Requirements for the Preliminary HSC and HSC by the NSW Board of Studies.
Candidates for the Higher School Certificate must undertake a program of study comprising at least:

- 12 units of Preliminary courses; and,
- 10 units of Higher School Certificate courses.
  - Senior Science may be taken in Year 12 if a science subject was studied in Year 11.

Both the Preliminary course pattern and the HSC course pattern must include:
- at least six units of Board Developed courses;
- at least two units of a Board Developed Course in English;
- at least three courses of two units value (or greater); and
- at least four subjects.

No more than six units of Science can contribute to Higher School Certificate eligibility.

Requirements for students at St Augustine’s College.
Students at St Augustine’s College are required to study:
- at least 12 units in Year 11,
- at least two units of English
- at least one unit of Studies of Religion or Catholic Studies.
- Accelerated Mathematics students studying Extension 2 maths, must do 13 units in Year 11.

Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR)
Beginning in 2009, all NSW and ACT (other states will adopt an ATAR in 2010) students completing an Australian year 12 qualification will receive their university admissions rank as an ATAR, other states will adopt an ATAR in 2010. This replaces the Universities Admission Index (UAI), it allocates a score between 30 and 99.95.

For more information regarding the ATAR go to www.uac.edu.au/atar

Students who wish to study at TAFE or do not want to continue with further study are advised not to request an ATAR.

How is the ATAR calculated?
- As in the past, the first step is to rank the eligible students on the basis of each student’s scaled marks according to the UAI requirements (below)
- The second step is to determine what their rankings would have been had all Year 7, in their cohort students completed Year 12 and been eligible for a ATAR.

The ranking of students depends only on their performance in Year 12.

What are the ATAR requirements?
To be eligible for a ATAR a student must complete at least 10 units of Board Developed Courses including at least two units of English. The Board Developed Courses must include at least three courses of two units or greater, and at least four subjects.

The ATAR will be based on an aggregate of scaled marks in 10 units of Board Developed Courses comprising:
- The best two units of English; and
- The best eight units from the remaining units, subject to the provision that no more than two units of Category B courses be included.
- No CEC or Board Approved courses can be included in the best 10 units.

Category A and B Courses, CEC Courses or Board Approved Courses.
The Board of Studies and the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) categorises courses as Category A, Category B, Board Endorsed Course (BEC) and Board Approved Course. All courses meet
requirements for the Higher School Certificate.

**Category A courses** are all HSC courses, except the Category B CEC and Board approved. All Category A courses are included in the ATAR.

**Category B courses** are all VET courses and Industrial Technology courses (as at August 2009).

**Board Endorsed Courses**: Applied Mathematics, English Communications, Sport Lifestyle & Recreation, Photography and Digital Imaging, most TAFE courses.

**Board Approved Courses**: Catholic Studies