

# 5 Helpful Tips for Subject Selection

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PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

1. **Get informed about YOU:** Consider the things you enjoy doing both at school and in your home life. What subjects do you currently enjoy? What career thoughts have you had? What hobbies and interests do you have? What learning style suits you? Are you creative/artistic? Scientific/analytical? Organisational/clerical? Practical/mechanical? The leader/persuader? Nature-loving? The helper/advisor?
2. **Investigate careers:** Talk to working professionals to get an idea about the careers you are interested in. Visit [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au). Check out other career websites. Find out about different pathways including apprenticeships and traineeships. Look at what is required to do these careers. Talk to your parents, talk to their friends... talk to me!
3. **Connect your favourite subjects, your hobbies and interests, your strengths, and your experiences to different careers:** Visit university (or other education/employment providers) websites and find out what their entry requirements are, including the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). Go to university open days.

*Some university degrees require the following:*

**Prerequisites:** To be eligible for some programs, particularly in the areas of Science, Engineering, Maths and Computer Science, applicants are required to have passed specific senior school subjects called 'program prerequisites'. Program prerequisites apply to all applicants to the relevant programs. Always check what the admissions requirements are for your desired degree. This may be found on the university websites.

**Assumed Knowledge:** For some degrees and first-year courses, it is assumed that through secondary school studies or other equivalent studies a student will have achieved a level of knowledge of the subject area (e.g. physics for aviation) that is considered desirable for successful university level study. This does not mean that students have passed the subjects or even undertaken them. It does mean the university expects you to handle these studies at an academic level.

*PS – It is important to note that you will limit opportunities to study in the United States if you do not do their recommended 'core subjects'. Also, if you do not study Year 12 English, you may not find entry to any university outside of South Australia. Ask me for more information!*

4. **Don't limit yourself by thinking you are not good enough: DREAM BIG!** At the same time, understand that very competitive pathways (elite athletes, health specialists, astronauts etc.) will need commitment and focus. It is very important to have **back-up plans** should obstacles arise. **Know your strengths** and your areas of needed improvement.
5. **Stay calm:** Don't stress! It is normal for high school students to be confused about what is out there and change their minds. There is so much to learn, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. You have a LOT of support here at PAC. Get the help you need. Information is power. **Enjoy the journey!**