



# ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies

## ACT Senior Secondary Certificate Overview

2022



*Student awardees and special guests who attended the 2022 BSSS Recognition of Excellence Ceremony*

Congratulations to all the students who received their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and to the teachers, support staff, parents and carers, family, and friends who guided and assisted them through a significant and sometimes challenging time in their lives.

Education is a key element in enabling young adults to achieve their best in life and the attainment of the senior secondary certificate can have a profound impact on students' opportunities and life choices. The Class of 2022 is encouraged to pursue their learning, regardless of the context, in the years beyond school.

COVID-19 continued to impact our lives, making this another busy and complex year for all. Despite these uncertain times, our school-based curriculum and continuous assessment senior secondary system has enabled schools to maintain continuity of learning.

Significantly, end of year scaling and certification processes indicated that student achievement maintained pre COVID-19 outcomes.

The certificate indicates the completion of a senior secondary educational program and certifies that students have demonstrated particular knowledge and skills. For some students their certificates will reflect a generalist or vocational orientation. For others their Certificates will reflect subjects directed specifically towards preparation for immediate post-school study at university. A number of Certificates demonstrate learning that reflects both vocational and university aspirations. 4,526 students achieved their senior secondary certificate.

School communities are able to select from an extensive range of contemporary ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) courses. These provide multiple pathways and opportunities to address the needs and interests of a diverse range of learners. Colleges deliver courses that prepare students for life, and pathways including vocational and university opportunities.

All students are required to study a course in English. A total of 4,238 students studied a course in Mathematics, 2,500 in Sciences and 1,400 in PE/Human Movement/Sports Science/Outdoor Education.

Sixty two percent of students received a senior secondary certificate that also included a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES). Eighty eight percent of students eligible for a TES earned an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) equal to or greater than 60. Students in twenty-one colleges achieved ATARS equal to or greater than 95.

Ninety-nine-point nine percent of students eligible for a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES) earned the ATAR needed to enrol at an Australian University based on anticipated first round offer entrance requirements.

Seventy-one students with a mild to moderate intellectual disability received a senior secondary certificate.

New courses completed for the first time included *Early Childhood Studies, Social and Community Work, Specialised Dance, Specialised Drama, Specialised Media, Specialised Music, Specialised Photography and Specialised Visual Arts.*

This year's outcomes show that 963 students were awarded competencies leading to a vocational qualification, in addition to 326 students with an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA), and a further 95 students who received a VET qualification from other externally registered training organisations--all included on their senior secondary certificate. Qualifications include *Electrotechnology, Community Services, and Business Services.*

A total of 251 students included an extension course studied at university on their senior secondary certificate.

The leadership of schools has always been and will continue to be paramount to the quality of opportunity and outcomes for students. ACT Principals and their leadership teams have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication and expertise in the carriage of the educational mission, providing skilled and measured guidance that enabled schools to be places of compassion and learning.

Most importantly, and without doubt or question, it is the teacher in the classroom that we must thank. The teacher in the classroom is the reason that learning can be such a wonderful experience--that students may be inspired by their teachers, and that in turn students may themselves aspire to learn, to know, and to understand.

Ms Roberta McRae  
Chair  
BSSS

Mr Martin Watson  
Executive Director  
BSSS