



# CASPER

For initial teacher education courses. For more information and FAQs, please go to [www.acuityinsights.app](http://www.acuityinsights.app)

This fact sheet provides an overview of Casper, a non-cognitive online test that some 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, an applicant's 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 [Initial teacher education reforms](#)

## Which initial teacher education courses require applicants to sit Casper?

All initial teacher education courses require applicants to demonstrate their personal attributes. While some use Casper, others 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:

#### 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 applicant's personal and professional attributes.

## 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 [www.acuityinsights.app](http://www.acuityinsights.app)

## How much does it cost to sit Casper?

The cost of the Casper test, which is valid for all institutions you apply to for a single application cycle, can be found on the Acuity Insights website.

## What is Acuity Insights?

Acuity Insights, previously known as Altus Suite, is a company that provides assessment products to institutions. For Australian/ New Zealand applicants, the suite comprises Casper and Snapshot, and the \$80 fee covers both these components. Snapshot is a 10–15 minute video interview to highlight communication skills and motivation, Unless otherwise stated in the course requirements, Snapshot is not compulsory for courses requiring Casper. If a student does not sit the Snapshot interview, their Casper results will still be forwarded to VTAC and institutions. There is also an additional value-alignment assessment in Acuity Insights called Duet, but this is only used for US medical school applications.

## How do I sit Casper?

Casper can only be taken online and on specific dates. For guaranteed consideration for courses accepting applications this year, tests must be sat 6 weeks prior to date of offer. For a list of sitting dates and times visit [www.acuityinsights.app/dates-times/](http://www.acuityinsights.app/dates-times/). It is advisable that you register for the test at least three days beforehand.

The computer used to take the test must have a working webcam, microphone and audio output to allow for online supervision. Full technical requirements are listed at [www.acuityinsights.app/test-prep/#General](http://www.acuityinsights.app/test-prep/#General)

You will need to enter your VTAC ID when registering and will be asked to provide a 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 Acuity Insights using the chatbox on the Acuity Insights website.

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 [www.acuityinsights.app/](http://www.acuityinsights.app/)

## If I require special provisions, what should I do?

Applicants who require special provision (accommodations) to enable them to sit Casper must email a formal request and supporting documents to [support@acuityinsights.app](mailto:support@acuityinsights.app). This must be sent at least four 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 information go to: [www.acuityinsights.app/faq/#accommodations](http://www.acuityinsights.app/faq/#accommodations)

## For how long are my Casper results valid?

Casper results can only be used for one selection cycle. These run annually from 1 August of one year to 31 July the following year. 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?

VTAC recommends that you arrange your preference list with your highest preference at the top, however, we also recommend placing some pathway courses below your top preferences in case the outcome of the test is unfavourable.

Pathway is a term used to describe a course that can provide an alternative way of entering the course you ultimately want to study. VTAC recommends adding pathway courses to your preference list as they allow you to continue to study and develop your knowledge, attributes and skills should you not be successful in gaining entry into your preferred course. Pathways don't necessarily guarantee you entry into your preferred course as academic achievement and other selection considerations still apply, however the best way to learn more about pathway courses is to speak to your preferred institutions directly.

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).

## 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.