

COURSE ACCREDITATION POLICY

SCOPE

This policy guides the course accreditation functions of the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) as set out in the [Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003 \(the Act\)](#).

The Act requires TASC to accredit courses for senior secondary education in Tasmania and to develop a senior secondary course accreditation framework.

Under *the Act*, TASC also has the power to accredit higher, and other, education courses and education programs provided to overseas students.

Out of Scope

The responsibility for senior secondary curriculum, course development and implementation support rests with the Department of Education, Tasmania (DoE) in collaboration with the independent and Catholic school sectors. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Department of Education's [Years 11 & 12 Course Development Processes](#).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that courses accredited by TASC align with the legislative requirements, are of high quality and meet the needs of Tasmanian students and the Tasmanian community. Courses accredited by TASC include:

- senior secondary courses in Tasmania
- school education programs provided to international students.

TASC also has procedures in place to recognise other formal learning qualifications that may be undertaken by senior secondary students and which contribute credit points towards the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE).

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy supports Goal 1 of [TASC's Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#) to provide premium qualifications that are meaningful and relevant.

Under [the Act](#), TASC has the power to accredit, and set standards for, senior secondary courses in Tasmania. This ensures the quality and integrity of qualifications it issues.

In accordance with the Section 24E of [the Act](#), TASC is responsible for the senior secondary course accreditation framework. The course accreditation framework includes priorities for the

accreditation of senior secondary course, the processes for determining whether or not to accredit any senior secondary course and the criteria which must be met for a course to be accredited.

TASC course accreditation procedures ensure that the courses it accredits are of high quality and are suitable for delivery and assessment in Tasmanian schools. To further ensure the integrity of qualifications it issues, TASC uses quality assurance processes to monitor the delivery and assessment of its accredited courses.

TASC offers recognition of a wide range of formal qualifications undertaken by senior secondary students. These formal qualifications can count towards the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE).

TASC also has the authority to accredit education programs that are provided to overseas students.

REQUIREMENTS

This policy will be implemented in accordance with [the Act](#).

Under Section 10(1)(b) and (f), one of the functions of TASC is to accredit courses for senior secondary education, higher education and other education, and accredit education programs for overseas students.

Under Section 24E(1)(a) and 24F(3) and (4) of [the Act](#), TASC will develop a framework relating to the accreditation of senior secondary courses including:

- (a) priorities for the accreditation of senior secondary courses; and
- (b) processes for determining whether or not to accredit any senior secondary course; and
- (c) the standards which must be met by a senior secondary course for it to be accredited as a senior secondary course
- (d) and any other matters the Minister for Education and Training considers appropriate.

Under Sections 26, 36, 55ZI and 55ZU of [the Act](#), TASC has the power to accredit higher, and other, education courses and education programs provided to overseas students.

RESPONSIBILITIES

TASC stakeholders are required to fulfil their duties and obligations as outlined below.

The Office of TASC	<p>The Executive Officer, TASC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensures the policy and associated procedures are adhered to• has oversight of the senior secondary accreditation framework <p>The Office of TASC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sets standards for the provision and assessment of TASC senior secondary accredited courses• develops clear documentation for course accreditation procedures
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works in partnership with the Department of Education to prepare senior secondary courses for accreditation • undertakes course accreditation procedures
The Secretary of the Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops courses for accreditation, through Curriculum Services, in line with the TASC course accreditation procedures
The Framework Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides advice and recommendations to the Minister in relation to the development and implementation of the senior secondary accreditation framework
Course proponents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop courses for accreditation in line with the TASC course accreditation procedures following consultation with the Department of Education

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

[Characteristics of TASC accredited senior secondary courses](#)

[Accreditation of education programs delivered to overseas students](#)

[Department of Education's course development processes](#)

[TASC Senior Secondary Course Accreditation Criteria](#)

[TASC Course Accreditation Procedure](#)

DEFINITIONS

course accreditation is a process undertaken by TASC that results in the formal approval of a senior secondary course which can then be delivered in registered Tasmanian schools

The Framework Advisory Council's role is to advise and assist TASC and the Minister with implementation of the senior secondary course accreditation framework. The Council comprises members from the government, independent and Catholic school sectors, TasTAFE and the University of Tasmania.

higher education means education provided by tertiary education institutions

other education means formal studies undertaken in Years 11 and 12 that are not senior secondary or higher education courses, and are not Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications/units of competency. Qualifications in these courses may be recognised by TASC and contribute credit points towards the TCE.

quality assurance is a system of transparent processes which underpin confidence in the integrity and validity of TASC qualifications. A variety of quality assurance mechanisms is undertaken by TASC.

the **senior secondary course accreditation framework** includes the priorities, processes and standards relating to senior secondary course accreditation

a **senior secondary course** is one that is usually undertaken in Years 11 and 12 at complexity level 1 and higher.

VERSION CONTROL

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