



# WHERE TO NOW?

YOUR GUIDE TO SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PATHWAYS IN VICTORIA | 2023



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Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria



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*Where to Now? 2023 Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria* is your guide to Victoria's senior secondary school pathways – the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), including the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) and where it can take you after you finish school.

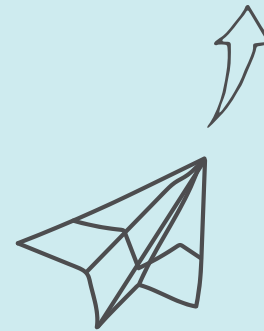
This guide also details the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC), a flexible certificate designed for students in Years 11 and 12 who would benefit from a more individualised program at a more accessible level than the VCE and the VCE VM.

Every student has different interests and strengths. This guide explains the many choices you can make.

Make sure your path is right for you. Before you choose your pathway and subject preferences, talk to your teacher or careers practitioner.

## Special Provision

If you want to do the VCE, VCE VM or VPC and you are affected by an illness, have an impairment or disability, or impacted by factors relating to a personal circumstance, you may be eligible for Special Provision. Ask your school about what's available to help you successfully finish your VCE, VCE VM or VPC.



# WELCOME



Congratulations on reaching your senior secondary school years. This is an exciting time and an important step in preparing you for the future.

Over the next couple of years the study choices you make will help shape your future education and career opportunities. Now is the time to explore the many pathways available to you.

In 2023 Victoria is moving to a new single senior secondary certificate that brings together the best of VCE and VCAL. The VCE Vocational Major will be introduced to replace the existing VCAL program at the Intermediate and Senior levels.

Introducing the Vocational Major into the VCE will mean all senior secondary pathways are equally celebrated and recognised.

You, along with your parents and your school, can choose the most appropriate subjects and courses based on your strengths, aspirations and capabilities.

*Where to Now? 2023 Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria* will explain what you need to know

about your final years of schooling and will help you explore the options available to you.

As this guide demonstrates, there are diverse study options available, that will meet the many talents and skills of Year 11 and 12 students.

Whether you want to take on university, TAFE, a traineeship, or head straight into the workforce when you finish school, there is a senior secondary pathway that will help get you there.

Read about your options carefully and discuss them with your teachers, friends and family. This will help you to make the best decisions for your future. I'd urge you to carefully consider your next step and obtain all the information you can.

Whatever you decide, I wish you the very best for your final years of secondary school. I hope you find this guide a practical and inspiring resource.

The Hon. James Merlino MP  
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education,  
Minister for Mental Health

# HELPFUL TO KNOW >>>>>



A list of words and expressions to help you better understand the terms used in this booklet.

## **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**

A ranking on a scale of 0.00 to 99.95, based on study scores, given to a student. Calculated by VTAC and used by tertiary institutions to select students for their courses.

## **Department of Education and Training**

The Victorian Government department that administers school education, apprenticeships and traineeships.

## **General Achievement Test (GAT)**

Completed by all students enrolled in a VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 subject sequence. Also, a section of the GAT is completed by students enrolled in VCE Vocational Major (VM).

## **Outcomes**

What students are expected to know and have achieved by the time they have finished a VCE unit.

## **Registered Training Organisation (RTO)**

An organisation approved by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority or the Australian Skills Quality Authority to deliver and issue VET qualifications.

## **Satisfactory (S)**

Certifies that a student has successfully completed the outcomes or modules for a unit.

## **School-assessed coursework (SAC)**

Used to assess a student's level of achievement. Tasks are selected by the school from the designated study design.

## **School-assessed task (SAT)**

Used to assess students' specific sets of practical skills and knowledge. Tasks are set by the VCAA and assessed by the teacher.





## School-based apprenticeship or traineeship

An apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken in the VCE, VCE VM or Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC), with at least one day a week spent on the job or in training during the normal school week.

## Semester

Half the academic year (around 20 weeks across 2 consecutive school terms). Most units last for one semester. In the VCE, Unit 3 is completed in the first semester and Unit 4 is completed in the second semester.

## Statement of Attainment

A record of recognised learning that may contribute towards a VET qualification.

## Statement of Results

A set of documents that states a student's VCE, VCE VM or VPC results, and if the relevant certificate has been awarded.

## Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

On-the-job training that allows VET students to develop their work skills and understand employer expectations.

## Subjects

The studies available in the VCE, VCE VM and VPC.

## Study score

A score between 0 and 50, showing how a student performed in a VCE subject or scored VCE VET program, relative to all other students. This is calculated using the scores achieved in each of the graded assessments for the subject – 2 for VCE VET and 3 for VCE.

## TAFE

TAFEs offer a range of vocational tertiary courses up to the level of Advanced Diploma.

