

# SACE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



The South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) is the secondary school qualification for students in South Australia. The SACE curriculum is designed for all senior secondary students in South Australia, including students with disabilities.

The SACE structure is flexible and offers more than 60 subjects and a range of VET and community learning courses. This means students with disabilities can complete a SACE that is meaningful to them and supports their post-school pathways.



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department for Education

## SACE for students with disabilities

The SACE prepares students for any post-school pathway, including:

- employment in the open market (open employment)
- self-employment
- supported employment such as Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE)
- further vocational education and training (VET) courses, apprenticeships or traineeships
- university pathways
- community and social options.

## SACE pathways for students with disabilities

The 3 main pathways for students with disabilities are:

- completing standard SACE subjects with special provisions (adjustments)
- combining SACE subject credits with credits gained for learning done within a SACE recognised learning opportunity, for example community or industry learning or VET courses
- completing their SACE with modified subjects.

Regardless of the SACE pathway, schools need to make sure students have met the compulsory subject pattern so they can graduate with their SACE.

## Examples of SACE pathways

The SACE pathway for a student with disabilities may include:

- a student who receives reasonable adjustments (special provisions) to complete a standard SACE subject alongside their peers
- a student doing a modified SACE subject in the same class as their peers who are doing a standard SACE subject
- a student starting a standard SACE subject with their peers but moving to a modified SACE subject (while staying in the same class)
- a student including community learning or VET courses – that are recognised by SACE and provide SACE credits – as part of their SACE
- a student using a combination of some or all of the above methods, for example some mainstream subjects, some modified subjects, some recognised community learning and some VET courses.

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## Standard subjects with special provisions

Special provisions are adjustments that allow students with disabilities to fully participate in standard SACE programs and assessments and meet the requirements of the standard subject outline.

There are 2 types of adjustments:

- School-approved adjustments are used for work that is set and assessed internally by the school in Stage 1 and 2 and are approved by the school.
- SACE Board-approved adjustments are used for Stage 2 work that is assessed externally (such as exams) and are approved by the SACE Board.

## SACE recognised learning opportunities

Students can include these learning opportunities in their SACE pathway:

- community learning that includes community or self-directed programs
- VET courses
- other recognised learning, such as qualifications, subjects or courses.

## SACE with modified subjects

Modified subjects enable students with disabilities to complete their SACE while having their unique learning needs met and learning recognised. Students complete modified subjects when they have curriculum or assessment adjustments at a substantial or extensive level identified in the NCCD database and:

- are not able to access the learning or meet the performance standards of SACE subjects at C, C- or above level because of their disabilities
- have negotiated personal learning goals that are not met in standard SACE subjects, or recognised learning, and need to be assessed against those goals.

Enrolment in modified subjects must be agreed to by the student and their families or carers because they do not contribute to the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) and are noted on the student's certificate and record of achievement.

## Changing from standard to modified subjects

Students can start doing a standard SACE subject and then change to a modified SACE subject if necessary. If you anticipate a student might transition to a modified SACE subject, plan learning tasks or assessments that can also provide the evidence of learning required for a modified SACE subject review.

## Review and moderation

Standard subjects are assigned A to E grades and are moderated using performance standards for that subject.

Compulsory modified subjects have a review that aligns student evidence of learning against their learning goals and get a 'completed' or 'not completed' result.