\textbf{How and when to access the ATAR}  
\textit{By Laurene Collier}

\textbf{What is the ATAR?}  
The ATAR is the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank, which measures a student’s overall performance in their VCE studies. It is designed to assist tertiary institutions when making course selections.

The ATAR is created by VTAC, using the Study Scores from a student’s successful completion of the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) and is administered and tested by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority).

Students who complete the satisfactory requirements for the VCE will receive a Study Score for each study they complete. VTAC applies a process of scaling to each Study Score, in order to convert it into an ATAR.

Students who have satisfied the requirements for the VCE and have study scores in one of (English, EAL, English Language and Literature) and at least three other studies (in a permissible combination) are eligible to receive an ATAR.

\textbf{When can I find out my ATAR?}  
ATAR results are released on Monday 16 December 2013 at 7am (AEDST).

You can receive your ATAR results in three ways:

1. Register for SMS notification. You can opt to receive an SMS on the morning that results are released. Instructions are on VTAC’s webpage.
2. Log on to the Results and ATAR website after 7am on the morning results are released.
3. Wait for your results to arrive in the mail on Tuesday 17 or Wednesday 18 December. Please note that only VTAC applicants who have paid all processing fees will receive a statement in the mail.

If you access your results online, you will need your VCE student number and VTAC PIN.

\textbf{Post Results and ATAR Service}  
If you have questions about receiving your results and ATAR, there will be a telephone and email service available from 7am to 5pm Monday 16 December and 9am to 5pm Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 December.

Any questions you have should be directed to 1800 653 080 (free call) or 03 9032 1717, or by email to pras@edumail.vic.edu.au.

You can also join the conversation on VTAC’s Facebook page or Twitter account or on the VCE Results and ATAR Blog.
I’ve found out my ATAR: what are my options?

By Laurene Collier

Now that results have been released, you may have questions about what your options are from here.

First thing’s first: don’t panic. If you haven’t received the ATAR you expected, there are other ways to get into the course you always wanted to do.

Many institutions offer alternative pathways in study programs.

If you have a subject that interests you or a preferred course or institution you wish to attend, you can call the institution and chat with a Pathways Counsellor about your options.

Pathway programs are designed to be another entry into tertiary study; you can enter from various points and exit when you have achieved your desired goal.

A list of Pathways Counsellors can be found on VTAC’s Facebook page.

Talk to your school careers counsellor.

They may be able to provide you with some ideas or suggestions that you haven’t thought about. Your careers teacher will be able to offer you some guidance.

You may decide to change direction.

You may choose to take a different route altogether, by taking a gap year to travel, work or explore other options. You can then choose to apply for further study at a later date as a Non Year 12 Applicant.

The most important thing is not to give up on something you are truly passionate about; there are always other options available to you.