## Units (VCE, VCE VM or VPC)

The parts of a subject in the VCE, VCE VM or VPC. There are usually 4 units in a subject.



## **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)**

The senior secondary qualification in Victoria.

## **Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)**

The statutory authority responsible for providing curriculum and assessment programs for students in Victoria.

## **Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)**

A flexible certificate designed for students in Year 11 and 12 who would benefit from a more individualised program at a more accessible level than a senior secondary certificate.

## **Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA)**

Victoria's education and training regulator.

## **Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)**

Calculates and distributes the ATAR and processes tertiary entrance applications.

## **VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)**

A 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE with specific subjects designed to prepare students for a vocational pathway.

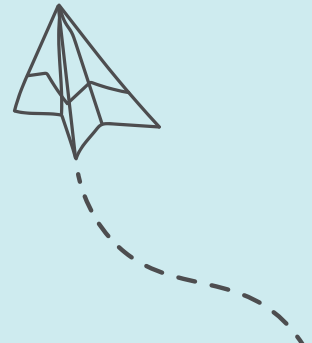
## **Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)**

A former senior secondary certificate which has been replaced by VCE VM for Intermediate and Senior VCAL. Foundation VCAL has been replaced by the VPC.



## **QUICK EXPLAINER**

The VCE is the Victorian Certificate of Education. Successfully completing the VCE and achieving study scores in 4 subjects (including an English subject) will give you an ATAR, which will help you get into university.





# VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) opens pathways to university, higher-level TAFE or VET certificate courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and the workforce. The VCE offers studies in humanities, science, mathematics, technologies, arts, physical education and languages, as well as vocational education and training programs.

Many Victorian students choose to finish secondary school studying the VCE because of its range of subjects and pathways.

The VCE curriculum offers more than 90 subjects and 27 VCE VET programs.

From 2023, you will also be able to enrol in the VCE Vocational Major (VM). See [page 10](#) and [page 12](#). This is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE. It replaces Intermediate and Senior VCAL.

## How is the VCE structured?

The VCE course is made up of subjects – like English and Biology – that are broken up into units. Most subjects are made up of 4 units: Units 1, 2, 3 and 4. A unit is one semester long.

Most students finish their VCE over 2 years. Units 1 and 2 of a subject are usually completed in Year 11, and Units 3 and 4 in Year 12.

You can study Units 1 and 2 of a VCE subject but you don't get a study score by just finishing Units 1 and 2. If you complete Units 3 and 4 as a sequence in the same year, you can achieve a study score. A Unit 3 and 4 sequence means that you must undertake Unit 3 followed by Unit 4.



## QUICK EXPLAINER

An ATAR is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, used by universities to select students for their courses. It's a figure (or ranking) between 0.00 and 99.95.



## QUICK EXPLAINER

A study score is a number between 0 and 50 that indicates your ranking in relation to all other students doing that subject in that year.

### What subjects can I choose?

Each school decides what subjects and programs it offers. If your school doesn't offer what you want, it might be available from another school or provider.

You may want to consider Virtual School Victoria or the Victorian School of Languages or other options like an Registered Training Organisation (RTO). Speak to your teacher about this.



### What do I have to do to achieve my VCE?

You must successfully complete at least 16 units, including:

- 3 units from the English group, including a Unit 3 and 4 sequence
- at least 3 other sequences of Unit 3 and 4 subjects.

Most students study between 20 and 24 units, that's 5 or 6 subjects, across Years 11 and 12.

There are 5 subjects in the English group. They are English and English as an Additional Language, English Language, Foundation English, Literature, and VCE VM Literacy (only available for students enrolled in the VCE VM). Your teacher can explain the differences between the English group subjects. Or you can find out more on the VCAA website [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au).

You can choose the remaining units needed for your VCE – at least 3 sequences of Units 3 and 4 in any subject. This could even be an extra English group subject on top of your minimum English units.

You can complete your VCE over more than 2 years. For example, some students start the VCE in Year 10 with Units 1 and 2 of a subject and study Units 3 and 4 in Year 11.

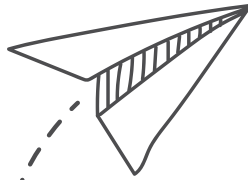
Talk to your teacher or careers practitioner about how to structure your VCE program to best suit you.



# DESHI'S VCE PATHWAY

Deshi wants to be a lawyer so he's going to enrol in VCE studies like English, Mathematics, Legal Studies, Physical Education, History and VCE VET Business. He will finish secondary school with his VCE.

Deshi has chosen studies that are relevant to his future career as well as those he has a genuine interest in. He discussed his choices with his teacher and school careers practitioner so that he meets the university course prerequisites to study law.



