

Careers News

Term 2

12 June 2025

Your choices create your future



Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 12 Samaritan College student Hayden Phillips on the completion of your school-based traineeship!

Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation

RTO: CEG - Training Partnerships – 40138

Samaritan College are proud of your efforts and achievements. Hayden has now commenced his Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician. Thank you also to Acquest Electrical and Career Employment Group for their ongoing support to Hayden.



Aquinas College Visit



Our Year 12 students who expressed interest were lucky enough to engage in an information session from Dr Sarah Moller from Aquinas College. Aquinas Partner Schools provides students at the Catholic schools of regional South Australia with expert advice as they plan for university. Working in partnership with Catholic Education South Australia, Aquinas College offers a range of services to help regional students explore & connect with university options.

This session was designed for students to ask questions of Dr Sarah Moller about pathways into university success and prospective courses.

SACE Appointments

If you or your son/daughter are wanting to meet with me to discuss all things SACE, VET, Careers and/or Work Experience, please feel free to make an appointment by contacting the College (8645 8568) or emailing sean.cheedy@samaritan.catholic.edu.au.

What's On!

Career Conversations @ Home – Helping parents have positive career convos!

Organisation: Arrive & Thrive

Location: Online

Date: June 12, 2025

Come join Tyson Day, the Co-Founder and Lead Facilitator of Arrive & Thrive, as he shares the best way to have impactful career conversations in and around your home environment that produce clarity, career discovery, and momentum. Tyson will share concepts and practices that he has learned through his 10+ years of experience in career education and the 85,000 students who have attended Arrive & Thrive workshops since 2019.

In our webinar, you can expect to learn:

How can you positively influence your young person in their career decisions.

How can you effectively navigate the future of work and understand your young person's options.

How to communicate effectively through the GROW model to support your young person in career exploration.

We can't wait for you to join us!

All participants will receive a Career Conversation Kit to kick off conversations with their young person as soon as possible!

Simulated UCAT Day Workshop, Online

Organisation: National Institute of Education

Location: Online

Date: June 22, 2025

If you are in Years 10, 11, 12, or you may be older and considering sitting the UCAT in the future, then this program is for you. The Simulated UCAT Workshop program is ideal and often a necessary step towards effective and efficient preparation for the UCAT.

The workshop is primarily designed to cover fundamental techniques in navigating all five sections of the UCAT test and also for participants to gain a better understanding of their own level of preparedness for the test.

The program runs over one full day of UCAT training, and Part 2, which is a 3-hour session for students and parents.

Open Day 2025, Bedford Park

Organisation: Flinders University

Location: Flinders Bedford Park Campus

Date: July 25 to July 26, 2025

Flinders Open Days is your chance to check out uni life at Flinders – with information sessions, campus tours and heaps of activities.

Explore your career options, talk to our talented academics, get inspired with hands-on experiences and soak up the vibes.

You can chat one-on-one with other students and advisors, check out information sessions on different career and study areas, and get involved in interactive activities.

Open Day 2025, City

Organisation: Flinders University

Location: Flinders City Campus

Date: July 27, 2025

Flinders Open Days is your chance to check out uni life at Flinders – with information sessions, campus tours and heaps of activities.

Explore your career options, talk to our talented academics, get inspired with hands-on experiences and soak up the vibes.

You can chat one-on-one with other students and advisors, check out information sessions on different career and study areas, and get involved in interactive activities.

Open Day 2025, Adelaide City

Organisation: Adelaide University

Location: AU Adelaide City Campus

Date: July 27, 2025

Join us on campus to explore the launch pad for your bright future – Adelaide University.

With the largest campus footprint in South Australia, we will be hosting open days and experiences at our metropolitan and regional campuses in mid-2025.

Discover our dynamic spaces and facilities and learn all about our 400+ degrees across 22 diverse study areas. Engage your curiosity and chat with staff, or have some fun around campus with activities and entertainment.

Defence Careers Australia - Defence Careers Virtual Information Session

Thursday (June 19, 2025)

Are you interested to learn about the wide range of roles available in the Navy, Army and Air Force?

