The SACE – How do I get it?

There are two stages of the SACE – Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Most students start Stage 1 in Year 10, and finish it in Year 11. Stage 2 is usually studied in Year 12.

**Year 10**

Most students will start their SACE in Year 10 with the Personal Learning Plan (PLP).

The PLP is a 10-credit Stage 1 subject. All students need to achieve a C grade or better in this subject to get their SACE.

Studying the PLP at the start of the SACE gives you a good foundation for your Year 11 and Year 12 studies, and can help in your subject selection later on. It is a way to get you thinking about your options for the future and how the SACE can help you get there.

**Year 11**

Year 11 is when most students begin a full year of SACE study. You can choose from a range of Stage 1 subjects offered at Concordia, as well as Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses and other options.

In Stage 1, all of your assessment tasks (reports, presentations, etc.) will be marked by teachers at the school.

There are two compulsory requirements for the SACE that students usually complete at Stage 1 – a full-year of an English subject, and at least a semester of a Mathematics subject. You will need to get a C grade or better in both. Your assessments in these two areas are marked by your teachers and checked by moderators outside the school to ensure that grades are consistent across schools.

The Mathematics and English requirements highlight the importance of graduating from school with literacy and numeracy skills.

**Year 12**

Like Year 11, you choose your subjects and courses – this time at Stage 2 – from those offered at Concordia.

At Stage 2, 70 percent of your assessment tasks (reports, tests, presentations, etc.) will be marked by teachers at Concordia and checked by moderators outside the school. This ensures that marking is consistent across schools.

The remaining 30 per cent will be assessed outside of the school. These assessments could take the form of examinations, performances or investigations.

There is one compulsory subject in Year 12 – the Research Project. It is a one-semester (10-credit) subject that gives you the chance to research in depth a topic that you are interested in.
Credits

To gain your SACE you need to achieve 200 credits.

The compulsory parts make up 50 credits – 10 credits for the Personal Learning Plan, 20 credits of literacy, 10 credits of numeracy, and 10 credits for the Research Project.

You will also need to complete at least 60 credits from Stage 2 subjects – you can choose the subjects, but they have to be worth at least 60 credits in total.

You must achieve a C– grade or better in the 60 credits of your Stage 2 subjects, plus 10 credits of the Research Project, to gain your SACE.

The table on the opposite page shows the SACE requirements. Remember that 10 credits equates to one semester of study in a subject, and 20 credits equates to a full-year subject.

Grades

In the SACE, achievement in each subject is reported using grades. At Stage 1, the highest grade is A and the lowest is E. At Stage 2, the highest grade is A+ and the lowest is E–.

Putting it another way

The table below shows how many credits are needed at each stage of the SACE to meet the 200 credit requirement.

There is also a useful online tool to help you plan your SACE in Students Online (www.sace.sa.edu.au/students-online).

If you need more help understanding how the SACE works, talk to your teachers or the SACE coordinator.

You can also find useful information on the SACE website – just click on the link for ‘Students and Families’ on the homepage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 10</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Learning Plan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 11 (Stage 1) or Year 12 (Stage 2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy (from a range of English subjects and courses)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy (from a range of mathematics subjects and courses)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 12 (Stage 2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Stage 2 subjects and courses*</td>
<td>60 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 11 or 12 (Stages 1 or 2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other subjects and courses of the student’s choice</td>
<td>up to 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Many students will complete subjects or courses worth more than 70 credits at Stage 2.
Subjects

Whether you want to go to university, study a trade or go straight into the workforce, the SACE can be tailored to suit your needs.

All SACE students need to complete the compulsory requirements, but your other subject choices are up to you.

It is important to check the Curriculum Handbook for the subjects Concordia offers – not every subject is offered at every school.

SACE subjects that are worth 10 credits are usually one-semester subjects, while 20-credit subjects usually involve a full year of study.

A complete list of SACE subjects at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 can be found on the SACE website, under the Subjects tab.

When deciding on your subjects for Year 11 and Year 12, remember to consider any prerequisite subjects for university courses you are interested in. You may need to study the Stage 1 subject to be able to enrol in the Stage 2 subject the year after.

