

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 'Essential requirements and admission criteria' in the course entry within CourseSearch.

Why must initial teacher education applicants undertake a test like CASPer?

In 2017, the Victorian Government, in partnership with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, introduced a selection framework for all initial teacher education (ITE) courses. 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. To find out if CASPer, or another test or interview is required, look under Essential Requirements and Admission Criteria in the relevant course entries on CourseSearch.

Example of CASPer requirement stated in the course description in CourseSearch

Essential requirements for selection and application

CASPer

Compulsory: All applicants must sit the CASPer test. CASPer is a requirement for many of the initial teacher training courses in Victoria. It is a non-cognitive online test designed to assess an applicants personal and professional attributes. To register for your sitting or further information about the test, visit [Taking CASPer](#). For a list of assessment dates and VTAC deadlines for each offer round visit [Admissions Tests](#).

What personal attributes are applicants required to demonstrate?

Personal attributes include:

- motivation to teach
- strong interpersonal/communication skills
- willingness to learn
- self-efficacy
- resilience
- 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 applications in 2020, tests must be sat prior to, or on

- **15 October 2019 for November round (non-year 12 domestic) offers**
- **17 November 2019 for December round (domestic and international), January round 1 (international) and January round 2 (international) offers**
- **10 December 2019 for January round (domestic), January round 3 (international), January round 4 (international) and January round 5 (international) offers**
- **7 January 2020 for all February round 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 at 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 a valid government issued photo ID please contact support@takecasper.com

When choosing a test date, make sure you select the right test for the courses to which you are applying (e.g. Undergraduate or Postgraduate). 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 time 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.

For how long are my CASPer results valid?

CASPer results can only be used for one selection cycle. These run annually from 1 August to 31 July. You need to sit the test again if you apply for ITE courses in a later selection cycle.

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

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 considerations still apply. For teaching, selection considerations 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.

What are the academic capabilities required of applicants?

The Victorian state government has stated that from 2019, students seeking entry to an undergraduate education course must have a minimum ATAR of 70 after any SEAS or subject adjustments have been awarded.

This requirement will be stated in the 'Essential requirements and admission criteria' section of course entries in CourseSearch.

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 of ATAR requirement stated in the course description in CourseSearch

ATAR

This course uses the ATAR as part of its selection considerations.

Minimum ATAR including selection adjustments: The minimum selection rank for this course, is equivalent to an ATAR of 70.00. If applicable, this includes adjustment factors related to subject adjustments and SEAS.

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