Chemistry or Biology. PDHPE and CAFS are also useful subjects for this area.</p>	<p>Maths Physics Chemistry Biology CAFS PDHPE</p>	<p>Enrolled Nurse AIDE</p>
<p>Health Sciences (Including diversional therapy, medical imaging, medical radiation technology, occupational therapy, orthoptics, physio- therapy, radiography and speech therapy). Students intending to take up studies in any of these areas are advised to include at least two units of Mathematics and Science, preferably Chemistry (2U Physics for medical imaging or medical radiation technology) in the HSC study program.</p>	<p>Maths Physics Chemistry Biology PD/H/PE</p>	
<p>Performing/Creative Arts Students intending to undertake tertiary studies in these areas are advised to gain experience outside the school environment. Entry to most of these courses requires an audition, interview or portfolio (or a combination of these) as well as a suitable ATAR. The study of Visual Arts, Dance, Music or Drama may be helpful for courses in the creative and performing arts area. Some institutions base selection to a creative arts course on the mark obtained in a relevant and specific HSC subject. Special admission procedures may be available if you are unable to include suitable subjects in your program.</p>	<p>Visual Arts Drama Music</p>	<p>Adv. Dip. Fashion Design Adv Dip Ceramics Dip Furniture Design Dip Music Business Dip Production Design and development Production Dip Jewellery & Object Design</p>
<p>Science/Applied Science/Technology Most courses in applied science are four year professional courses which involve the study of Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and either Biology or Geology in first year. Most science courses require students to have studied as much Science and Mathematics as they can effectively handle. Your HSC program should include both Chemistry and Physics, if possible. Extension 1 Mathematics is assumed knowledge for courses in technology such as Textiles and Metallurgy. Most science courses require students to have studied as much science and mathematics as possible.</p>	<p>Maths Physics Chemistry Biology SDD</p>	<p>Dip. Applied Science (Aviation) Dip Applied Science Environmental Technology Dip Laboratory Technician</p>

UNIVERSITY		TAFE
Areas of Study	What might help?	Range of Courses
<p>Social Science Social sciences may include the study of economics, education, geography, law, psychology and sociology. Mathematics may be required for some subjects.</p>	<p>Any HSIE subjects Mathematics English</p>	<p>Dip Geographic Information Systems</p>
<p>Social Work/Welfare Most courses in these areas do not require a particular program of study at secondary school although a minimum score in English may be required by some institutions.</p> <p>For Psychology degrees, Mathematics is strongly recommended</p>	<p>CAFS Society & Culture Languages</p>	<p>Dip. Community Services</p>
<p>Tourism/Hospitality Management Most courses in these areas do not require a particular program of study at secondary school although economics may be useful. Some courses also require a minimum level of English. Some institutions require work experience in customer services as a prerequisite.</p> <p>Business Studies is also recommended</p>	<p>Hospitality Multi-Skilling Business Studies Business Services Maths Society & Culture</p>	<p>Dip. Events and Entertainment Design Dip. Hospitality Management Dip Tourism</p>

TAFE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. TAFE NSW does not admit students on the basis of their ATAR.
2. Where subject prerequisites are specified for a TAFE course, **the level of achievement** at the HSC is taken into account.
3. Other factors include:
 - ◆ Previous employment/volunteer work
 - ◆ Previous school, TAFE or adult courses
 - ◆ Career intentions, knowledge of the industry, commitment and ability to do the course, specific talents and skills
4. Some TAFE NSW courses have additional selection criteria such as a questionnaire, entrance test, interview or portfolio.
5. Non-prerequisite subjects are credited (credit transfer) to TAFE certificates and Diplomas.
6. For further details regarding TAFE NSW's selection criteria refer to the TAFE NSW website.

USING THE INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE AT MACQUARIE FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

The library resource collection

- The school library is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am till 3.30pm.
- Only senior students also have access to the library during Wednesday lunch-time.

Resources

Our ever evolving library collection includes, but is not limited to:

- iPad
- eBooks
- Latest highly reviewed and recommended fiction and non-fiction books
- Magazines and serials
- Newspapers
- Specialists HSC Resources
- Computers

Our collection development is supported by professional membership of **Australian School Library Association**, the **Australian Library and Information Association** and subscription to **Scan** published by NSW Curriculum and Learning Innovation Centre (CLIC). Scan is a quarterly refereed journal that focuses on the interaction between information in a digital age and effective student learning. (Scan May 2011)

Tips for Using the Library

Staff members are fully qualified in information literacy and are able to assist students with their research and information gathering. Expect help in finding the answers to your questions from librarians, but not the answers themselves

- Bring your identification card with you to the library every time you come.
- Know exactly what the assignment is and when it's due. If the assignment has been given to you in writing, bring it with you.
- Be sure you have a pen, pencil, and other necessary supplies to do the assignment. If you think that you will need to use the copy machines or are planning to do many copies of information from on-line resources, bring change.
- You may know how to use the library, but ask the librarians for suggestions anyway. Librarians know lots of special tricks, techniques, and sources that you may not be aware of and can save you time.
- Take down bibliographic information in a consistent manner as you do your research (author, title, publisher, date, pages used). This is necessary for footnotes and bibliographies. It is difficult to retrieve lost information for a bibliography.
- If you are given a broad general topic for your assignment, try to narrow it down as much as possible. Be flexible in your interpretation of your assignment, especially if all of the obvious materials are not available.
- You might want to browse the fiction shelves for some lighter reading materials.
- Plan ahead. If you wait until the night before the assignment is due to start working on it, we will not be able to help you find the best materials for your topic. You will feel more positive about the assignment and the class if you set a work schedule early and keep to it.

The senior independent learning centre

This is an area within the Information Resource Centre and is available for use by senior students during their study periods, at recess and at lunchtime.

Resources

The centre has:

- Individual study desks and larger tables
- Access to technology including computers, TV and video
- Resources bought by individual faculties to support the senior curriculum. These resources are available for use in the Information Resource Centre only i.e.: it is a Closed Reserve Collection.

Student Responsibilities

It is expected that students will

- Fill in the log sheet on arrival
- Work productively while in the room
- Be considerate to the learning needs of other students in the area
- Return all Closed Reserve resources to their correct places.