

# Starting the SACE

What you need to know



# What is the SACE?

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- SACE stands for South Australian Certificate of Education
- A qualification for entry into universities and further training
- Recognised nationally and internationally

# What is the SACE?

By completing the SACE, students prepare for further learning, work, and life, by:

- Building essential skills and knowledge
- Making informed choices about future study and work, based on their strengths and interests
- Gaining a certificate that gives them a head-start on their pathway beyond school

# How the SACE works

# Stage 1 and Stage 2

There are two 'stages' of the SACE:

- Stage 1 is generally completed in Year 11
- Stage 2 is generally completed in Year 12
- This can vary between schools and students (e.g. many schools offer the Personal Learning Plan in Year 10)

# Capabilities

Throughout the SACE, students build five key capabilities:

- Communication
- Citizenship
- Learning
- Personal Development
- Work

# Learning through assessment

- Each grade (from A to E) in each SACE subject has a ‘performance standard’, describing the type of work that will receive that grade
- A student’s SACE work is assessed against these standards
- The standards are the same around the state
- They help students understand the reasons behind their grades, and how to improve

# Flexible pathways

- The SACE is flexible, and caters for learning both in and outside school
- Students can combine study and part-time work, a traineeship or school-based apprenticeship
- Students can receive credit for SACE subjects, vocational training, community learning, university studies

# Excellence

The SACE assists students to:

- develop capabilities needed for life and work in twenty-first century
- gain high level VET qualifications for workforce
- gain entry into state, national and international universities

