

Introduction

The SATAC Bulletin is published for the information of school staff and others who provide advice to prospective tertiary students.

It provides information and updates on SATAC services, courses available through SATAC, and the admissions process.

Contents

- 1 Changes to the calculation of the university aggregate
- 2 Resources for schools
- 3 Studying at TAFE SA in 2014
- 4 University applications for 2014
- 5 Update to published information
- 6 Key dates for courses starting in semester 1 2014

Changes to the calculation of the university aggregate

The three South Australian Universities and Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory are changing the rules for calculation of the university aggregate, and hence the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). This will affect SACE and NTCET Stage 2 students completing their studies in 2015 or later.

The information in this Bulletin should be read in conjunction with the recently published Tertiary Entrance booklet covering the entry years 2014, 2015 and 2016. The changes are explained on pages 43 – 47 of the booklet.

The information below summarises what will change and what will not change with the implementation of the new rules.

What has changed

- 90 credits of Tertiary Admissions Subjects (TAS) or Recognised Studies must be presented.
- The Flexible Option now contributes 30 credits to the university aggregate.
- Scaled scores in lieu of VET or higher education are now calculated from the average of the first 70 credits of TAS contributing to the aggregate.

What has not changed

- Students must qualify for the SACE/NTCET.
- Rules regarding precluded combinations and counting restrictions.
- The first 60 credits of the aggregate must come from 20 credit TAS (or a valid pair).
- Recognised Studies (e.g. VET, higher education, IB subjects) can only count to a maximum of 20 credits.
- Recognised Studies can only count in the Flexible Option.
- The contribution of the Flexible Option towards the aggregate will always be the best combination of scaled scores derived from the results remaining after the first 60 credits of the aggregate have been calculated.
- SACE/NTCET subjects that are not TAS cannot count in the aggregate.
- The NTCET does not require the completion of the Research Project to gain the Certificate.
- The eligibility for and rules regarding the calculation of the TAFE SA Selection Score.

Implementation timelines

The changes will be implemented for the cohort of students obtaining or improving a university aggregate in 2015, and applying for university entry for the 2016 academic year.

Most students currently in year 10, and their teachers and parents, will need to understand these changes so they can effectively plan their Stage 1 SACE studies for 2014 and their Stage 2 studies for 2015.

Important information for prior year SACE/NTCET students returning to study in 2015 attempting to obtain or improve a university aggregate

The universities wish to ensure that all students obtaining an aggregate in 2015, whether for the first time or as a result of returning to study, will compete on the same basis for 2016 university entry. All 2015 students will therefore be subject to the new rules for the university aggregate.

If a student has not obtained an aggregate by the end of 2014

If, for any reason, a student has either not met the requirements of the SACE/NTCET or not achieved a university aggregate by the end of the 2014 clerical check period (February 2015) they will be subject to the 2015 aggregate rules including the requirement to present 90 credits.

If a student has obtained or will obtain an aggregate in 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014

If a student obtains a university aggregate in these years, their aggregate will have been calculated on 80 credits of study.

If they wish to return to their studies in 2015 or later to improve their university aggregate, they will need to comply with the new rules for the university aggregate outlined above including the requirement to present 90 credits.

Please note, for an aggregate to be recalculated, students must receive a result

in the 2015 results processing period for their studies such as receiving a grade of E- or better and a scaled score greater than 0.0 in a TAS.

If a student does not comply with these rules, a 2015 university aggregate will not be calculated for them, but they will still be able to use any university aggregate and ATAR they obtained prior to 2015 for university entry.

The new rules for 2015

The diagram below appears on page 45 of the Tertiary Entrance booklet, which also includes example calculations based on different study patterns.

How your university aggregate is calculated

	60	30
	<p>Your scaled scores from three 20 credit Tertiary Admissions Subjects (TAS) are used.</p> <p>Normally, 10 credit subjects do not count towards this requirement but some 10 credit subjects in the same subject area, when studied in pairs, can substitute for a 20 credit subject. These are called valid pairs. Such subjects are identified in the table on pages 49 – 67.</p>	<p>Your score for the flexible option is the best 30 credits of scaled scores or scaled score equivalents from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scaled score of a 20 credit TAS; • half the scaled score of one or more 20 credit TAS; • the scaled score of one or more 10 credit TAS; • scaled score equivalents for Recognised Studies to the value of 10 or the maximum of 20 credits.
<p>Your university aggregate is the best possible score calculated from the above options subject to counting restrictions and precluded combinations.</p>		

Resources for schools

The new-look SATAC website opened in early August. The home page includes a **Resources for schools** link. From this page you can access:

- basic introductions to the online application for university undergraduate and TAFE SA admissions;
- information on tertiary education and career events;
- access to Applicants by School webpages.

Username and passwords giving access to the Applicants by School webpages have recently been sent to School Principals for distribution to authorised staff within schools. Please note that your old login/password combination will not work.

Studying at TAFE SA in 2014

TAFE SA is funded under Skills for All and significant changes affecting SACE students are occurring from 4 November 2013.

The SACE or an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification will form part of the eligibility criteria for Skills for All funding, and students with these qualifications will only be entitled to funding for up to two courses at Certificate III level and above.

This means that students completing the SACE in 2013 who wish to study at TAFE SA in 2014 will no longer be funded to study a Certificate I or II, and will only be eligible for funding for two courses at Certificate III and above.

For further information see the Skills for All website at www.skills.sa.gov.au.

TAFE SA applications for courses starting in 2014 will open on Monday 23 September.

University applications for 2014 open now

University applications for courses starting in 2014 are open now.

There are a number of changes to the SATAC website and online application this year, and basic instructions can be found under **Resources for schools** on the SATAC website.

Update to published information

Please note at the time of going to print the SATAC University Guide incorrectly listed the prerequisite subject requirements for Bachelor of Science (Clean Technology) (224571) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Clean Technology) (224581) at Flinders University as Chemistry AND either Mathematical Methods or Mathematical Studies.

The correct prerequisite for these courses is **Mathematical Methods or Mathematical Studies**, and this is reflected on page 22 of the Tertiary Entrance booklet.

Key dates for courses starting in semester 1 2014

The table opposite lists selected key dates for TAFE SA and university undergraduate courses starting in semester 1 2014.

A complete list of key dates is available on the SATAC website.

Key dates for courses starting in semester 1 2014

TAFE SA

23/09/13	Applications open for courses starting in 2014.
15/11/13	Equal consideration closing date.
03/01/14	Change of preference deadline.
06/01/14 to 13/01/14	Main offer processing period. Some services will be unavailable for short periods.
13/01/14	Main January offer round. Offers online from 9am.

University Undergraduate

27/09/13	Early closing date for most courses. Apply by this date to avoid late fee. Final closing date for Medicine/Surgery, Dental Surgery/Oral Health at University of Adelaide
02/12/13	Equal consideration closing date for most courses.
06/01/14	Change of preference deadline. Deadline for applicants who applied by 2 Dec to pay fees.
16/01/14	Main January offer round for S1 2014. Offers emailed by 5pm.
29/01/14	Further offer rounds from this date. Offers emailed by 5pm on offer round days.