Apart from studying SACE subjects, you can also get credits towards the SACE by studying in other areas, such as Vocational Education and Training (VET), or Community Learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Enterprise and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-disciplinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Why should I study VET?
If you are thinking about becoming a mechanic, want to work in child care, or imagine being an electronic technician, Vocational Education and Training (VET) could be the right choice for you.

Studying VET as part of your SACE can give you a head start in your career and earn you SACE credits. You can develop hands-on skills in areas of work and industry that interest you, and complete your SACE at the same time.

Whether you decide to study an individual VET course, or a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, choosing VET can help you work towards a job-ready qualification.

How do I get SACE credits for my VET?
Once you have chosen your VET options, the VET coordinator can help you work out how many credits you could possibly achieve at Stage 1 or Stage 2. The number of SACE credits you can gain is based on the amount of VET you do as part of your SACE.

Each qualification is different and has compulsory and elective options, so the SACE credits you end up gaining may vary depending on the VET qualification you are working towards.

You can earn up to 180 out of 200 SACE credits using VET, as long as you meet the literacy and numeracy requirements.

What is the VET Recognition Register?
The VET Recognition Register is a useful tool on the SACE website that lists more than 200 of the most popular VET qualifications. The register can tell you the SACE level (Stage 1 or Stage 2), and the maximum and minimum SACE credits you could earn.

You can find the VET Recognition Register on the SACE website by clicking on the VET box at the bottom of the homepage.

Want more information?
Find everything you need on the SACE website by clicking on the VET box on the homepage.
Other Courses – Recognising Your Learning

There are a number of other ways to gain SACE credits. Most students earn credits by studying subjects at school; however you can also gain SACE credits through recognition arrangements, such as Community Learning.

Studying for your SACE means you can gain SACE credits for skills and knowledge you gain in a range of community programs and other courses.

The learning that students undertake through VET, Community Learning and other recognised courses is called ‘recognised learning’ in the SACE.

**Community Learning**

Students can count up to 90 credits of Community Learning at Stage 1 and/or Stage 2, but it is important to note that Community Learning does not count towards the requirement for 60 credits at a C grade or better at Stage 2.

You can gain credits for community service or activities in two ways:
- community-developed programs
- self-directed community learning.

**Community-developed programs**

Many community organisations develop their own learning programs, which students can undertake and count towards their SACE at Stage 1 or Stage 2.

These include programs such as:
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Royal Life Saving Society
- SA Country Fire Service
- Scouts SA
- Australian Music Examinations Board
- Australian Army Cadets
A full list of SACE-recognised community-developed courses can be found on the SACE website under Subjects > Recognised Learning.

**Self-directed community learning**

You might be part of a program or course outside school which is not formally accredited, but which you could still be eligible to receive SACE credits for.

This could include:
- participating in a sport at an elite level
- acting as a carer for an elderly or invalid person
- teaching others a specialised skill (such as dance)
- gaining a pilot’s licence
- volunteering.

You need to show evidence of your learning when applying for SACE credits for self-directed community learning.

**Other recognised learning**

SACE credits can be granted for appropriate qualifications, subjects, courses, or learning experiences gained by local, interstate, or overseas students.

These can include:
- university studies
- educational exchange programs
- the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
- interstate and overseas senior secondary school qualifications
- languages courses

This sort of learning is counted towards the SACE as a number of SACE credits ‘granted’, and is not accompanied by a result.
A guide for SACE – Choosing what to study

Choosing what subjects to study at Stage 2 in the SACE may seem daunting – there are lots of options, after all. But have confidence in the work you’ve done so far, ask the right questions and use the right resources, and you can make informed choices that will get you where you want to go.

Review your Personal Learning Plan

In the Personal Learning Plan, you considered your strengths and interests – consider how these relate to the range of subjects available in Year 11 and Year 12. Have another look at the personal and learning goals you identified, and think about how these might flow into choices about further study and work after you finish secondary school. Let your interests and strengths guide you.

Talk to teachers, parents and friends

You may have an idea about the areas of learning you are interested in, such as the sciences, mathematics or humanities, but have you decided on the particular subjects you want to study? Your teachers can advise you about the subjects offered at Concordia, and what might fit best with your goals.

