

2023 SCALING and ATAR INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to help you understand some of the outcomes from the marks adjustment (scaling) process.

In 2023 there were 79 courses examined, including 27 language courses using interstate syllabi.

The Marks Adjustment Process

The main steps in the marks adjustment process are:

- The School Curriculum & Standards Authority moderates school assessments against exam results, then combines the moderated school assessment and exam results to produce combined marks for each course studied.
- The combined marks are standardised before the scaling process.
- TISC and the School Curriculum & Standards Authority jointly scale the course results.

Full details of the marks adjustment process are at

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/misc/marks-adjustment-process.pdf>

Once the scaling process has been completed, the average of all scaled scores across all courses is 60.

A comparison of average scaled scores from 2022 and 2021 courses shows this year's averages are similar to previous years.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

9,722 school leavers achieved an ATAR in 2023 compared to 9,643 in 2022.

Seventeen school leavers achieved the maximum ATAR of 99.95.

Methodology

The ATAR reports students' rank position relative to all other students. It takes into account the number of students who sit the WACE examinations in any year and also the number of people of Year 12 school leaving age in the total population.

Students' best four scaled scores are added together to form a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate. Students who have scaled scores in a Language Other Than English (LOTE), Mathematics Methods and/or Mathematics Specialist have 10% of those scaled scores added to their aggregate.

The highest aggregate possible in 2023 was 430.

Once aggregates for all eligible students have been calculated, a formula based on the proportion of students taking at least four ATAR courses within the total school-leaving age population in Western Australia determines how many students are assigned to each ATAR band.

A technical explanation of how the ATAR is calculated is available at:

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/ter-frequency/atar-technical-specification.pdf>

University Competence in English Requirement

Competence in English for university admission is achieved for most WA universities by a scaled score of 50 or more in one of the three English ATAR courses (English, Literature, or English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EALD)).

The following is the percentage of students achieving a scaled score of 50 or more in 2023.

Literature ATAR	88.5%
English ATAR	72.2%
EALD ATAR	66.3%

For students whose scaled score is less than 50, universities will also consider their examination mark or moderated school assessment in determining competence in English. The threshold required for this concession is 60 for UWA and 55 for Murdoch, Curtin, and The University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA). Edith Cowan University (ECU) will concede competence in English with a letter grade of C in one of the three ATAR English subjects.

For Murdoch University and UNDA, successful completion of senior secondary study in English also satisfies their competence in English requirement.

Students who have sat the WACE examination in one of the three English ATAR courses, and have satisfied other admission requirements for a particular university but have not achieved competence in English for that university, are usually invited to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT). This invitation is made via their Universities Admission Advice Letter (UAAL) and is a further chance to demonstrate competence in English for university entry in Semester 1, 2024.

Mathematics

The scaling process produced the following means for Mathematics subjects in 2023 (2022 results in brackets):

Mathematics Applications	55.1% (54.7%)
Mathematics Methods	64.9% (64.6%)
Mathematics Specialist	67.8% (68.2%)

These means are consistent with those for these courses over the past few years.

Further information

More information on the marks adjustment process, scaled scores and ATAR distributions and courses used is available at www.tisc.edu.au, under [Resources>Statistics](#)