Join us at an upcoming info session and speak with current serving members about their own experiences. You'll have the chance to ask any questions you have about Australian Defence Force careers and opportunities.

It is highly recommended you book as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!

Time: 05:30 PM - 07:30 PM (ACST)

06:00 PM - 08:00 PM (AEST)

04:00 PM - 06:00 PM (AWST) Location: Online

Details and Registration: <https://www.adfcareers.gov.au/events/events-detail/0sn5gbo>

Work Experience

5 questions to ask while you're on work experience

Work experience is one of the best ways to test drive a career and see what working life is really like. But to get the most out of it, you need to do more than just show up and follow instructions. The people around you have years of experience and knowledge that could be incredibly valuable for your future - so here are 5 key questions to ask that will help you make the most of your work experience placement.

1. What does a typical day actually look like in this role?

Job descriptions can sound pretty formal and boring, but the reality of a job is often quite different. By asking about daily tasks and responsibilities, you'll get a real picture of what working in this field is like.

You might discover that a marketing job involves way more spreadsheets than you expected, or that being a vet means a lot of paperwork between treating animals. Understanding the day-to-day reality helps you figure out if this career would actually suit your personality and interests.

2. How does what I'm learning at school connect to this job?

This is a great question to ask because it helps you see the bigger picture of your education. Maybe

you're wondering why you need to study chemistry if you want to work in business, or whether your art classes will actually be useful in a law career.

When you understand these connections, it can help motivate you in subjects that might seem irrelevant right now. Plus, you might discover you need to focus more on certain subjects or pick up new skills to reach your career goals.

3. What's the most challenging part of this job, and how do you handle it?

Every job has its tough moments, and it's better to know about them upfront rather than being surprised later. Maybe it's dealing with difficult customers, working to tight deadlines, or staying up-to-date with constantly changing technology.

Learning how other people cope with these challenges can give you valuable strategies for handling stress and problems - skills that will be useful in any career path you choose.

4. How is this industry changing, and what should I be prepared for?

Industries evolve rapidly these days, especially with new technology constantly emerging. The job market your parents entered will look completely different by the time

you're ready to start working.

By understanding where an industry is heading, you can make smarter choices about what to study and which skills to develop. You might learn that certain roles are becoming automated, while new opportunities are opening up in other areas.

5. What resources or connections would you recommend for someone starting out?

This question can unlock a treasure trove of information. Professionals often know about industry publications, useful websites, professional associations, networking events, or even specific people who could help you learn more.

Building these connections early can give you a huge advantage when you're ready to apply for jobs or further study. Plus, it shows you're serious about the field and thinking ahead.

Make the most of your opportunity

Don't worry about asking "dumb" questions - the people supervising you expect you to be curious and want to learn. Take notes during conversations, ask for contact details if appropriate, and always follow up with a thank you message after your placement ends - you never know when these connections might be helpful in the future.

Reminder: Any student who wishes to engage in work experience must see Mr Sheedy for the appropriate Work Experience paperwork. This can also be found on the careers news website. All relevant work experience forms must be completed BEFORE students can engage in Work Experience.

Career Roadshow

Students in Year 10, 11 and 12 attended the Career Roadshow at the Whyalla Recreation Centre on Thursday of Week 5. The Career Roadshow aims to connect local communities with employment, career and training opportunities, showcasing regional businesses, careers, higher education, training and employment options. Our students had the chance to explore careers and pathways, engage with interactive displays and activities, discover local job opportunities, and get expert training advice. Our students were exceptional on this day with many conversations occurring about potential career pathways each other would like to do.

Our students:

- Explored interactive exhibits and hands-on activities tailored to career exploration.
- Discover a variety of industries and careers, gaining real-world insights into the workforce and further study options.
- Engaged with potential employers, training providers, and higher education institutions in a meaningful way.
- Gained practical advice to support future career decisions.
- Make face-to-face connections and build professional networks to help inform career decisions.
- Discover new possibilities, they might find a career they never knew existed.