# Universities entered by SACE students

## National

Flinders University

University of Adelaide

University of South Australia

Australian National University

University of Melbourne

University of Sydney

## International

New York University

University of Oxford

Yale University

National University of Singapore

University of Cambridge

Princeton University

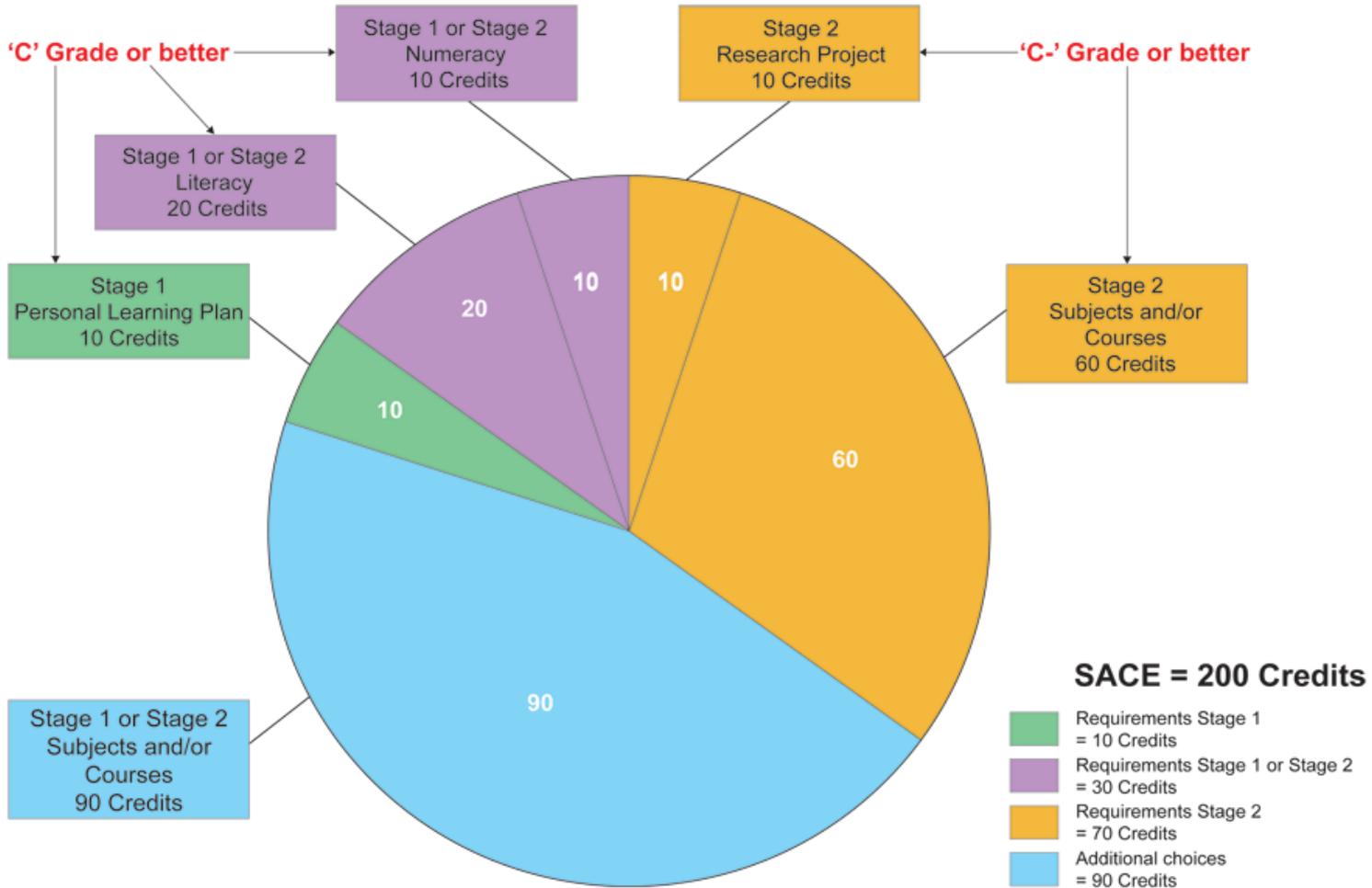
# SACE requirements



# SACE requirements

- Students need 200 credits to achieve the SACE
- Most 10-credit subjects are studied over one semester and most 20-credit subjects are studied over two semesters
- Students need to achieve a C grade or higher for Stage 1 requirements and a C- grade or higher for Stage 2 requirements to achieve the SACE

# SACE Credits



# Stage 1

# Stage 1

- Subjects are graded from A to E
- All tasks are assessed by teachers at the school
- Assessment is externally checked in mathematics, English and the Personal Learning Plan

# The Personal Learning Plan

- Stage 1 subject worth 10 credits
- C grade or higher is needed
- At the start of the SACE – Year 10 or 11
- Identify strengths and interests
- Set personal and learning goals
- Gain skills for future study and employment – planning, research

# The Personal Learning Plan

Helps students to:

- Look at different career paths and options
- Choose the right SACE subjects and study options for their future plans
- Think about courses and activities outside school that will help them achieve their goals

# Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 requirements

- Literacy and numeracy requirements must be met at Stage 1 or Stage 2
- Literacy – from a range of English subjects or courses (20 credits)
- Numeracy – from a range of mathematics subjects or courses (10 credits).
- Students must achieve at least a C grade at Stage 1 or a C- grade at Stage 2

# Stage 2

# Stage 2

- Subjects are graded from A+ to E-
- 70% of subject assessments (e.g. assignments) will be assessed by the student's teacher and moderated by the SACE Board
- 30% of subject assessments (e.g. investigations) will be assessed externally by a SACE Board assessor

# Stage 2

To achieve Stage 2, students need to complete:

- Stage 2 subjects and/or VET (60 credits)
- Research Project (10 credits)

Most students will complete subjects and courses worth more than 70 credits at Stage 2

# The Research Project

- All Stage 2 students study the Research Project
- A chance to do in-depth research and study a topic that interests the student
- Develop skills in planning, research, analysis and communication
- Tertiary-style study; skills valued by employers

# The Research Project

- Need to achieve a C- grade or higher
- Worth 10 credits
- Research Project B can be included as part of a student's Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

# Additional choices

- To complete the SACE, students can choose from a range of other Stage 1 or Stage 2 subjects or courses (90 credits)
- Students must achieve a grade in these subjects or courses to gain the SACE