## DESHI'S YEAR 10 STUDIES

VCE Physical Education Units 1 and 2

## DESHI'S YEAR 11 STUDIES

VCE English Units 1 and 2

VCE Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2

VCE Legal Studies Units 1 and 2

VCE Modern History Units 1 and 2

VCE Physical Education Units 3 and 4

VCE VET Certificate III in Business Units 1 and 2

## DESHI'S YEAR 12 STUDIES

VCE English Units 3 and 4

VCE Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4

VCE History Revolutions Units 3 and 4

VCE Legal Studies Units 3 and 4

VCE VET Certificate III in Business Units 3 and 4

## What is the VCE Vocational Major?

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a new vocational and applied learning program within the VCE.

The VCE VM will prepare you to move successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university through alternative entry programs or directly into the workforce.

To recognise your achievements, when you've completed your VCE VM you will get your VCE with a Vocational Major.

## How is the VCE VM structured?

The VCE VM has specific subjects designed to prepare you for a vocational pathway. They are VCE VM Literacy, VCE VM Numeracy, VCE VM Work Related Skills, and VCE VM Personal Development Skills (and 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II level or above).



### QUICK EXPLAINER

The VCE VM is a two-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE with specific subjects designed to prepare students for a vocational pathway.

Each subject has 4 units and each unit has a set of outcomes which are assessed through a range of learning activities and tasks.

You will apply knowledge and skills in practical settings and also undertake community-based activities and projects that involve working in a team.

## What do I have to do to get my VCE VM?

You must successfully finish at least 16 units, including:

- 3 VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- 2 VCE VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units
- 2 VCE VM Work Related Skills units
- 2 VCE VM Personal Development Skills units, and
- 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours) – read about VET on [page 28](#).

Most students will undertake between 16–20 units over the 2 years. You must also complete a minimum of 3 other Unit 3–4 sequences. You can include other VCE subjects and VET. You can also receive structured workplace learning recognition.



# KAMALA'S VCE VM PATHWAY ---->

Kamala likes learning on the job and wants to be a metal fabricator, so she's going to enrol in the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM). She'll do VCE VM studies and a VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering. Kamala will finish secondary school with her VCE with a Vocational Major. She discussed all this with her family, teacher and school careers practitioner.

Before this, Kamala had spent time on her grandparent's farm and helped them build a few sheds. In Year 10, Kamala participated in a TAFE taster day and experienced VET engineering. She then went on a careers excursion to a local caravan manufacturer and asked if she could do Structured Workplace Learning at the company while she was in Year 11. This means she'll spend some school time at the caravan manufacturer learning on the job. She will receive credit for this time towards her VCE Vocational Major. When she completes Year 12, Kamala hopes to gain an apprenticeship with this company.

## KAMALA'S YEAR 11 SUBJECTS

VCE VM Units 1 and 2 Literacy

VCE General Maths Units 1 and 2

VCE VM Units 1 and 2 Work Related Skills (WRS)

VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering Studies Units 1 and 2

VET Unit 1 Structured Workplace Learning (90 hours)

## KAMALA'S YEAR 12 SUBJECTS

VCE VM Units 3 and 4 Literacy

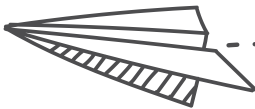
VCE VM Units 3 and 4 General Maths

VCE VM Units 3 and 4 Personal Development Skills (PDS)

VCE VM Units 3 and 4 Work Related Skills (WRS)

VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering Studies Units 3 and 4

VET Unit 2 Structured Workplace Learning SWLR (90 hours)



## Who decides if I have satisfactorily completed a VCE or VCE VM unit?

Your teacher determines if you have satisfactorily met the outcomes of a unit. This decision is based on the work you submitted and if you followed the VCAA and school rules and procedures.

## How should I decide which subjects to do?

Choose subjects that:

- interest you
- you are good at
- will help you do what you want after school – apply for university or a TAFE course, or get a job in your chosen field.

## Can I combine VCE subjects with VCE VM subjects?

Yes. You have to be enrolled in the VCE VM program to do VCE VM subjects. You can also do VCE subjects if you're enrolled in the VCE VM program.



# VCE AND VCE VM SUBJECTS IN 2023 >>>>

## Arts

- Art Creative Practice
- Art Making and Exhibiting
- Dance
- Drama
- Media
- Music
  - Music<sup>†</sup>
  - Music Composition\*
  - Music Contemporary Performance\*
  - Music Inquiry\*
  - Music Repertoire Performance\*
- Theatre Studies
- Visual Communication Design

## Business and Economics

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Economics
- Industry and Enterprise
- Legal Studies

## Cross-curricular

- Extended Investigation\*

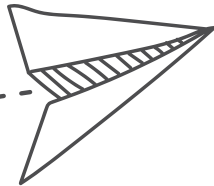
## English

- Bridging English as an Additional Language<sup>†</sup>
- English and English as an Additional Language
- English Language
- Foundation English<sup>†</sup>
- Literature

