ATAR below your target? Make a pathway plan.

A practical checklist for students and families comparing university entry routes. Save this worksheet, check the official requirements, and discuss your options with a school careers adviser or admissions team.

1 / Check which number you are comparing

Your ATAR is a rank. A course may assess a selection rank after eligible adjustments. A past lowest selection rank describes a past intake; it is not a guaranteed future cut-off. Check the exact course, campus, intake and applicant category before ruling yourself out.

2 / Identify what is missing

Rank below an indicator? Ask about adjustment schemes, related courses and approved alternative entry. **Missing a prerequisite?** Ask whether a specific bridging or preparation course satisfies it. **No ATAR?** Look for routes that explicitly accept your qualification or circumstances. These are different problems and may need different solutions.

3 / Compare routes before paying

Consider a related degree with a possible later transfer, a diploma with a published degree pathway, an enabling or foundation program, or relevant TAFE/VET study. Progression and credit depend on the provider and destination course. Do not assume that any diploma guarantees entry or that credits automatically transfer.

4 / Keep your preferences and deadlines in view

Use the admissions centre's current instructions. Keep courses you genuinely want on your list when eligible, and include realistic alternatives. Record change-of-preference and offer-round deadlines from the official site; this worksheet intentionally does not guess dates.

Before your next decision: choose two alternatives, save the official course links, and ask for the progression conditions in writing. No part of this checklist is a personal admission assessment.

Use the right state resources

Begin with your admissions centre, then verify course-specific conditions with the institution. Interstate and international applications may follow different rules.

Victoria / VTAC

Use official entrance requirements to distinguish prerequisites, adjustments and alternative entry. Search the exact course and applicant category. A historical ATAR profile is a guide to previous selection, not a pre-set future threshold.

VTAC entrance requirements
VTAC course research

New South Wales / UAC

UAC explains routes such as diplomas, undergraduate certificates and preparation programs. A published pathway may have a specific destination degree, progression standard or credit arrangement. Confirm that the option you choose applies to your intended course and intake.

UAC pathways to university and entry schemes

Queensland / QTAC

QTAC explains bridging, enabling and other entry routes. A completed VET qualification can have a separate selection rank; that does not rewrite your ATAR. Ask whether the destination institution accepts that qualification and whether subject prerequisites are still required.

QTAC bridging, enabling and pathways

Five questions to ask the admissions team

1. Is this a guaranteed progression agreement or a competitive application?
2. What completion, grade, prerequisite and English conditions apply?
3. How much credit transfers to this exact degree and campus?
4. What are the total fees and time across the pathway and degree?
5. Which deadline, evidence and application channel apply to me?

Sources above checked 23 November 2026. Follow the links for current rules. This is original explanatory text, not a reproduced admissions report or an endorsement by VTAC, UAC or QTAC.

Compare two realistic options

Print and write in the spaces below. Keep the completed worksheet on your own device or paper; it does not submit your scores or personal details to ATARPulse.

What to verify	Option A	Option B
Course / provider / campus		
Official course link / date checked		
Entry route / applicant category		
Prerequisites / English conditions		
Progression standard / guarantee?		
Credit accepted by destination degree		
Total time / total fees		
Preference deadline / offer round		
Admissions reply / next action		

My next action

I will contact: _____

I will ask about: _____

I will check the reply and deadline on: _____

Free checklist. No paid partner recommendation or admission guarantee. More guidance: atarscore.org/atar-pathways/