Talk to people who know you well, such as your parents and friends. As well as being a useful sounding board, they can give you the confidence and support to make choices that are right for you.

Think about future career requirements

Consider the type of career you may want to enter after school, and what pathways there are to that sort of career.

If you want to study at university, you can use the SACE to gain an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) for entry into courses in SA and around Australia. Some university courses also have pre-requisite subjects. Many SACE students each year enter top universities around the world – if this is something you are interested in, you will want to look at the entry requirements.

If you want to study at TAFE SA, you will be looking at getting a TAFE SA Entry Score, which has its own requirements.

Use the SACE website

The ‘Subjects’ section of the SACE website has lots of information on the topics covered in each subject – this should give you an idea of whether a particular subject is for you. You can use the information on the subject pages alongside the ‘Students Online’ tool to plan your SACE, look at different subject combinations and check your progress. Students Online can provide an overall picture of how you are doing in your SACE and how the subjects you choose can contribute to your certificate.
All About the Research Project

The Research Project subject gives you the chance to direct your own learning while expanding on your planning, research, analysis and communication skills. These are tools you can use throughout your life, both in your career and in further education.

The Research Project is a one semester, 10–credit Stage 2 subject, and you will need to get a C– grade or higher to gain your SACE.

Assessment

The Research Project is split into three sections, each worth a different portion of your final grade:

- Folio (30%)
- Research Outcome (40%)
- Evaluation (30%)

More information about each section of the Research Project can be found in the Students and Families section of the SACE website, under Stage 2 > Research Project.

Research Project A or B?

There are two Research Project options – Research Project A and Research Project B. The main difference between the two is that Research Project B can count towards your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Students who undertake Research Project B must present their evaluation in written form. Students studying Research Project A may present evidence in other forms, such as a PowerPoint presentation, a website, a performance or a video.

Choice and Capabilities

Take time to consider what it is you may want to research – something you are interested in, or passionate about. Your idea should be challenging but achievable.

In the Research Project you can choose which capability or capabilities to develop and reflect on.

The purpose of the capabilities is to develop in students the knowledge, skills and understanding to be successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The capabilities that have been identified are:

- literacy
- numeracy
- information and communication technology capability
- critical and creative thinking
- personal and social capability
- ethical understanding
- intercultural understanding.

The capabilities enable students to make connections in their learning within and across subjects in a wide range of contexts.
1. Communication

This capability helps you explore your ability to communicate with others. This can include clearly expressing your ideas and opinions or building on your literacy and numeracy skills.

Research Project: How to create a theatre production for the Adelaide Fringe Festival?

2. Citizenship

How you contribute to the wider community is what this capability is about – this can include participating in activities outside of your school, such as youth forums or community events.

Research Project: Why are not enough people volunteering, and how can this issue be addressed?

3. Personal development

This is where you have the chance to reflect on and improve areas of your own personal development, identifying your strengths and areas for development and building your self-confidence.

Research Project: What are the processes required to become a police officer?

4. Work

In this capability you can explore workplace learning and employability skills. This could include participating in work experience or gaining skills you can use in the workplace.

Research Project: How important are geologists to the mining industry?

5. Learning

The learning capability helps you develop your ability to learn. This can be done by gaining feedback on your learning style and areas for improvement, learning organisation skills or building on your reflection and evaluation skills.

Research Project: What are the most effective ways of learning a second language?
Making the Grade – Understanding Performance Standards

Understanding the standards

What determines whether you receive an A, a B, or a C for the work that you do? And how can you get your work up to the next level?

The answer is in the performance standards!

The standard of work you must demonstrate to achieve each grade in each SACE subject is described by a performance standard.

The standards outline how well you demonstrated what you know, can do, and understand, in relation to the criteria set out for each subject.

Whenever you are given a grade (A to E) for an assessment, you can check the performance standards to monitor your progress through the subject. They describe how well you have demonstrated what you know, can do and understand. They can also help you to set goals for improvement.

