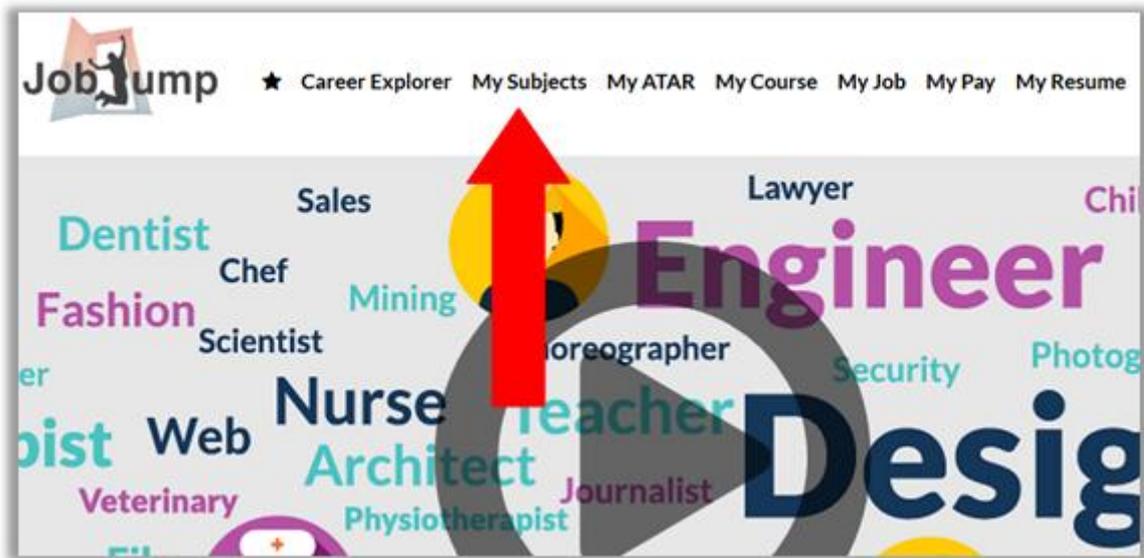


The ATAR – What it is and how to get my best ATAR



1. When on JobJump go to the menu item, **My Subjects**.
2. **Watch the slide show from UAC** explaining the ATAR and Subject Selection.
3. Now read over the notes below and then answer the true or false questions in the Task at the end.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is...

- A numerical measure of a student's overall academic achievement in the HSC in relation to that of other students.
- A number between 0.00 and 99.95 (Note: Only ATARs above 30.00 are reported).
- Intended for use by universities to rank and select school leavers for admission to university.

Your ATAR:

- Allows you to be compared with other students who have completed different combinations of HSC courses.
- Shows your **position or rank represented out of 100** among all other HSC students.
- The ATAR is not a mark
- Is provided by UAC.

To get an ATAR:

- You need at least **10 units** of Board Developed courses – these are HSC courses that are examined by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESAs). Your Careers Adviser can tell you which courses will count for an ATAR.
- Your ATAR is based on your best two units of English and the best eight units from your remaining courses.

Why Scale?

Different HSC courses have very different groups of students each with different abilities studying them.

To create an even playing field, raw HSC marks need to be adjusted before they can be used to calculate an ATAR.

This adjustment is called scaling.

UAC doesn't scale courses. UAC scales students' academic abilities.

That's why some courses have higher scaled means than others.

Scaling calculates what your mark and your position would be if all courses were studied by all students.

In other words scaling is placing everyone in order in all courses.

Remember, a student's position in a course depends on:

How well the student does in that course, and

The strength of the competition in that course.

It doesn't matter what courses you study, you just have to do well!

You can get a good ATAR with any course you take, even VET courses.

You have to do well in a course to get any benefit from scaling.

You must get marks on or above the average to get an average ATAR or above.

Average marks for the majority of courses are above 75.

Courses don't scale you up or down. It is your achievement in the course which scales you up or down.

What if I don't get a high enough ATAR for entry into university?

There are many pathways to where you want to be:

YOUR PLAN B

- preparation courses at uni
- TAFE (TPC, Cert IV or Diploma)
- uni colleges
- private colleges.

The way the ATAR is calculated (in short):

The first step in calculating the ATAR is scaling for each student for each subject. Remember, scaling is used to create an even playing field, so the raw HSC marks need to be adjusted as if all courses were studied by all students.

UAC then selects your 2 units of English and your next best 8 units of results.

Added together they get a mark out of 500 (10 units in total each unit worth 50 marks).

They then convert this overall mark out of 500 to a rank position out of 100. This is your ATAR.

TASK:

Answer True or False.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is...

1. A numerical measure of a student's overall academic achievement in the HSC in relation to that of other students. True or False
2. A number between 0.00 and 99.95 (only ATARs above 30.00 are reported). True or False
3. Intended for use by universities to rank and select school leavers for admission to TAFE. True or False

Your ATAR:

4. Shows your **position or rank represented out of 100** among all other HSC students. True or False
5. The ATAR is also a mark. True or False

To get an ATAR:

6. You need at least **10 units** of Board Developed courses – these are HSC courses that are examined by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). True or False
7. Your ATAR is based on your best two units of English and the best eight units from your remaining courses. True or False

Why Scale?

8. Different HSC courses have very different groups of students each with different abilities studying them. True or False
9. To create an even playing field, raw HSC marks need to be adjusted before they can be used to calculate an ATAR. True or False
10. Scaling calculates what your mark and your position would be if all courses were studied by all students. True or False

Remember, a student's position in a course depends on:

11. How well the student does in that course, and the strength of the competition in that course. True or False
12. You can get a good ATAR with any course but not if you study VET courses. True or False
13. You must get marks on or above the average to get an average ATAR or above. Average marks for the majority of courses are above 75. True or False

The way the ATAR is calculated (in short):

14. The first step in calculating the ATAR is scaling for each student for each subject.
Remember, scaling is used to create an even playing field, so the raw HSC marks need to be adjusted as if all courses were studied by all students. True or False
15. UAC then selects your 2 units of English and your next best 8 units of results. True or False
16. Added together they get an overall mark out of 5000 (10 units in total each unit worth 50 marks). True or False
17. They then convert this overall mark to a rank position out of 100. This is your ATAR. True or False

If I don't gain entry to University I could have a Plan B which could involve:

18. Doing a preparation courses at uni or going to a Uni college. True or False
19. TAFE (TPC, Cert IV or Diploma) or study at a private colleges. True or False
20. I can simply ask the Uni nicely to give me entry to the course I wish to study. True or False