### Key

<sup>†</sup> Units 1 and 2 only

\* Units 3 and 4 only





## Health and Physical Education

- Health and Human Development
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies
- Physical Education

## Humanities

- Australian and Global Politics
  - Australian and Global Politics<sup>†</sup>
  - Australian Politics\*
  - Global Politics\*
- Classical Studies
- Geography
- History
  - Ancient History
  - Australian History\*
  - Empires<sup>†</sup>
  - Modern History<sup>†</sup>
  - Revolutions\*
- Philosophy
- Religion and Society
- Sociology
- Texts and Traditions

## Mathematics

- Foundation Mathematics
- General Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics

## Science

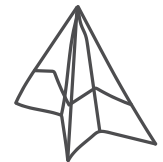
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology

## Technologies

- Agricultural and Horticultural Studies
- Food Studies
- Product Design and Technology
- Systems Engineering

## Digital Technologies

- Algorithmics (HESS)\*
- Applied Computing
  - Applied Computing<sup>†</sup>
  - Software Development\*
  - Data Analytics\*





## VCE Vocational Major (VM)

- VCE VM Literacy
- VCE VM Numeracy
- VCE VM Work Related Skills
- VCE VM Personal Development Skills

## VCE VET Programs

For a full list of VCE VET Programs see [page 31](#).

## Languages

Aboriginal Languages of Victoria, Arabic, Armenian, Auslan, Bengali, Bosnian, Chin Hakha, Chinese First Language, Chinese Language Culture and Society, Chinese Second Language, Chinese Second Language Advanced, Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian First Language, Indonesian Second Language, Italian, Japanese First Language, Japanese Second Language, Karen, Khmer, Korean First Language, Korean Second Language, Latin, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Vietnamese First Language, Vietnamese Second Language, Yiddish.

Individual schools do not offer every possible subject. Check which subjects your school offers.

➤ Key

† Units 1 and 2 only

\* Units 3 and 4 only



## How is my VCE work marked?

Units 1 and 2 are marked by your school. Your teacher will set a range of assessments.

For Units 1 and 2 you will receive either S (satisfactory) or N (not satisfactory). Only the S counts towards your VCE.

Grades for Units 3 and 4 are more complicated. For Units 3 and 4 you will have grades calculated from A+ to E, or UG (ungraded) or NA (not assessed) for your assessment tasks, as well as an S or N.

The [VCAA website](#) has loads more information about the VCE assessment process.

For each VCE subject, there are 3 graded assessments for Unit 3 and Unit 4. Not all VCE VET programs have scored assessments. Those that do have 2 graded assessments.

Depending on the subject, these may be school-based assessments, external assessments or a mix of both.

There are 2 kinds of **school-based assessments**. They are:

- school-assessed coursework (SAC) – a set of assessment tasks that test your level of achievement in Units 3 and 4 outcomes of the study design
- school-assessed tasks (SATs) – set by the VCAA to test your practical skills and knowledge across the Units 3 and 4 outcomes of the study design.

Your teacher marks both SACs and SATs.

The VCAA statistically moderates school-based assessments at a Unit 3 and 4 level of all VCE subjects and VCE VET scored assessment programs. This helps make sure the marking system is fair to everybody doing the same subject, no matter which school they go to or who teaches them. School-based assessments are created by teachers, so it differs from school to school. The benefits of statistical moderation make school-based assessment results fair and equitable for all students.

**External assessments** are set and marked by the VCAA. They are the same for all students taking the same VCE subject. Usually this will be an examination – written, oral, performance, or in an electronic format. Music Composition, Music Inquiry and Extended Investigation also have an externally assessed task. You may be asked to submit a folio that contains exercises, an original work, audio recordings and documentation described in examination specifications published by the VCAA each year for an externally assessed task.

Subject experts mark your external assessments. All VCE subjects are marked to the same standard and go through many checks to make sure marking is fair and correct.

Exams are held in October and November. Your school will give you plenty of notice of your exact exam dates.





## How are my VCE VM subjects marked?

Each VCE Vocational Major unit of study has specified learning outcomes. Your teacher will supervise and mark your assessments and will let you know that you've passed the specified learning outcomes through a range of learning activities and tasks.

Unlike other VCE subjects there are no external assessments, apart from the General Achievement Test (see [page 21](#)). This means you will not get study scores or an ATAR.

## What is unscored VCE?

Typically, students undertake scored assessment as part of their VCE. Scored assessment provides a more detailed record of your achievement and is the best way to maximise your chances and pathways to further education and training. However, you can complete your VCE without being assessed for graded assessments and the calculation of a study score. Remember you don't get an ATAR if you don't have study scores.