# Other subjects and courses



# Recognised learning

The SACE recognises learning both in and outside school, for example:

- Vocational Education and Training courses (VET)
- University and TAFE courses
- Community learning (such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or volunteer work)

# Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- If students prefer hands-on learning or work outside the classroom, they can earn SACE credits for a wide range of activities
- Students can learn on-the-job skills while working towards both the SACE and a VET qualification
- VET options are available at both Stage 1 and Stage 2

# Further study



# The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

- A measure of a student's overall achievement in the SACE compared with other students
- Used by universities in the selection of school leavers for a place in university courses
- Ranges from 0 to 99.95
- Calculated from university aggregate, based on 3 full-year Tertiary Admissions Subjects (TAS) plus one full-year TAS, or other studies recognised by the SACE Board and universities

# Applying for university in 2014

To be eligible, a student will need to have:

- Completed the SACE
- Gained an ATAR
- Gained a university aggregate
- Met any prerequisite subject requirements needed for the university course
- Complied with rules regarding subject combinations and counting restrictions

# Applying for TAFE

- TAFE SA recognises the SACE as meeting the Course Admission Requirements for most of its courses
- It also considers a variety of other qualifications and experiences in its entry and selection processes
- For the most up to date information on course admissions requirements, refer to the TAFE SA website: [www.tafesa.edu.au](http://www.tafesa.edu.au)

# More information on university and TAFE entry

- Full details on university and TAFE entry requirements for 2014 onward will be in the *Tertiary Entrance 2013, 2014, 2015* booklet
- The booklet is published by the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC), and is provided to schools each year

# Individual circumstances



# Students with a disability

- The SACE Board offers modified subjects at Stage 1 and Stage 2 for students with identified intellectual disabilities
- A student studying a modified subject will gain credits towards the SACE but not a grade for the subject; instead successful achievement is recorded as 'Completed'
- Any modified subjects a student has studied will be listed on their SACE certificate

# Special Provisions

- Special provisions are available if a student has an illness, disability or unforeseen circumstance which significantly impacts their ability to participate in an assessment.
- If a student applies for special provisions they need to provide evidence of how this impacts their ability to access assessment conditions.
- More information is on the SACE website under *Students and Families > Special Provisions*

# Interstate/overseas/adult students

- The SACE Board will grant status for equivalent learning in other areas
- Information about meeting the requirements for interstate, adult and overseas students can be found on the SACE website under *Students and Families*

# Further information

South Australian Certificate of Education

Search Website

sign-in Forgot Password Create Account

HOME THE SACE SUBJECTS CONNECT NEWS ABOUT HELP

**SACE News - Term 2**

In the May issue of SACE News you'll find:

- Research Project update
- Research Project Semester 1 key dates
- Stage 1 Moderation
- Professional Development
- Preclusions for SACE completion
- TAS status of Local Programs

Visit [News > SACE News > 2011](#) to read more.

**Advice on preparing Stage 2 Materials**

**Teacher Focus - Stage 1 PLP evaluation**

**Teachers and Schools**  
The information you need to teach and deliver the SACE  
[MORE >](#)

**Students and Families**  
Achieving the SACE: everything you need to know  
[MORE >](#)

**Research Project**  
Learn more about the Research Project  
[MORE >](#)

**VET**  
Everything you need to know about VET in the SACE  
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**achieve**

A guide for students preparing for Stage 2 of the SACE

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# Achieve handbook

- Copies of the Stage 2 edition of the SACE student handbook, *Achieve*, have been given to all Year 11 students
- This edition of the handbook contains useful information for students about the SACE and is designed to be used in course counselling
- Parents are encouraged to read the handbook with students to discuss options and plans

# Further information

- Visit the SACE website – particularly the *Students and Families* and *Subjects* sections:  
[www.sace.sa.edu.au](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au)
- Read a copy of the *Achieve* handbook, Stage 1 or Stage 2 edition
- Talk to the teachers at your school