

# WHERE TO NOW?

2024

*Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria*



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*Where to Now? 2024 Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria* has details about 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 are 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! You've made it to your final years at school! I hope you are feeling excited about the two years ahead.

Finishing school is an important steppingstone to whatever comes next for you, so it is important to carefully consider every opportunity available to you and to make decisions that will be best for your future and wellbeing. *Where to Now? 2024 Your guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria* outlines what you and your parents and carers need to know about your options for senior secondary schooling in Victoria.

There are exciting options for you to choose from, including the VCE, the new VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate. You can even include a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course into your certificate to give yourself the employment edge when you finish school. There are also opportunities to explore a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship. Whatever your interests, strengths, or aspirations there is a senior secondary pathway to suit your talents.

As you prepare for your future, I urge you to stay focussed on your passions and to achieve your best. I encourage you to set yourself ambitious goals and wish you well as you work hard to achieve them. Remember that success and achievement come in many forms,



and can only be determined by you. I encourage you to consider what you enjoy learning about and to continue on that path.

Victoria prides itself on being the Education State where there are pathways and opportunities for all students to achieve equity and excellence through education. If you need additional support, I encourage you to reach out to your teachers and school.

Your health and wellbeing are what matters most, so make sure you continue to look after yourself and seek the support and guidance of your family, teachers, and friends throughout this time.

I wish you all the best. Let the exploration begin!

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP  
Minister for Education and Minister for Women

# 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**

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 one or more VCE Vocational Major (VM) Unit 3 and 4 subject sequence.

## **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 of a VCE or VM unit, units of competency for a VCE VET unit or modules for a VPC 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. This can be more flexible in the VCE VM.

## Statement of Attainment

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

## Statement of Results

A set of documents that lists 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 Unit 3–4 sequence 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 foundation secondary qualification designed for students 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 EDUCATION

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

You are also able to enrol in the VCE Vocational Major (VM). This is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE (see pages 7–9).

## 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 3–4 sequence means that you must undertake Unit 3 followed by Unit 4.

## 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 can help you get into university.

## 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 a 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 3–4 sequence
- ▶ at least 3 other Unit 3–4 sequences.

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

There are 6 subjects in the English group. They are Bridging English as an Additional Language, 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.

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 they're going to enrol in VCE subjects like English, Mathematics, Legal Studies, Physical Education, History and VCE VET Business. They will finish secondary school with their VCE.

Deshi has chosen subjects that are relevant to their future career as well as those they have a genuine interest in. They discussed their choices with their teacher and school careers practitioner so that Deshi meets the university course prerequisites to study law.

## Deshi's Year 10 subjects

VCE Physical Education Units 1 and 2

## Deshi's Year 11 subjects

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 subjects

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 VM?

The VCE 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.

### QUICK EXPLAINER

The VCE VM is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE with specific subjects designed to prepare students for life, further study and employment.

## How is the VCE Vocational Major structured?

Most students finish their VCE VM 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 complete your VCE VM over more than 2 years. For example, some students complete a Year 13 so they can spread their learning over a longer period or complete a school-based apprenticeship.

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

The VCE VM has specific subjects designed to build skills and knowledge to prepare you for your life, further study and employment. They are VCE VM Literacy, VCE VM Numeracy, VCE VM Work Related Skills and VCE VM Personal Development Skills. The VCE VM also requires you to complete 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II level or above. 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, undertake community based activities and projects that involve working in a team, and spend some time in a workplace.

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

You must successfully complete 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
- ▶ minimum of 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II level or above (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 Unit 3–4 sequences in addition to your sequence from the English group. You can include VCE VM subjects, other VCE subjects and VET. You can also receive credit for structured workplace learning recognition.

## 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 2024

## Key

† Units 1 and 2 only

\* Units 3 and 4 only

## Arts

Art Creative Practice

Art Making and Exhibiting

Dance

Drama

Media

Music

Music†

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†

English and English as an Additional

Language

English Language

Foundation English†

Literature

## Health and Physical Education

Health and Human Development

Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Physical Education

## Humanities

Australian Politics\*

Classical Studies

Geography

Global Politics\*

History

Ancient History

Australian History\*

Empires†

Modern History†

Revolutions\*

Philosophy

Politics†

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 Technologies  
Systems Engineering

## Digital Technologies

Algorithmics (HESS)\*  
Applied Computing  
    Applied Computing†  
    Software Development\*  
    Data Analytics\*

## VCE 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, 27–29.

For VCE structured workplace learning recognition, see page 26.

