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MEDIA RELEASE

WA Tertiary Entrance Aggregate calculation to change from 2026

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) is updating the way it calculates the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) to increase consistency and fairness for all students in Western Australia.

The 10% bonus currently provided to students who have scaled scores in the following Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) courses will no longer apply from 2026 onwards: Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist, and a student's highest Language other than English (LOTE).

Currently, students who study the ATAR courses with bonus points allocations have a maximum possible TEA of 430, made up of four scaled scores of 100 plus up to three 10% bonuses, however students who don't study those subjects have a maximum possible TEA of only 400.

TISC Chief Executive Officer Andrew Crevald said WA is the only Australian state that grants a bonus of this type for an ATAR course scaled score.

"This update will bring WA in line with other Australian states, while levelling the playing field for all WA students, regardless of the ATAR course options available at their school," he said.

TISC Board Chair Andrew Taggart said the TISC Board carefully considered all aspects of this change and TISC staff are working hard to ensure the implementation is as smooth as possible.

"The change will be implemented for 2026 Year 12 students which means they can plan their ATAR courses whilst in Year 10 this year knowing that all subjects will receive the same treatment when their 2026 ATAR is calculated. At the same time, current Year 11 and 12 students are not affected by the change," he said.

ENDS

Available for comment:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About TISC

TISC is a not-for-profit organisation which processes applications for WA universities, conducts the Special Tertiary Admission Test (STAT), administers the Western Australian Universities Foundation Program (WAUFP), scales Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) results and calculates the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) for WA students.

The TISC Board is made up of five Directors, one from each of the four primary members (Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia) and an independent Chair.

Summary of the WA TEA calculation change

Year 12 students	How the TEA is calculated	Highest possible TEA
In 2024 and 2025	4 x ATAR course scaled scores of 100 + 3 x 10% bonuses if applicable (from Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist, and the highest LOTE)	= 430
From 2026 onwards	4 x ATAR course scaled scores of 100	= 400

About the ATAR

Currently, the WA TEA is used to assign a student's ATAR. It is made up a person's best four qualifying scaled ATAR course scores – plus a bonus of 10% for a student's highest LOTE score, and 10% for both Maths Methods and Maths Specialist.

There will be no change in the methodology of translating the TEA to an ATAR, except that the TEA distribution used in the calculations will range from 0 to 400 instead of from 0 to 430. The impact on individual ATARs cannot be calculated in advance, as the ATAR in any year is determined by the distribution of overall results in that year.

This change does not affect the way that TISC applies moderation, standardisation, and scaling processes across all subjects.

More information

The 'TISC 2027 University Admissions Requirements' document will include details of the change to the 2026 TEA calculation when it is published online from May 2024. Information can also be found at www.tisc.edu.au.