Thank you to the local business for providing time and expertise information and knowledge to our students at Samarian College. Lastly, thank you to the Whyalla Recreation Centre for hosting and Sam Amato from the Unihub for coordinating the event.



ATAR Scores

How is the ATAR calculated?

Each state has a slightly different method, but the general idea is the same:

1. Scores from your top subjects are added to your results from any mandatory subjects (e.g. English or Maths) to create an aggregate score.
2. Using those aggregate scores, a complex algorithm is applied to create rank tables, converting your aggregate into an ATAR.

ATARs are the same no matter where you are in Australia. An ATAR of 81.00 in South Australia, for example, is the same as an ATAR of 81.00 in any other state or territory.

Once your results are released and you know what your ATAR is, it will never change.

Scaling levels the playing field

You might have heard people say that some subjects are “scaled up” or “scaled down”. That’s true – sometimes it can seem unfair that some students get “extra points” (adjustments) to their ATAR, but it’s really about making the results as fair as possible.

Scaling makes sure that students aren’t disadvantaged (or overly advantaged) based on their subject choices. It’s also used to adjust for things like varying performance across schools - such as the difference between a top selective school and a small remote school.

Think of it this way: if one student studied dance and languages while another studied predominantly STEM subjects, how can you compare their results? The scaling system is designed to even out the differences in the thousands of different subject variations, helping universities to assess applicants from a single source – their ATAR.

What’s the difference between an ATAR and a selection rank?

Your selection rank (or SR) is your ATAR plus any adjustment factors you might be eligible for. These can

come from things like:

- living in a rural area
- doing well in certain subjects
- having a tough personal situation
- applying through special entry programmes

For example, if your ATAR is 86 and you receive 3 adjustment points, your selection rank becomes 89. This higher rank can help you get into a course with a higher cut-off.

How university adjustment schemes work

If a university offers adjustment factors, your ATAR number remains the same but your selection rank will be higher. That means you could receive an offer to a course you listed in your preferences even though your ATAR is below the cut off, because your selection rank gets you over the line.

For example, Beth has applied to do a Bachelor of Medical Science. The course information states you need a minimum ATAR of 89. Beth’s ATAR results are released and she receives an ATAR of 86. The university she applies for offers adjustment factors which she is eligible to receive. Once they’re applied to her ATAR, she has a selection rank of 89 and is accepted onto the course.

Each institution may have their own adjustment schemes, and even different courses at the same university may apply them differently.

University course cut-offs and how they work

University courses often have a limited number of places, so there’s only so many applications they can accept.

Some courses might have a minimum ATAR or selection rank requirement (sometimes called a cut-off). These are often the courses that receive more applications than they have places

available. The cut-off is reflective of the popularity of that course, not necessarily how easy or hard it is going to be. If lots of applicants list a

specific course on their preferences this year, the required ATAR to receive an offer might go up next year.

It’s important to remember that lots of universities take into account more than just your ATAR when making offers. They want well-rounded applicants who can offer more than just a high ATAR, so you might be invited to an interview, do an audition, or provide a portfolio, for example. It’s the perfect opportunity to show them more about you, your skills, strengths and values.

An example of how university course cut-offs work

Course X has 100 places, but 200 students apply for a place. Therefore, only the students with the top 100 selection ranks will be offered places. The lowest selection rank offered a spot then becomes the course cut-off.

Take a look at these students who applied for Course X:

- Student 98 has a selection rank of 78 (ATAR of 78)
- Student 99 has a selection rank of 78 (ATAR of 76 plus 2 bonus points)
- Student 100 has a selection rank of 77 (ATAR of 77)
- Student 101 has a selection rank of 76 (ATAR of 76)
- Student 102 has a selection rank of 76 (ATAR of 75 plus 1 bonus point)

Therefore, the cut-off for this course would be 77.

Student 99 received an offer despite receiving an ATAR of 76 because their selection rank bumped them over the cut-off. Student 101 didn’t miss out because they were incapable of completing the course - they missed out simply because their selection rank was lower than 100 other applicants.

Any questions around ATAR scores or how this is calculated please come and see Mr Sheedy.