## 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 and Yiddish.

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

## 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 each for Units 3 and 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 VM unit of study has specified learning outcomes you need to meet.

For each of the outcomes in a unit you will receive either S (satisfactory) or N (not satisfactory). Each S you receive is a step toward completing one of the 16 units you need to achieve the VCE VM.

Your teacher will set a range of learning activities and tasks for each outcome and collect a range of evidence that demonstrates you have met the required learning outcomes in each unit.

For Units 3 and 4 you will have the opportunity to receive acknowledgement of your higher level of work through a level of achievement rating mark that reflects the level of achievement you have reached in work towards an outcome, as well as an S or N. The level of achievement will celebrate your development in the skills and knowledge in each outcome.

Unlike other VCE subjects, there are no external assessments like exams, apart from the General Achievement Test (GAT; see page 16). This means you will not get study scores for your VCE VM subjects.

## 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 Unit 3-4 subjects 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 at least 4 study scores, including one in an English study.

## 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 VCE. If you want to get a study score, you will need an S (satisfactory completion) for the Unit 3–4 sequence and complete the required graded assessments in the year you repeat the unit.

## How do I get a study score?

You will get a study score if you achieve:

- ▶ at least 2 graded assessments
- ▶ 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 3–4 sequence in the year of repetition.

## 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 3–4 sequences, including a VCE English subject and get a study score for those subjects.

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) calculates your ATAR. For more about the ATAR and tertiary course options, see the VTAC website.

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

All students studying one or more Unit 3 and 4 VCE subjects (or scored VCE VET subjects) are expected to sit Sections A and B of the GAT. Students studying VCE VM subjects are expected to sit Section A of the GAT only.

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 GAT Statement of Results.

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 24 to 28 discuss VET and the many possible programs. The VCAA website also has much more information.

# 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 Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major. She discussed all this with her family, teacher and school careers practitioner.

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 Literacy Units 1 and 2

VCE General Mathematics Units 1 and 2

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

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 Literacy Units 3 and 4

VCE General Mathematics Units 3 and 4

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

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

VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering Studies Units 3 and 4

VET Unit 2 Structured Workplace Learning SWLR (90 hours)

# 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 Higher Education Studies in the VCE 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:

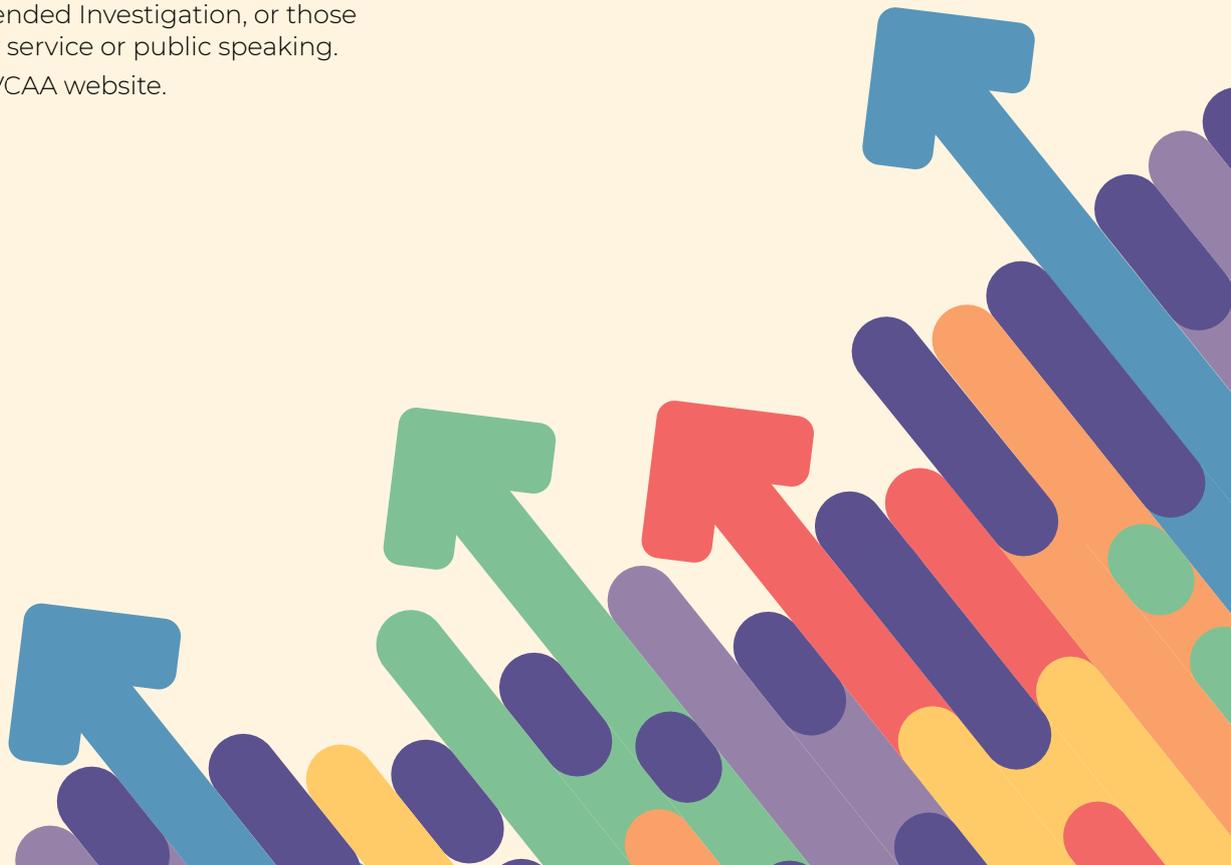
- ▶ a study score of 30 or above for English, Literature or English Language, or a study score of 33 for English as an Additional Language
- ▶ a Unit 3–4 sequence in VCE Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics
- ▶ a Unit 3–4 sequence in a VCE Languages subject
- ▶ study scores for at least 2 or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

