



FAQs (Students and parents/carers) Return to face to face

Introduction

The purpose of this FAQ is to provide guidance to students and parents/carers on the Impact of COVID-19 on senior secondary curriculum delivery and assessment.

The scope of this FAQ will be updated as required.

Questions

Q 1: Will Year 12 students receive an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and ATAR, if applicable, in 2020?

A: Yes, students who meet the requirements for the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate will receive it this year. Current plans are for students who meet the requirements of the Tertiary Entrance Statement to receive their ATAR this year.

Both the BSSS and schools are working together to maximise the opportunity for students to achieve an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and ATAR in 2020.

As circumstances evolve, it is important to pay close and regular attention to all communications from your school.

Q 2: Will Year 12 T students sit the ACT Scaling Test (AST)?

A: Current plans are for students to sit the AST as scheduled. Please contact your school to confirm preparation processes for the test.

A range of contingencies for the AST are available if required, including delaying the test or a shorter version of the test. Schools and students will be notified well in advance if a decision to implement one of these contingencies is made.

Q 3: Are assessments such as tests and examinations going ahead?

A: The Chief Health Officer has advised schools that students aged 3-19 are not at an increased risk returning to face-to-face learning. As such schools may implement test type assessment if social distancing of adults can be maintained.

Schools are working to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in examination centres to reduce risk.

Schools can expect students without documented medical advice to participate in tests.

If a student is anxious about participating in this type of assessment, this should be discussed with the school.

Q. 4: When a student is anxious about returning to school, are they still required to attend?

A: The ACT Chief Medical Officer has advised that schools are safe for students apart from those with medical advice to the contrary. If a student is anxious about returning, this should be discussed with the school to explore supports and develop an appropriate way forward.

Q. 5: A student has documented medical advice against returning to school. Will they be marked absent?

A: Absences with documented medical advice are approved absences. Please discuss any absences with the school.

Please do not send your child to school if they are sick.

Students are expected to maintain engagement with learning and assessment if able.

Q. 6: What are the current academic expectations of students undertaking senior secondary education?

A: Students are responsible for engaging in their learning, being proactive and completing work and assessment set by the school.

Q 7: Are ASBAs or Work Experience resuming?

A: Placements can resume if all parties involved are supportive for this to occur. Please talk to the relevant school staff about your options.

Q 8: Given different schools had different disruptions and circumstances, have I been disadvantaged?

A: Schools have mechanisms in place to ensure that each unit will have a minimum of 55 hours of structured learning activities regardless of the mode of delivery or disruptions over the semester.

Teachers at your school are aware of your context and consider this in assessment arrangements. Teachers will address any disadvantage at their school. The delivery or assessment arrangements at other schools will not impact you due to the ACT's school-based assessment system.

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