



Tasmanian Qualifications Authority



Making your qualifications count



The Tasmanian Certificate of Education

AND RELATED CERTIFICATES



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities



Senior secondary studies – year 11 and 12 – is the first phase of your life-long learning after the end of compulsory school. You can study in many different settings including Tasmanian Academy colleges and other schools and colleges, the Tasmanian Polytechnic, the Skills Institute and other registered training providers. Your senior secondary studies can be any mixture of education and training.

When you finish your senior secondary studies, you will get one or more of these certificates:

1. the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)
2. the Qualifications Certificate (QC)
3. the Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement (TCEA).

How do I get the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)?

To get this qualification you must meet four standards:

- everyday adult reading, writing & communication
- everyday adult mathematics
- everyday adult computer use, including the internet
- a set amount of learning (Participation and Achievement).

You must also have developed and reviewed a plan for your future career, education and training (Pathway Planning).

What use is the TCE to me?

It will tell everyone, including employers, that you have the knowledge and skills that most people expect adults to have.

How can I meet the ‘everyday adult’ skills standards?

There are many ways in which you can show that you have met the ‘everyday adult’ standards in reading and writing, mathematics, and use of computers and the internet. For example, do:

- senior secondary courses (year 11 and 12) in areas such as English, Mathematics and Information Technology
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses like Certificate II in Information Technology
- stand-alone tests provided by the TQA.

Meeting these standards means that you should be able to, for example:

- read procedures and instructions, interpret signs and use questions to get information
- use everyday maths knowledge and skills to measure, solve basic problems, calculate using simple fractions and metric quantities
- use a common computer application, send and receive e-mails, and use the internet.

You can find more information at
www.tqa.tas.gov.au/1906

How can I meet the participation and achievement requirement?

You can choose from a very broad range of education and training courses. The amount of learning you have to do is roughly the amount that someone would usually complete in two years of full-time study. There is no time limit - you can take as long as you need to meet the requirement.

Your successful learning in nationally recognised VET courses and TQA accredited or recognised courses counts towards the TCE by earning you 'credit points'. Each course that you complete successfully has a TQA credit point value. A credit point value shows the amount of learning at a set standard that counts towards the TCE.

To meet the participation and achievement standard you will need to have 120 credit points in education and training (TQA level 1, 2, 3 or 4), with at least 80 of these credit points in courses rated at TQA level 2 or higher.

You get the credit points only if you get at least a Preliminary Achievement (PA) or Pass for a TQA accredited course or are issued with a VET qualification or unit of competency, or gain a TQA recognised qualification.

Examples of ways that people meet this standard include:

- undertaking a reasonably challenging two-year program of study at senior secondary level with at least 1,200 hours of study
- doing a full program leading to a VET qualification
- using combinations of senior secondary studies, VET units and other qualifications the TQA recognises
- completing an Australian apprenticeship or traineeship including a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

You can find more information at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/1910

How can I meet the pathway planning requirement?

All Tasmanian schools have to make sure that year 10 students develop a pathway plan during year 10 and lodge it with the TQA by the end of the year. This shows your career goals and the education and training you plan for the following year. Meeting the pathway planning requirement means that you have:

- developed a personal pathway plan
- lodged the personal pathway plan with the TQA
- reviewed your pathway plan against progress to date
- acquired skills useful for successful planning in personal life (including financial planning), career planning, future adult roles and dealing with dislocation (divorce, unemployment etc).

You can find more information at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/1911

What is the Qualifications Certificate?

When you finish your senior secondary studies we will issue you with a Qualifications Certificate. This will tell people about your education and training qualifications. It can include Vocational Education and Training qualifications and units of competence, senior secondary qualifications and other qualifications we recognise.

If you successfully complete one or more courses or qualifications we recognise, you will get a Qualifications Certificate. To get the TCE you will have to do more than this. That is, you may get a Qualifications Certificate and not get the TCE. If you get the TCE you will also get a Qualifications Certificate.

When you receive more qualifications, like a university degree or a Certificate III or IV, we can update your Qualifications Certificate.

You can find more information at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/2429

What is the Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement?

The Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement (TCEA) is designed for the small number of people for whom standardised certificates (like the Qualifications Certificate) do not provide an adequately just and fair account of their achievement. Sometimes personal circumstances (e.g. long periods of illness, learning disabilities or critical family issues) mean that a description in words gives a fairer account of what the learner has achieved.

The TCEA will provide a quality assured, centrally-issued, descriptive account of learning. A person who gets the TCEA may also get the Qualifications Certificate and the TCE.

You will need to meet eligibility criteria before the certificate can be issued. This will involve you, your education providers and the TQA working together to produce the TCEA.

You can find more information at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/2218

Will the TCE affect university entrance?

No. The TCE requirements will not affect university entrance and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Year 12 students will continue to gain their ATAR based on their achievement in approved TQA accredited courses and other approved studies using rules set by the university.

