The subjects your child selects will have an impact on their options after they finish high school, which can in turn influence their choice of occupation. It is important to take the time to consider all options and help your child to make choices that will set them up for a successful career. The flow chart below highlights some of the elements that are important to consider when choosing subjects for upper school.

**HELPING YOUR CHILD CHOOSE THEIR YEAR UPPER SCHOOL SUBJECTS**

1. **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**
   - Talk with your child about their strengths and weaknesses.

2. **OCCUPATIONAL PREFERENCE**
   - Talk with your child about their occupational choices and dreams.

3. **COURSE PREFERENCE**
   - Talk with your child about their post high school ideas.

4. **INTERESTS**
   - Talk with your child about what their interests are and what subjects they would enjoy learning about.

**HELP TO CHOOSE THE BEST SUBJECTS FOR YOUR CHILD BASED ON**

- Having discussions with your child
- Researching options with your child
- Speaking with someone
- Discussing your child’s subject strengths and weaknesses with teachers
- Finding out what the subject will involve
- Researching chosen occupations to find out about future the labour market
- Research all post school options such as university, TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships
- Seek advice from a career counsellor for clarification and more pathway options
- Seek advice from admission departments or course co-ordinators
- Research the subjects available to determine if your child will enjoy learning the content
- Talk with your child’s teachers about links to their interests and available subjects
GETTING THE RIGHT ADVICE

1. Ask for a list of all the subjects available at your child’s school. Request a subject outline or talk to the subject teacher.
2. Talk to your child’s teachers about what they suggest based on your child’s academic performance.
3. Speak to the Career Advisor or VET Co-ordinator at your child’s school or find an alternative source of professional advice.

GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY

The ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) is your child’s position relative to all other students. The ATAR determines if your child can apply for direct admission into their preferred university course.

Students wishing to enter university directly from high school need to undertake a minimum of four ATAR subjects in year 11 and 12. For more information on ATAR visit www.scsa.edu.au or speak to someone at your child’s school.

Certain courses at university require students to have undertaken specific ATAR subjects known as ‘prerequisites’. These prerequisites differ depending on each university. For more information regarding prerequisites contact the Future Students centre of the relevant university.

There are alternative entry pathways into university, which your child can consider if they do not receive the scores required for admission.

FINAL TIPS

- Encourage your child to choose subjects they will find rewarding and challenging.
- Choosing an occupational pathway now does not limit them to the variety of jobs that are available to them in the future.
- Universities have information sessions and Open Days which can help you and your child learn more about subject selection.

VET studies are for students who wish to enter further training or the workforce or do not want to study ATAR subjects. Students can still access university later through this pathway.

Studentbox is Curtin’s online community for students in WA who are in year 10, 11 and 12. It provides support, study resources and tools to get students through high school and into uni.

Make tomorrow better. curtin.edu.au/ahead

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