The performance standards can be found in the subject outline of each SACE subject – these documents can be found on the subject pages on the SACE website.

Why use performance standards?

Having performance standards allows for fair grading across the state. All SACE teachers and assessors are marking with reference to the same performance standards, so students receive comparable grades.

As a student, you can use the grades and performance standards to help guide you from one level to the next.

You can look back and see where you’ve been and look forward to see what you want to achieve, with a clear idea about how to get there.
Stage 2 Assessment

School assessment: 70%
In Stage 2, you will be awarded grades in your assessments from A+ to E-, and for your final grade. Your teachers will assess 70% of your work, while 30% will be assessed by the SACE Board.

School assessment
These are the tasks set and assessed by the school, as part of each subject you are studying. Teachers undertake training to assess students’ work in line with the performance standards.

Validating school assessment
A sample of student work from the school, representing a range of grades across every Stage 2 subject, will be sent off to the SACE Board. Assessment experts will check to confirm the grades that have been given are accurate, fair and comparable with other students across the state.

Confirming or adjusting grades
Teachers across the state mark with reference to the performance standards in the subject outlines. There is a statewide process at the end of each year to ensure that grades given at one school are comparable with grades in another school. The process of confirming and adjusting school assessment grades is referred to as ‘moderation’.

External assessment: 30%
The SACE Board marks the external assessment component of all subjects. These assessments can take the form of oral and/or written examinations, investigations or performances.

Examinations
Some Stage 2 subjects have written exams, which are produced and assessed by the SACE Board. The majority of these examinations take place in Term 4, during October and November. The exam timetable is made available on the SACE website during the first semester of each year.

Investigations
Many Stage 2 subjects have externally assessed investigations. These are first assessed by your teacher, then sent to the SACE Board for external assessment.

Performances
A range of Stage 2 subjects (drama, dance and some music subjects) have externally assessed performances. They are marked independently by subject teachers and SACE Board assessors at the time of each performance.
Results

At the end of your SACE journey, you’ll receive your Year 12 results.

On the day of results release, results will be sent through the post but students will also be able to access them online on the SACE website.

Following is a guide to understanding your results, and the information you will receive.

On the screen

If you have your PIN and SACE registration number, you can access your results on the morning they are released, via the Students Online system.

If you cannot remember your PIN, you can reset it to your date of birth on the Students Online login page www.sace.sa.edu.au/students-online.

On the day results are released, resetting PINs may take a few hours, so it pays to check that you can log in a week or more beforehand.

Once you log in to Students Online on the day of results release, you will have access to a range of information about your results.

> Access your SACE Results

Clicking this link will access the main SACE results screen, where you will find a list of the subjects you completed and the results. Clicking on the name of each subject will bring up your Student Subject Record for that subject.

The subject record shows the grades you received for individual assessments (both school-based and external), the weighting of each assessment, as well as a graph highlighting where your final grade sits in comparison to all students studying the subject.

> Access your SATAC Tertiary Entrance Statement

Your Tertiary Entrance Statement will show your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) and TAFE SA Selection Score.

> About the SACE Results

This section helps you understand your SACE results as shown online. The way your results appear online is similar to the Record of Achievement you will receive in the mail.

> About your SATAC Tertiary Entrance Statement

This section helps you understand your Tertiary Entrance Statement, and provides information about scaling, and how university aggregates and TAFE SA Selection Scores are calculated.

In the post

While most students check their results online, if you meet all requirements of the SACE, you will receive your SACE certificate in the post.

If you achieve a result in one or more Stage 2 subjects, you will receive a Record of Achievement. There is also an information booklet to help you understand your documents.
Contact Details

Aliki Papapetros
SACE Coordinator
apapapetros@concordia.sa.edu.au

Robert Gogel
VET Coordinator
rgogel@concordia.sa.edu.au

24 Winchester Street
Highgate, Adelaide
South Australia 5063

t. (08) 8272 0444
B. mail@concordia.sa.edu.au
CRICOS Provider Code 00360J

www.concordia.sa.edu.au

Some of the information contained in this brochure is provided courtesy of the SACE Board of S.A. To find out more about SACE, visit www.sace.sa.edu.au