

Course commencement, entries and eligibility

Overview of clarifications

This information sheet helps schools understand the clarifications in this group of ACE Rules, but schools must view the rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

The clarifications to **Course commencement, entries and eligibility** include:

Preliminary and HSC course commencement

Date of Preliminary and HSC course commencement

To ensure fairness and consistency across secondary schools, NESAs has mandated a commencement date for the Preliminary and HSC courses.

Course eligibility

Eligibility for entering Preliminary courses

Eligibility requirements for entry into Preliminary courses have been clarified to clearly differentiate between eligibility for the RoSA and the completion of Year 10.

Stage 6 English EAL/D courses

NESA has clarified the eligibility rules for entry into the Stage 6 English as an Additional Language or Dialect (English EAL/D) course. The rules have been clarified to ensure students provide appropriate evidence to support principal determinations of student eligibility.

Stage 6 Languages courses

NESA has included links in the ACE Rules to eligibility determination forms for Stage 6 languages courses.

Extension courses

The clarified rules provide guidance on the courses students need to complete and/or concurrently complete to maintain eligibility for extension courses.

NESA has published clarified ACE Rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules>

The clarified rules will be mandated from 14 October 2024, but schools must use the current rules until then. Schools must not implement the clarified rules before this date.

The clarified rules will apply to students commencing HSC courses from October 2024, sitting HSC exams in 2025, and receiving the RoSA from October 2024.

The current ACE Rules remain in effect for the 2023 and 2024 HSC. The current rules can be found at:

<https://ace.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

To find the right contact for enquiries about ACE Rules, visit the ACE Rules contact page:

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules/contact>



Course entries, changes and exclusions

Course entries

Confirmation of entry

The clarified rules specify requirements for a student's signed Confirmation of Entry form, and the retention period for this document. The rules also clarify NESA's requirement for schools to produce a student's signed Confirmation of Entry form to NESA on request.

Student e-signatures

The clarified rules outline NESA's policy on the use of e-signatures for Confirmation of Entry forms.

Entry into Stage 5 mandatory PDHPE

NESA has clarified the processes for correctly entering students into the 100-hour or 200-hour mandatory PDHPE course in Years 9 and 10.

Returning students

NESA has clarified the processes for entering students who leave a NSW school after the start of a Preliminary course and return in a subsequent year.

Course changes

Preliminary and HSC course changes

Roles, responsibilities and key dates for course changes have been clarified to help schools understand what they need to do, and when.

Withdrawing from HSC courses

Rules for withdrawing students from courses have been strengthened with specific dates, based on the type of HSC course. This ensures schools and students understand what they need to do to withdraw from an HSC course, and when.

Withdrawing from Mathematics Extension 2

NESA has clarified the requirements for schools withdrawing students from Mathematics Extension 2.

HSC courses with optional exams

The clarified rules include requirements for schools withdrawing students from HSC courses with optional exams.

Course Exclusions

Course-specific exclusions

NESA has clarified the exclusions for students entering into certain combinations of HSC courses for their pattern of study. Course-specific exclusions are outlined in HSC course descriptions, instead of the ACE Rules, to ensure schools and students understand the requirements and exclusions for each syllabus.