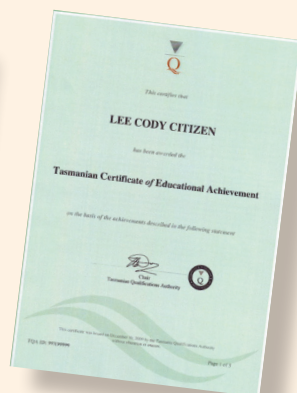
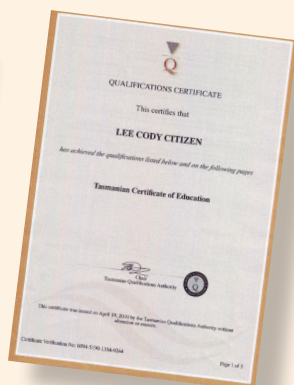
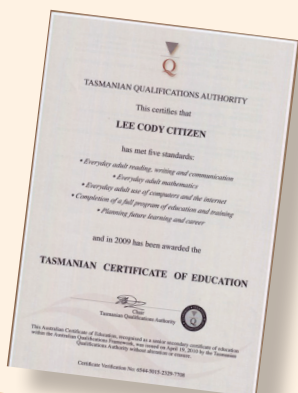
What will happen if I do not meet all the requirements for the TCE?

You won't get the TCE. However, there is no time restriction on gaining it – you can work towards it over any number of years. This means adults returning to study, those who do not complete senior education and those undertaking training are all able to achieve the TCE over time.

How many certificates can I receive?

You can get all three certificates if you are eligible for the TCEA, and can meet the requirements for the TCE. Most people will get a Qualifications Certificate since it is issued if they achieve a result in a TQA-accredited or recognised course or VET qualification.

What do the certificates look like?



You may be eligible for one, two or all three certificates.

Do I have to do a specific course to meet the pathway planning requirement?

No. So long as you lodge a proposed future education and career pathway plan with the TQA at the end of year 10 and can show you have used it during years 11 and 12, there is no further requirement. Your school, college or training organisation will notify the TQA that you have made use of your pathway plan. Students may also undertake courses that will support their career and further education pathway plans.

Will I be able to receive the TCE and certificates if I enrol part-way through year 11 and 12?

Yes. The TQA recognises equivalent qualifications from interstate and vocational qualifications are nationally recognised. You should lodge a pathway plan through your college or school, Tasmanian Academy college, Tasmanian Polytechnic or Tasmanian Skills Institute with the TQA whenever you enrol if coming from interstate or overseas. The Qualifications Certificate will record all results in TQA accredited and recognised courses and VET qualifications and units of competence. There is a capacity for the TCEA to recognise learning and achievement retrospectively.

What about courses the TQA doesn't accredit or recognise? Can I count these?

No. The TQA will only record achievement in TQA accredited, TQA recognised and VET qualifications. This means that results in provider-based courses will not be recorded. While this does not prevent providers offering their students any courses they wish, you should check that courses will count toward the TCE. We provide course planning tools at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/2829 to help people build a program that meets the TCE requirements.

How can I sit the tests for the TCE's reading and writing, mathematics, and use of computers and the internet standards?

The TQA makes available (as a 'safety-net') tests that can be taken through registered test centres (such as a local school or college) or at a TQA conducted test session. However, most students won't need to consider taking these tests. You will need to think about taking one of these tests if you don't gain a Pass/SA award or VET qualification in a course which the TQA has decided is evidence of your having reached one or more of the TCE's standards. We expect most people will meet the 'everyday adult' skill sets' standards through following a study program that includes some reading, writing and communication, some practical mathematics, and some practical work with computers (including use of the internet and email).

You can find more information at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/2215

Can I get the TCE if I am completing an Australian apprenticeship or traineeship?

Yes. We recognise learning that is delivered both on and off the job as part of an Australian apprenticeship or traineeship. You can get credit from all VET qualifications and units of competence. For example, success in AUR10199 Certificate I in Automotive gives you 30 credit points at TQA level 1 towards the TCE's participation and achievement standard, while in Building and Construction being competent in the unit of competence BCPCM2001A 'Work effectively in the plumbing and services sector' gets you 1 unit of credit at TQA level 2.

Can I get the TCE if I go to the Tasmanian Polytechnic or a Tasmanian Academy college?

Yes.

Will employers know about these certificates?

Increasingly you can expect employers to know about the TCE and other certificates and to ask for them as part of job recruitment. The TCE will tell employers that you can read, write, communicate, do maths and operate a computer at an everyday adult standard. It will also tell them you have completed a significant amount of study and training at an agreed standard. The Qualifications Certificate will allow employers to see your post-compulsory education and training achievements. For some learners, the TCEA will provide descriptive comment on education and training achievement and the circumstances under which this occurred.

What if I've just moved to Tasmania from interstate?

We recognise senior secondary results and other qualifications from qualifications bodies in other states. However, to give you credit we have to know about them and about you. Get in touch with us: reception@tqa.tas.gov.au or ask your school or college TCE Co-ordinator or your education and training provider to talk with us.

Where can I get further information?

Email: reception@tqa.tas.gov.au

Phone: 03 6233 4649

Mobile: 0407 337 846

Website: www.tqa.tas.gov.au



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