



Secondary Education in Australia (2015)

State / Territory	Secondary Education	Higher Secondary Education	Final Leaving Certificate	Transcript	Awarding Body	Minimum Credit Requirement
Australian Capital Territory	Yrs 7 – 10	Yrs 11 – 12	Australian Capital Territory Senior Secondary Certificate <small>(As of 2015. Formerly ACT Year 12 Certificate)</small>	Senior Secondary Record of Achievement	ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS)	17
New South Wales	Yrs 7 – 10	Yrs 11 – 12	Higher School Certificate (HSC)	Record of Achievement	Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) <small>(As of 2014. Formerly Board of Studies)</small>	22
Northern Territory	Yrs 7 – 9	Yrs 10 – 12	NT Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET)	Record of Achievement	Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS)	200
Queensland	Yrs 7 – 9 <small>(As of 2015)</small>	Yrs 10 – 12	Queensland Certificate of Education	Senior Statement	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) <small>(As of 2014. Formerly Queensland Studies Authority)</small>	20
South Australia	Yrs 8 – 10	Yrs 11 – 12	South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)	Record of Achievement	SACE Board of South Australia	200
Tasmania	Yrs 7 – 10	Yrs 11 – 12	Tasmanian Certificate of Education	Statement of Results	Tasmanian Qualifications Authority	120
Victoria	Yrs 7 – 10	Yrs 11 – 12	Victorian Certificate of Education	Statement of Results	Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)	16
Western Australia	Yrs 7 – 10 <small>(As of 2015)</small>	Yrs 11 – 12	Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)	Statement of Results	School Curriculum and Standards Authority <small>(As of 2014. Formerly Curriculum Council of Western Australia)</small>	20



Australian Qualifications (2015)

Credential	Minimum Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Comments
Certificate I	Varies. Ranges from having no requirements to having a minimum age requirement, proficiency requirements in areas relating to literacy and numeracy, and / or completion of Year 10.	Varies: 6 months – 1 year	Typically provides basic foundation and / or practical skills.
Certificate II	Varies. Ranges from having no requirements to having a minimum age requirement, proficiency requirements in areas relating to literacy and numeracy, and / or completion of Year 10.	Varies: 6 months – 1 year	Often prepares holders for an entry-level position or an apprenticeship in a particular field.
Certificate III	Varies. Ranges from having no requirements to having a minimum age requirement, concurrent work or apprenticeship experience, proficiency requirements in areas relating to literacy and numeracy, and / or completion of Year 10 or 12.	Varies: 1 – 2 years	Often enables holders to move out of an entry-level position.
Certificate IV	Varies. Ranges from having no requirements to having a minimum age requirement, concurrent work or apprenticeship experience, proficiency requirements in areas relating to literacy and numeracy, and / or completion of Certificate III. Frequently, completion of Year 12 is required.	Varies: 6 months – 2 years	Often equips holders for more responsibility in the workplace.

Credential	Minimum Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Comments
Year 12 Secondary School Qualification Name varies by state: Senior Secondary Certificate, Higher School Certificate, Certificate of Education and Training, Certificate of Education...	Completion of Year 9 or 10, depending on the state	2 – 3 years, depending on the state	Represents a total of 12 years of study (elementary and secondary education cycles). For more detail, see enclosed chart on secondary education in Australia.
Foundational Studies: Certificate of Completion	Completion of Secondary Education outside Australia. Completion of Year 11 in some countries.	Typically 1 year. However, depending on needs of student, can range from 9 – 18 months.	Preparatory studies for university education in Australia. Intended for international students.
Diploma	Can vary. Typically Year 12 Secondary School Qualification. Also Certificate III or Certificate IV in some cases.	1 – 2 years	Often prepares holders for paraprofessional and skilled work. Holders may be given up to 1 year of credit in a Bachelor Degree program.
Advanced Diploma	Can vary. Typically Year 12 Secondary School Qualification or Diploma. Also Certificate III or Certificate IV in some cases.	1.5 – 2 years	Often prepares holders for paraprofessional and advanced skilled work. Holders may be given 1 – 2 years of credit in a Bachelor Degree program. Regarded as more applied than Associate Degrees.
Associate Degree	Year 12 Secondary School Qualification. Also Certificate IV in some cases.	Typically 2 years	Holders may be given 1.5 – 2 years of credit in a Bachelor Degree program.

Credential	Minimum Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Comments
Bachelor Degree (Ordinary/Pass)	Year 12 Secondary School Qualification. Also Certificate IV in some cases.	Typically 3 years. Bachelor Degrees in professional fields may be longer. For example, engineering, law, and social work are usually 4 years in length. Medicine is typically 5 – 6 years in length.	Also note that there are Double / Combined Bachelor Degrees that take 4 – 5 years (e.g., 2 degrees or majors studied concurrently).
Bachelor Honours Degree	Year 12 Secondary School Qualification	Typically 4 years. Also 1 year, if after the 3-year Bachelor.	Includes research component / thesis. Often indicated with abbreviation “Hons” and classified as first or second class.
Graduate Certificate	Bachelor Degree	6 months	Holders may possibly be given up to 1 semester of credit in a Master Degree program (coursework-based).
Graduate Diploma	Bachelor Degree	1 year	Holders may possibly be given up to 1 year of credit in a Master Degree program (coursework-based).
Bachelor of Education (Bed)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	1 – 2 years	Referred to as Graduate-Entry Bachelor. Not to be confused with 4-year direct-entry Bachelor of Education. Both degrees prepare students for the teaching profession.
Bachelor of Letters (BLitt)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	2 years	Referred to as Graduate-Entry Bachelor. Typically taken by those with Bachelor Degrees in other fields and want a second area of specialization (e.g., a foreign language / culture).

Credential	Minimum Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Comments
Master Degree	Bachelor Degree	Typically 2 years	May be taught or research-based. May also be 1 – 1.5 years in length after a four-year Bachelor, Graduate Certificate, or Graduate Diploma.
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	3 years	Referred to as Graduate-Entry Bachelor. Not to be confused with 4-year direct-entry Bachelor of Laws. Both versions prepare students for practice in law. See also Juris Doctor.
Juris Doctor (JD)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	3 years	Prepares students for practice in law. Often pursued by mature students. See also Bachelor of Laws (LLB) above. JD is relatively new in Australia, when compared to the LLB.
Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	4 years	Referred to as Graduate-Entry Bachelor. Not to be confused with 5-6-year direct-entry Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). Both versions prepare students for practice in law. See also Doctor of Medicine (MD) below.
Doctor of Medicine (MD)	Bachelor Degree (in another field)	4 years	Prepares students for practice in medicine. See also Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) above. MD is relatively new in Australia, when compared to the MBBS.

Credential	Minimum Entrance Requirement	Length of Study	Comments
Master of Philosophy	Bachelor Honours. Also Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma.	1.5 – 2 years	This degree is research-based, culminating in a thesis.
Doctorate	Master Degree	2 – 4 years	Bachelor Honours Degree (First or Second Class, Upper Division) holders also have direct entry.
Higher Doctorate Name varies by field, e.g., Doctor of Science (DSc), Doctor of Letters (DLitt), Doctor of Engineering (DEng).	Doctorate	Varies. Usually represents substantial time and experience in the field.	For significant original contribution to one's field. Rarely awarded.