

## 100 - Pathways to University

The two ways to enter university are called Direct Entry or Indirect (Alternative) Entry.

1. **Direct Entry** – You can access university directly if you achieve an appropriate Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or Overall Position (OP) score. For example, if the ATAR entrance requirement for your Business Degree is 97 and you achieve an ATAR of 97 in Year 12, then you can apply directly to university. To do this, you will need to register with the relevant university admission centre listed in the table on this page. For more information about the Direct Entry process see *Guide 101 – Direct entry to university*.
2. **Indirect (Alternative) Entry** – If you don't attain an appropriate ATAR or OP score for your degree, then you can enter university via a range of Indirect or Alternative entry programs. Outlined below are examples of alternative pathways to university.
  - a. **Indigenous Pathway Programs** are alternative routes to gain entry into university and are sometimes referred to as enabling, admissions or preparatory programs. Indigenous Units at universities run a wide range of pathway programs specifically designed for Indigenous students.
  - b. **Pre-Tertiary Pathways** are also called Tertiary Preparation or University Preparation Programs. You can take these courses to acquire the appropriate skills and knowledge required to enter university.
  - c. **Bridging or Foundation Courses** are designed to bridge the gaps between your educational attainment and university entrance requirements. For example, if you wish to study Business and your Year 12 Mathematics results are too low for entry into a Business degree, then you can do a bridging course to specifically improve your mathematics skills.
  - d. **Vocational Educational and Training (VET)** - Achieving a VET qualification from TAFE or another educational institution in the form of a diploma or advanced diploma can prepare you to enter university. Many secondary schools offer students opportunities to acquire VET qualifications in their senior secondary years.
  - e. **Higher Education Pathways** - If you're unable to enter into your preferred university degree, you may be able to enrol into a similar degree at the same institution or elsewhere. If you perform well in your first year, you may be able to transfer across to your preferred degree. Seek advice from your course coordinator in your faculty and/or the support staff at your university's Indigenous Unit.
  - f. **Adult Entry** - Adults who have not achieved a Year 12 qualification or ATAR/OP score, may be eligible to enter university via an Adult Entry Program. Universities may take into consideration any prior learning, work experience and/or your personal achievements. For more information about Adult Entry Pathways, contact the Indigenous Unit at the university you'd like to attend.

State	Secondary Qualification	Tertiary Entrance Score	University Admissions Centre
ACT	ACT Senior Secondary Certificate (ACT SSC)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">UAC – New South Wales</a>
NSW	Higher School Certificate (HSC)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">UAC – New South Wales</a>
QLD	Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)	OP – Overall Position	<a href="#">QTAC - Queensland</a>
SA	South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">SATAC – South Australia and Northern Territory</a>
NT	Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">SATAC – South Australia and Northern Territory</a>
TAS	Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">UTAS – Tasmania</a>
VIC	Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">VTAC – Victoria</a>
WA	Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)	ATAR - Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	<a href="#">TISC – Western Australia</a>

Many of these programs provide students with the required skills and knowledge to enter university and will also prepare them for university life and learning.