

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# CAO Course Finder

**Objective: To create a list of courses available through the CAO system that interest you.**

The CAO application system encourages each student to select courses in order of preference from two separate lists - Higher Certificate / Ordinary Degrees (Levels 6 and 7 NFQ - typically two and three years respectively) and Honours Degrees (Level 8 NFQ, typically 4 years, sometimes more)

On the next pages, we encourage you to take time to reflect on what you would like to study or train for immediately on leaving school. Work down through each of the sections on the following pages and carefully select the options that suit you best.

When you have completed each section, you will be ready to visit the CAO Wizard on [www.CareersPortal.ie](http://www.CareersPortal.ie) and investigate courses from a list that matches your interests.

Finally, after exploring those courses, make a shortlist of courses you would like in the tables below.



Level 6 / 7 (Higher Certificate / Ordinary Degree)			
	Code	Course Title	College
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Level 8 (Honours Degree)			
	Code	Course Title	College
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

**1** Read down through the study sectors below. Then starting at the top:

**a:** In the **first column (A)** place a tick if the area of study holds enough interest for you to warrant further consideration. Place an X if you are sure you have no interest.

**b:** In the second column (B), number the items you have ticked, giving a 1 to the sector that holds the greatest interest, 2 the second greatest and so on.

## LIVING ENVIRONMENT



### Animals & Veterinary Science

This study area includes subjects such as genetics, animal physiology, animal nutrition, animal behaviour, animal health and welfare, animal conservation and wildlife.



### Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, & Food

This study area includes subjects such as animal and crop production, biochemistry, biology and microbiology, environmental protection, food safety, forestry, agribusiness or any other subject related to agriculture or the food industry in Ireland and abroad.



### Maritime, Fishing & Aqua-culture

This study area includes subjects such as genetics, animal physiology, animal nutrition, animal behaviour, animal health and welfare, animal conservation and wildlife.

## SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (STEM Areas)



### Building, Construction and Property

This study area includes subjects such as structural engineering, land and building surveying, site management, building technology, mining engineering, roads and transport engineering, architecture.



### Mechanical Engineering & Manufacturing

This study area includes subjects such as technical drawing / computer aided design (CAD), mechanics, power systems, fluid mechanics, aerospace engineering, materials, stress analysis, thermodynamics, and computerised manufacturing systems.



### Chemical, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences

This study area includes subjects such as biological science, pharmaceutical science (creation, development and make-up of drugs and medicines), chemistry and biochemistry. You may also study subjects such as cell biology, microbiology and molecular biology. Laboratory work often forms a substantial part of these courses.



### Computers & Software

This broad study area includes subjects dealing with computer hardware (e.g. PCs, networking), software (e.g. operating systems, programming languages), computer science (e.g. theory, maths) to complete systems (e.g. process control systems, software / web applications).



### Electronic & Electrical Engineering

This study area includes subjects such as electronics, control systems, computer skills in both hardware and software, automated systems, robotics, microelectronics, telecommunications and power engineering.



### Physical & Mathematical Sciences

This study area includes subjects such as physics, mathematics, statistics, computing, chemistry, experimental physics, astronomy, optics and electronics.



### Medical Devices

This study area includes subjects such as biotechnology, biomedical science, manufacturing engineering, and process engineering.



### Earth Science & Environment

This study area includes subjects such as oceanography, environmental science, marine biology, environmental management, conservation, geography, bioscience, earth science and energy engineering.

A	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

## MEDICINE & CARING



### Medical & Healthcare

This study area includes subjects such as nursing, physiotherapy, dentistry, nutrition, medicine, radiography, pharmacy etc.



### Social Science & Community Care

This study area includes subjects such as psychology, social science, childhood studies, community/youth studies, social care and intellectual disability. Some courses may involve training in professional social work roles.

## ARTISTIC & CREATIVE



### Art, Craft & Design

This study area includes subjects such as drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, craft design, photography, art appreciation, web design, graphic design, product design and fashion design.