## Can I repeat a unit if I receive an N (not satisfactory)?

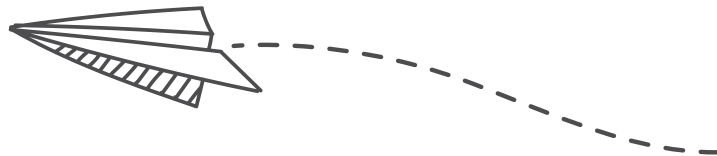
Yes, you can repeat a unit in Year 11 or Year 12. If you repeat a unit, you must do the full unit again, including all assessments in a subsequent year.

There are no restrictions for repeating a unit, but you can only count the unit once towards satisfactory VCE completion. If you want to get a study score, you will need an S (satisfactory completion) for the Unit 3 and 4 sequence in the year you repeat the unit.

## How do I get a study score?

You will get a study score if you:

- get at least 2 graded assessments, and
- achieve an S for both Units 3 and 4 of the subject, in the same year.



## Can I repeat a subject to achieve a better study score?

Yes. If you have completed a Unit 3 and 4 subject before Year 12 and you want to get a better study score, you can repeat that subject. However, you may obtain credit only once for each unit. If you repeat a unit, you are required to repeat the full unit, including all assessments for the outcomes specified for the unit, in the current study design for the year of repetition. If you wish to receive a study score when repeating VCE units you will need to satisfactorily complete the Unit 3 and 4 sequence in the year of repetition.

## How do I get into university or TAFE?

To get into university, you generally need to have an ATAR and achieve the prerequisite study score/s requirement set by the university for specific studies. Each university decides the prerequisite study scores and ATARs you need for the courses they offer. You may also need an ATAR to get into some higher-level VET qualifications offered at TAFE.

Many universities offer non-ATAR or alternative pathways. This could be through student folios, work experience or completion of pre-requisites set by the university.



## What is an ATAR?

The ATAR is a figure that reflects your relative achievement compared to everyone else in Year 12. It is based on study scores and is a figure (or ranking) between 0.00 and 99.95.

Before offering places, tertiary institutions often look at each student's ATAR and the combination of VCE subjects they finished.

To receive an ATAR you must complete 4 Unit 3 and 4 sequences, including a VCE English subject and complete the graded assessments for those subjects.

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) calculates your ATAR. See the VTAC website [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au) for more about the ATAR and tertiary course options.



## What is a notional ATAR?

Notional ATARs are used to rank applicants who have:

- obtained the International Baccalaureate (IB). An ATAR is calculated for IB students who complete the General Achievement Test (GAT).
- completed at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject outside a January to December timetable
- finished interstate subjects.

A notional ATAR is treated the same way as a normal ATAR. The 'notional' label indicates that the ATAR was obtained in a slightly different way. For course selection and all other purposes, they are equivalent.

## What is the GAT and why is it important?

All students studying at least one Unit 3 and 4 VCE subject (or a scored VCE VET subject) as well as students doing VCE VM are expected to sit all or a section of the GAT. The GAT measures your general knowledge and skills in literacy, numeracy, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, arts and social sciences.

GAT results will include information on your performance against literacy and numeracy standards typically expected of those leaving school.

Your GAT results do not count directly towards your VCE or VCE VM, but they are used to help check that school-based and external assessments have been fairly and accurately assessed.

The GAT may also be used to calculate a derived examination score. If you are ill or affected by personal circumstances during a VCE external assessment, and if your result is unlikely to be a fair or accurate indication of your learning or achievement, you will be eligible to apply for a derived examination score.



## How will I receive my results?

If you enrolled in at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject, you will be able to see your results online through the VCE Results and ATAR service in December. Enrol and save the link to the online service for checking later.

You will also receive a Statement of Results in December.

If you undertake Units 1 and 2, your statement will be sent to your school. If you are enrolled in at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject, the VCAA will mail your statement to your home.

If you are enrolled in at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject, you may also register to receive your results by email on the morning of results release.

Your statement will include:

- the S and N unit results
- the grades for your Units 3 and 4 school-based and external assessments
- your study score for your Units 3 and 4 subjects.

If you have successfully finished the VCE, you will receive a certificate, which will be sent to your school.

If you sat the GAT, your December results package will also include a Statement of Results for the GAT.

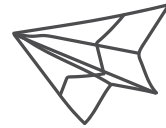
If you complete the VCE VM, you will receive your Victorian Certificate of Education – VCE Vocational Major.

## Can I complete a VET qualification or school-based apprenticeship or traineeship as part of my VCE or VCE VM?

Yes. Pages 25 to 30 discuss VET and the many possible programs. The [VCAA website](#) also has much more information.



# ABOVE AND BEYOND >>>>



## Higher Education Study in the VCE

If you've done well in your subjects and want to do better, you might be able to do a Higher Education Study (HES) in Year 12.

