

FAQs

What is CASPer?

CASPer is an online test designed to assess an applicant's non-cognitive skills, including personal and professional skills such as empathy and self-awareness. CASPer is a requirement of applying to many initial teaching education courses in Victoria and the Bachelor of Nursing at VU. Where a course requires applicants to sit CASPer, this requirement will be listed under the selection requirements section within the course entry information.

How does CASPer assess personal attributes?

CASPer is an online test and is made up of 12 sections. Each section contains video or word-based scenarios followed by three open-ended, follow-up questions. Applicants have five minutes to answer the questions that follow each scenario.

The test is designed to allow applicants to demonstrate their soft skills: personal and professional characteristics like communication, ethics and empathy.

Personal attributes include:

- motivation to teach/be a nurse
- strong interpersonal/communication skills
- willingness to learn
- resilience
- self-efficacy
- conscientiousness
- organisational and planning skills

For more information about CASPer click [here](#)

Why are we requiring nursing applicants to undertake the CASPer test?

At VU, we take our responsibility seriously to ensure that students will manage their study workload and assessments, and find fulfilment in a career in nursing. It's part of our student-centric approach.

While we are the first university in Australia to introduce CASPer for nursing, we have followed the success in Canada and the US, where universities use a similar test for pre-nursing students.

It's also critical that we provide the healthcare industry with nursing graduates who can give the highest level of care to our community.

Which courses at VU require applicants to undertake the CASPer test for?

The following courses require applicants to undertake the CASPer test:

EBED - Bachelor of Education P-12

EMPE - Master of Teaching (Primary)

EMES - Master of Teaching (Secondary)

HBNB – Bachelor of Nursing (domestic students only)

Why don't I have to sit the CASPer test for the Bachelor of Midwifery/Nursing at VU?

Our Bachelor of Nursing course has been undergoing re-accreditation and the admission requirements were reviewed as part of that process. Bachelor of Midwifery/Nursing requirements will be reviewed for the 2022 intake and a decision for CASPer for that course will be made then.

If I apply for both teaching and nursing, do I have to sit one or two CASPer tests?

You will need to pay and sit for two separate CASPer tests if applying for any of the Initial Teacher Education courses and the Bachelor of Nursing.

How should I arrange my VTAC preferences when I don't know the outcome of my CASPer test?

When applying for any course, we recommend applicants place some pathway courses in their preference list. "Pathway" is a term used to describe a course that can provide an alternative way of entering the course you ultimately want to study. While pathway courses allow you to develop your knowledge, attributes and skills, they don't necessarily guarantee you entry into your preferred course and other selection criteria still apply. For teaching and nursing, selection criteria will include undertaking the CASPer test. Therefore, it is important to choose a pathway course you would be prepared to complete should you not be successful in gaining entry to your preferred course.

For more information on Pathways [click here](#).

If I deferred my place in a nursing course in 2020, do I have to sit the CASPer test before I take up my place in 2021?

If you received an offer into nursing prior to 2021 entry, and deferred your study, you are not required to complete the CASPer test.

If I sit CASPer, get an offer and defer, do I have to sit the CASPer test again the following year?

No, once you have accepted an offer you do not have to sit CASPer for that course again.

How much does it cost to sit CASPer?

CASPer costs \$80 to sit. If you are applying for both teaching and nursing courses, you will need to pay and sit for two separate CASPer tests.

The CASPer test for teaching courses is valid for all relevant teaching courses you have applied for via VTAC or by direct application to VU, in a single application cycle. The nursing CASPer test is valid for the Bachelor of Nursing at VU whether the application is through VTAC or by direct application and is only valid for a single application cycle.

How long is the CASPer test?

You should allow approximately 90 minutes for the CASPer test, which will include the introduction, about 65 minutes of questions, and an optional break at the halfway point.

Please make sure to register for the test at least three days before your preferred test date and time to allow for account verification and payment processing timelines. Last minute bookings are not recommended.

I'm not available to sit the CASPer test on the scheduled dates, what can I do?

Unfortunately CASPer is unable to accommodate individual schedules. All test dates are pre-arranged with academic programs and results are processed as a group to ensure timely delivery. Each test instance uses unique content and a team is on hand to support test takers.

Can I reschedule a CASPer test?

Yes, you can reschedule a test at any point prior to the viewing of actual test content, free of charge, provided test times and dates are available. Please [click here](#) to view times and dates for your course.

What computer equipment do I need to sit the CASPer test?

The computer you will use to sit the test must have a webcam and audio output to allow for online invigilation. Full technical requirements are listed on takecasper.com

You will need to enter your VTAC ID or VU Student ID (depending on how you applied) when registering and will be asked to provide government issued photo ID e.g. a passport, driver licence or learner permit card. If you don't have valid government issued photo ID, please contact support@takecasper.com

General Nursing FAQ's

What will the lowest selection rank be for Nursing in 2021?

It's difficult to know what the lowest selection rank will be in the first year a course has an ATAR because there is no data from previous years to draw upon. This year's intake will be the source of data that will enable VU to publish the lowest selection rank for 2022.

What is the English Language Requirements Declaration and why do I have to submit it?

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) has set new standards for English Language for entry into nursing qualifications in Australia. As part of meeting that requirement, all applicants are required to provide a written declaration that English is their primary language or evidence of achievement of the minimum English language test result as specified in the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) English language skills registration standard as part of the application process.

What is the English as a primary language requirement?

You must have attended and satisfactorily completed at least six years of primary and secondary education taught and assessed solely in English. At least two years of this education must have been between grades 7 and 12. This education must have been completed in one or more of the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America.

What happens if I don't meet the requirement for English as my primary language?

You will need to complete an approved English Language Test as part of your application: IELTS (academic module), TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic or OET and achieve the minimum scores. Minimum scores are available on the [NMBA website](#).

What does 'pending accreditation' mean?

The Bachelor of Nursing course at VU is currently going through the reaccreditation process with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and approval by the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). This is a process that universities regularly undertake to ensure our teaching standards and practices meet industry standards and we are required to disclose to applicants that we are undertaking that process. Once the accreditation process is completed, we will notify our applicants of the outcome in writing.

For more information about Admissions to Victoria University, we encourage you to go to [Admissions at VU](#). There you will find information about our courses that require ATAR and those that don't.