### Entertainment & Performing Arts

This study area includes subjects such as music, drama, theatre or some other aspect of the entertainment industry.

## ARTS / SOCIAL SCIENCES



### Classic Arts, Languages & Culture

This broad study area includes subjects such as anthropology, European or Asian languages and culture, geography, history, archaeology, philosophy, classical studies, Celtic studies etc.



### Politics / Law

This study area includes subjects such as legal research/writing, property law, European community law, human rights, politics, economics, public policy, constitutional law, labour law, commercial law and company law.



### Media & Publishing

This study area includes subjects covering the techniques and theories of traditional media (newspaper, print, radio, TV) and/or new digital media (CD, Internet), writing and editing, researching and information management.



### Education

This study area includes subjects that will lead to a qualification to teach or carry out other work in a school, college or other educational setting.



### Leisure, Sport & Fitness

This study area includes subjects such as sports psychology, recreation management, technology & sports, coaching, aquatics, business (sports and recreation focused), sports & leisure administration, physiology and health.



### Tourism & Hospitality

This study area includes a range of subjects relating to the tourism sector, such as tourism studies, hotel management, business law, management accounting, marketing research, and often a foreign language.

## BUSINESS / ADMINISTRATION



### Business General

This broad study area includes subjects such as economics, human resource management, business administration, information technology in business, accounting, marketing, company law.



### Marketing / Sales

This broad study area includes a range of business subjects with a special focus on topics such as company culture, market research, new business/product development, advertising and promotion, PR (public or press relations) and sales.



### Accountancy / Financial Services

This study area includes subjects such as accountancy, economics, financial management, risk management, banking and financial markets, insurance studies and international finance. Some of these courses prepare for the Professional Accountancy Bodies exams.

A

B

**2** The CAO application system will allow you choose up to 10 courses from it's Level 6/7 list (Higher Cert. and Ordinary Degree courses) and 10 courses form it's Level 8 list (Honours Degree).

Select one or both course levels you would like to study.

Level 6 / 7 Courses:

Level 8 Courses:

You may wish to seek the advice from your Guidance Counsellor before selecting.

**3** What kind of results are you aiming for in your Leaving Cert? Your results will be converted into Points using a common scale (*once online you can calculate your points using the Points Calculator*). Your top six scores only will be used to calculate points.

Your previous examination results should influence the kind of results you are aiming for but **do** allow for an improvement. You will gain more experience as you approach the Leaving Cert.

Enter your expected points score here:

(and add at least 50 to allow for improvement and yearly fluctuations)

**4** Some courses have specific subject entry requirements. Tick the boxes that apply to you:

Maths Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher
Lab Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No		
Modern Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No		

**5** What part of the country would you consider studying in? Studying away from home has significant extra cost implications. However, being prepared to study beyond your location may open up many more study opportunities. It costs nothing to look!

Connacht     Leinster (excl Dublin)     Dublin     Munster     Ulster


**OR**

What college would you like to study in:

*Tip: Avoid confining your course search to one college unless you have a very good reason - it restricts your choices!*

**What next?** When you have completed this worksheet, you can use this information to generate a list of courses for exploration.

1. Go to **www.careersportal.ie**, select the **Toolbox** link (top left) and select **CAO Course Search** from the **Career Exploration Toolbox**.

2. Fill in the details you have selected on this worksheet into the **CAO Wizard** page and click the Search Now button: 

3. A list of courses will be displayed. Move the mouse over the **Course Title, College, Points and Qualifications** for each course to get a brief summery of each course.

- Click on the **Course Title** of the course that you wish to investigate further.
- Browse the information and links on the Course Page
- Click on the Qualifax and/or the College website links provided to access full course details.

4. Make a shortlist of courses that interest you based on your exploration. **Fill these in on the front of this worksheet.** Review your suggestions with your Guidance Counsellor / Parents.