This will give you a defined pathway into tertiary education. It can count towards your VCE and contribute to your ATAR as a fifth or sixth study. It also gives you credit for the first year of a university course in that subject.

Most major universities in Victoria offer HES. See the VCE Studies web page on the [VCAA website](#) for a list of universities that offer HES and the prerequisites or other requirements for each of these studies.

Your school must approve you for the HES program. Only one HES can contribute towards your VCE.

## VCE – Bacallaureate

The VCE – Bacallaureate is another form of recognition for high-achieving students and students undertaking specific study or activities.

These awards can provide opportunities and a portfolio to help your career and personal development.

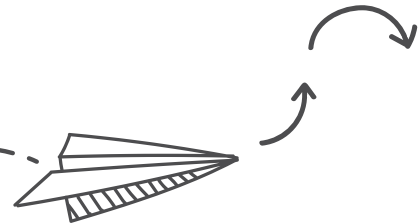
The VCE – Bacallaureate recognises depth, breadth and achievement in subjects. To receive the VCE – Bacallaureate you must complete the VCE with:

- a study score of 30 or above for English, Literature or English Language, or a study score of 33 for English as an Additional Language
- a Unit 3–4 sequence in VCE Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics
- a Unit 3–4 sequence in a VCE Languages subject
- study scores for at least 2 or more Unit 3 and 4 sequences.

## Excellence and awards

Awards and recognition are available for high-achieving students, and students studying arts, design, technology or VCE Extended Investigation, or those involved in community service or public speaking.

Find out more about these on the [VCAA website](#).



# VICTORIAN PATHWAYS CERTIFICATE



The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is a flexible certificate designed for students in Years 11 and 12 who would benefit from an individualised program at a more accessible level than the VCE or VCE VM.

The VPC can help you move in to a senior secondary qualification, entry level vocational education and training (VET) course or straight into a job.

Your teacher or careers practitioner will talk to you and your family about whether the VPC is right for you. Once you, your family and your teacher or careers practitioner have agreed that this is the best option for you, you can start your VPC at any time during the school year and the time you take to finish the VPC is flexible.

## What can my VPC program include?

You can choose from 4 subjects:

- VPC Literacy
- VPC Numeracy
- VPC Work Related Skills
- VPC Personal Development Skills

You can also add VCE and VCE VM units or VET units of competency to your VPC program. You can also receive structured workplace learning recognition in your program. Your teacher or careers practitioner can help you develop a program that suits your learning needs and interests.

## How do I achieve my VPC?

You must complete a minimum of 12 units, including at least:

- 2 units of VPC Literacy (or units from the VCE English group including VCE VM Literacy)
- 2 units of VPC Numeracy (or units from the VCE Mathematics group including VCE VM Numeracy)
- 2 VPC Work Related Skills units
- 2 VPC Personal Development Skills units

Many students will undertake more than 12 units in their VPC.

## QUICK EXPLAINER

The VPC is a flexible certificate designed to meet the needs of students who are not ready to complete the VCE or VCE VM.





## How are my VPC subjects marked?

All units in your VPC are marked by your teacher at your school or provider.

VPC providers are listed on the [VCAA website](#).

## How will I receive my VPC results?

You will receive a Statement of Results from the VCAA, listing all the units you were enrolled in and completed.

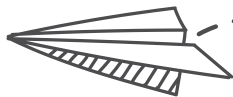
You will also receive a Full Qualification or Statement of Attainment from the RTO for completed VET studies.

## I've already started a VET certificate. Will it count towards my VPC?

Yes. Speak to your teacher or careers practitioner to work out how much of that study counts towards your VPC so you can plan the rest of your program.

## I've already done a VCE unit. Will this count towards my VPC?

If you have an S result for a VCE unit, it may count towards your VPC. Your teacher or careers practitioner can tell you whether you are eligible for this credit.



## Can I switch to the VCE or VCE VM after I finish my VPC?

Yes, you can switch to the VCE or VCE VM. If you decide to take this option, you should discuss it with your teacher or careers practitioner.

## Can I complete a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship as part of my VPC?

Yes. You should discuss this with your teacher.

## Can part-time work count towards my VPC?

While part-time work does not contribute directly to your VPC you may be able to use your experience in the workplace to better understand VPC Work Related Skills units. Other work activities that may contribute to your VPC include:

- a school-based or part-time apprenticeship or traineeship
- structured workplace learning (SWL) placements.

