

CASPer: for initial teacher education courses

This fact sheet provides an overview of CASPer, a non-cognitive online test that most Victorian institutions will use to assess the personal attributes of applicants to initial teacher education (ITE) courses. Courses that require applicants to sit CASPer will list it under the selection requirements section of the course entry within CourseSearch.

Why must ITE applicants undertake a test like CASPer?

The Victorian Government, in partnership with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, have introduced a new selection framework for all ITE courses taking applications for 2018 and beyond. This framework aligns with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership's *Action Now: Selection of entrants into initial teacher education, Guidelines*.

Under the framework, applicants' academic capabilities and non-academic capabilities (personal attributes) must be assessed for suitability for entry to ITE courses. CASPer is a tool for assessing personal attributes.

The Victorian Government website explains the purpose of these requirements is "to raise entry standards and attract high quality candidates from diverse backgrounds into the teaching profession". Read more at www.education.vic.gov.au/about/educationstate/Pages/intteached.aspx

Which initial teacher education courses require applicants to sit CASPer?

All initial teacher education courses require applicants to demonstrate their personal attributes. While most use CASPer, some assess personal attributes in other ways. The following table lists Victorian courses that require applicants to sit CASPer or another test or interview.

Institution	Method of assessing personal attributes
Australian Catholic University	CASPer or ACU Teacher Selector Statement
Box Hill Institute	Interview
Deakin University	CASPer
Federation University	CASPer
Holmesglen	Interview
La Trobe University	CASPer
Monash University	CASPer
RMIT University	CASPer
Swinburne University of Technology	CASPer
University of Melbourne (graduate courses only)	TCAT
Victoria University	CASPer

What personal attributes are applicants required to demonstrate?

Personal attributes include:

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

How does CASPer assess personal attributes?

CASPer is taken online and is composed 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.

For more information about CASPer visit takecasper.com

How much does it cost to sit CASPer?

CASPer costs \$80 to sit and is valid for all institutions you apply to, in a single application cycle.

How do I sit CASPer?

CASPer can only be taken online and on specific dates. For guaranteed consideration for courses accepting mid-year applications in 2018, tests must be sat prior to, or on:

- 22 May 2018 for Round 1 offers
- 19 June 2018 for Round 2 offers

It is advisable that you register for the test at least two days beforehand.

The computer used to take 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 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

Your results are sent directly to VTAC and the institutions to which you are applying. Results are not provided to the applicant.

To register to sit the test visit takecasper.com

If I require special provisions, what should I do?

Applicants who require special provision to enable them to sit CASPer must email a formal request and supporting documents to support@takecasper.com. This must be sent at least three weeks before the test date to allow sufficient for the request to be considered and for appropriate provisions to be arranged. Example special provisions include closed captioning of videos, a scribe, and extended time to complete the test. All requests and documents are strictly confidential.

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

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

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

When applying for any course, VTAC recommends applicants place some pathway courses in their preference list. “Pathway” is a term used to describe a course that can potentially 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—academic achievement and other selection criteria still apply. For teaching, selection criteria will include a non-cognitive test such as CASPer. It is for this reason that 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.

Example pathway courses to teaching include a Bachelor of Arts for those interested in primary teaching, or secondary teaching in the Humanities or Studies of Society and Environment (specific subjects apply), or a Bachelor of Science for those interested in primary teaching, or secondary teaching in the Sciences or Mathematics (specific subjects apply).

Speak to your preferred institutions for advice on pathway courses that may suit you.

If I deferred my place in an education course in 2017, do I have to sit the test before I take up my place in 2018?

If you received an offer in an initial teacher education course prior to 2018 entry, and deferred your study, you are not required to complete a non-cognitive test like CASPer.

What are the academic capabilities required of applicants?

The Victorian state government has recently announced that for 2018 students seeking entry to an undergraduate education course must have a minimum ATAR of 65 after any SEAS or subject points have been awarded. From 2019, the minimum ATAR will be 70.

This requirement will be stated in the 'Additional information' section of course entries in CourseSearch unless the institution has set a minimum ATAR as a prerequisite. If a minimum ATAR is set as a prerequisite, SEAS or subject point bonuses will **not** be included in the calculation, and this will be indicated in the 'Prerequisites' section of the course entries.

Non-Year 12 applicants must meet a similar academic standard, as determined by the institution offering the course. See the course entry in CourseSearch for more information.

Example 1: This course includes SEAS bonuses in the calculation of the minimum ATAR, therefore the actual ATAR of the applicant could be lower.

Additional information
The minimum ATAR requirement including SEAS is 65.

Example 2: This course does not include bonuses in the calculation of the minimum ATAR, therefore the actual ATAR of the applicant must be 65.00 or higher.

Prerequisites
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y12: Minimum ATAR of 65.00. Units 1 and 2: satisfactory completion in two units (any study combination) of Maths: General Mathematics, Maths: Mathematical Methods or Maths: Specialist Mathematics or Units 3 and 4: any Mathematics; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL.

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