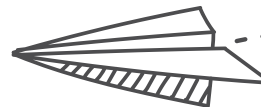
# BRANDON'S VPC PATHWAY >>>>

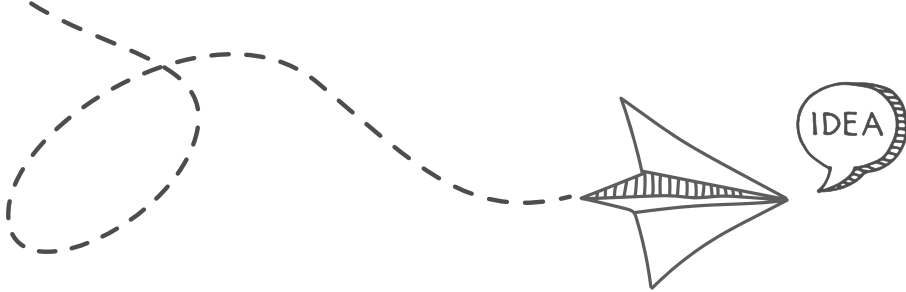


Brandon needs flexibility as he returns to school due to an ongoing medical condition. Brandon's teacher discussed the VPC with him and his parents.

Brandon likes the VPC because he can start his learning program when he wants to. Brandon decides to enrol in VPC studies, doing community projects and working in a team. It could take Brandon longer than two years to complete his learning program.

Instead of completing Year 10 English and Maths, Brandon does the VPC Unit 1 Literacy and Numeracy. When he makes his choices for Year 11 and 12, Brandon knows the VPC is the right program for him because he still needs flexibility.





In Year 11 he starts the Certificate II in Small Business because this VET is run onsite at school which makes it easier for him to attend. By Year 12, Brandon is attending school on a regular basis and enrolls in the Certificate II in Salon Assistant. He undertakes Structured Workplace Learning in a hair salon which means he'll gain credit for his work placement.

Brandon wants an apprenticeship as a hairdresser when he leaves school.

### BRANDON'S YEAR 10 SUBJECTS

VPC Unit 1 Literacy

VPC Unit 1 Numeracy

### BRANDON'S YEAR 11 SUBJECTS

VPC Unit 2 Literacy

VPC Unit 2 Numeracy

VPC Unit 1 Personal Development Skills (PDS)

VPC Unit 1 Work Related Skills (WRS)

VET Unit Certificate II in Small Business  
(Operations/Innovation) Units 1 and 2

### BRANDON'S YEAR 12 SUBJECTS

VPC Unit 3 Literacy

VPC Unit 2 Personal Development Skills (PDS)

VPC Unit 2 Work Related Skills (WRS)

VET Certificate II in Salon Assistant Units 1 and 2

VET Unit 1 SWLR (90 hours)



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Vocational Education Training (VET) allows you to do nationally recognised training as part of your VCE, VCE VM or VPC. You can combine general and vocational studies, explore career options, and learn in the workplace.

VET develops industry specific knowledge and skills, as well as general skills needed for employment, training, and further education. VET gives you practical skills relevant to your many talents, and helps you work towards a formal VET qualification.

## Core offering

You can choose from more than 40 certificate qualifications across 27 VCE VET programs.

Twelve programs have been identified as a core offering, based on student and industry demand, and schools are encouraged to make these programs available to you. The core offering is grouped into two categories – priority pathways and flexible pathways.

**Priority pathways**<sup>°</sup> reflect industries that have a high need for skilled workers and growing job opportunities.

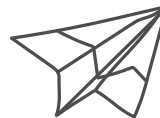
**Flexible pathways**<sup>▲</sup> reflect in-demand programs based on previous student enrolments.

Look for the <sup>°</sup> and <sup>▲</sup> symbols in the list of VCE VET programs on [page 31](#).



## QUICK EXPLAINER

Scored VCE VET programs provide a Unit 3 and 4 sequence. They have school assessed tasks and an end of year exam, giving you a study score, like all VCE subjects.



## How do I include VET in my VCE, VCE VM or VPC?

### 1. Complete a VCE VET program

There are 27 VCE VET programs with 47 qualifications to choose from. See the [VCAA website](#) for information on each of the VCE VET programs. VCE VET units contribute towards satisfactory completion of your VCE, VCE VM or VPC and give you a qualification that is recognised around Australia. VCE VET programs that have Units 3 and 4 can be included in your ATAR calculation. If you are interested in a particular area of work, ask your school how a VCE VET program in that area can contribute to your VCE, VCE VM or VPC.

### 2. Do a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship

To become an apprentice or trainee you must be in paid work and sign a contract of training. The training contract must be registered with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority.

Your VCE, VCE VM or VPC program would then include:

- VCE, VCE VM or VPC studies at school
- VET at an RTO, such as TAFE
- part-time paid work in the industry in which you are training.

You can do a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship in many industries as part of your VCE, VCE VM or VPC. These include, but are not limited to, agriculture, building and construction, early childhood education, and sport and recreation. A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship qualification contributes to successfully finishing the VCE, VCE VM or VPC, just like VCE VET programs do, by giving students credit for Units 1 to 4. School-based apprenticeships or traineeships may contribute to an ATAR. Ask your school how they can help arrange a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship for you.



### 3. Complete a different VET certificate

If you are interested in doing a VET certificate that's not available as a VCE VET program, you may be able to count it towards satisfactory completion of your VCE, VCE VM or VPC. This arrangement is called block credit. There are specific rules for block credit, so ask your year level coordinator or careers practitioner for more information.

### How do I get my results?

If you complete a VET qualification in any of these ways, you will receive a certificate or statement of attainment from the RTO and credit towards the VCE, VCE VM or VPC.

### Structured Workplace Learning

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is on-the-job training or work placements that allow you to develop work skills and understand what employers expect.

SWL can be a valuable component of your VET qualification undertaken within your VCE, VCE VM or VPC. SWL complements your training at school or with another provider.

It should be spread across the whole training program, and it allows you to:

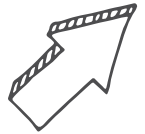
- build and improve your skills
- apply practical industry knowledge
- be assessed in units of competency, as determined by the RTO
- expand your employment opportunities.

### Structured workplace learning recognition

When you complete SWL, you can gain extra units towards your VCE, VCE VM or VPC by completing SWL Recognition. This process gets you to reflect on your SWL experiences in a Workplace Learning Record and discuss these with your school. This also applies if you are undertaking a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

### Get VET videos

Looking for more information on VET? Go to the VCAA website [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/GetVET](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/GetVET) to be inspired by VET student stories, discover how VET is different from a VCE, VCE VM or VPC subject, and more.



# VCE VET PROGRAMS IN 2023

## Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Ecosystem Management<sup>▲</sup>

- Certificate II in Agriculture
- Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- Certificate II in Horticulture (all sectors)

## Animal Care<sup>▲</sup>

- Certificate II in Animal Care
- Certificate II in Animal Studies

## Applied Fashion Design and Technology

- Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology

## Applied Language<sup>◦</sup>

- Certificate II in Applied Language
- Certificate III in Applied Language

### Key

† Scored VCE VET program

◦ Priority pathway

▲ Flexible pathway

## Automotive<sup>▲</sup>

- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation

## Building and Construction<sup>◦</sup>

- Certificate II in Building and Construction
- Certificate II in Construction Pathways

## Business<sup>▲</sup>

- Certificate II in Workplace Skills
- Certificate II in Business
- Certificate III in Business<sup>†</sup>

## Cisco

- Cisco Networking Academy v7

## Civil Infrastructure<sup>◦</sup>

- Certificate II in Civil Construction

## Community Services<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Active Volunteering
- Certificate II in Community Services
- Certificate III in Community Services<sup>†</sup>
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

## Creative and Digital Media<sup>^</sup>

- Certificate II in Creative Industries
- Certificate III in Screen and Media<sup>†</sup>

## Dance

- Certificate II in Dance
- Certificate III in Dance<sup>†</sup>

## Electrical Industry

- Certificate II in Electrotechnology Studies (Pre-vocational)
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)

## Engineering<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Engineering Studies<sup>†</sup>

## Equine Studies

- Certificate III in Equine Studies<sup>†</sup>

## Furnishing

- Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways<sup>†</sup>

## Hair and Beauty<sup>^</sup>

- Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics
- Certificate II in Salon Assistant
- Certificate III in Beauty Services
- Certificate III in Make-up

## Health<sup>o</sup>

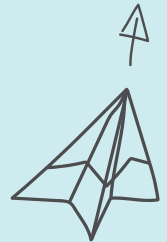
- Certificate II in Health Support Services
- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance<sup>†</sup>

## Hospitality<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Hospitality<sup>†</sup>
- Certificate II in Kitchen Operations<sup>†</sup>

## Information and Communications Technology<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies
- Certificate III in Information Technology<sup>†</sup>







## Integrated Technologies<sup>°</sup>

- Certificate II in Integrated Technologies<sup>†</sup>

## Laboratory Skills<sup>°</sup>

- Certificate III in Laboratory Skills<sup>†</sup>

## Music<sup>^</sup>

- Certificate II in Music
- Certificate III in Music (Performance)<sup>†</sup>
- Certificate III in Music (Sound Production)<sup>†</sup>

## Plumbing<sup>°</sup>

- Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)

## Small Business<sup>^</sup>

- Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)

## Sport and Recreation<sup>^</sup>

- Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation
- Certificate II in Sport and Recreation
- Certificate III in Sport and Recreation<sup>†</sup>

## Visual Arts

- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Certificate III in Visual Arts

Individual schools may offer many of these programs, but probably not all.

### Key

† Scored VCE VET program

° Priority pathway

^ Flexible pathway