If you complete the VCE – Bacallaureate, you will receive your Victorian Certificate of Education – Bacallaureate, which will be sent to your school.

# 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 on the VCAA website.



# VICTORIAN PATHWAYS CERTIFICATE

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is a foundation secondary qualification designed for students who would benefit from an individualised program at a more accessible level than the VCE or VCE VM.

The VPC can help you move into a senior secondary qualification, entry level 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.

## 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.

## 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 at Certificate I level or above 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.

## 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. It's important to remember that VPC units do not credit into the VCE VM or VCE.

## 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
- ▶ SWL recognition

# 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 subjects, 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 Mathematics, Brandon does the VPC Unit 1 of 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 Literacy Unit 1

VPC Numeracy Unit 1

## Brandon's Year 11 subjects

VPC Literacy Unit 2

VPC Numeracy Unit 2

VPC Personal Development Skills (PDS) Unit 1

VPC Work Related Skills (WRS) Unit 1

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

## Brandon's Year 12 subjects

VPC Literacy Unit 3

VPC Personal Development Skills (PDS) Unit 2

VPC Work Related Skills (WRS) Unit 2

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

## QUICK EXPLAINER

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

## SWL 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 Get VET page on the VCAA website 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 2024

## Key

† Scored VCE VET program

# Unscored 3 and 4

° Priority pathway

## Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Ecosystem Management°

Certificate II in Agriculture#

Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management#

Certificate II in Horticulture (all sectors) #

## Animal Care

Certificate II in Animal Care#

## Applied Fashion Design and Technology

Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology#

## Applied Language

Certificate II in Applied Language

Certificate III in Applied Language#

## Automotive°

Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation#

## Building and Construction°

Certificate II in Building and Construction#

Certificate II in Construction Pathways#

## Business°

Certificate II in Workplace Skills

Certificate III in Business†

## Cisco

Cisco Networking Academy v7#

## Civil Infrastructure°

Certificate II in Civil Construction#

## Community Services°

Certificate II in Active Volunteering

Certificate II in Community Services

Certificate III in Community Services†#

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care#

## Creative and Digital Media°

Certificate II in Creative Industries

Certificate III in Screen and Media†

## Dance

Certificate II in Dance

Certificate III in Dance<sup>†</sup>

## Electrical Industry

Certificate II in Electrotechnology Studies (Pre-vocational)<sup>#</sup>

Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)<sup>#</sup>

## Engineering<sup>°</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<sup>#</sup>

Certificate II in Salon Assistant

Certificate III in Beauty Services<sup>#</sup>

Certificate III in Make-up<sup>#</sup>

## Health<sup>°</sup>

Certificate II in Health Support Services

Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance<sup>†</sup>

## Hospitality<sup>°</sup>

Certificate II in Hospitality<sup>†</sup>

Certificate II in Cookery<sup>†</sup>

## Information and Communications Technology

Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies

Certificate III in Information Technology<sup>†</sup>

## Integrated Technologies

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

## Laboratory Skills

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

## Music

Certificate II in Music

Certificate III in Music (Performance)<sup>†</sup>

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

## **Plumbing°**

Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)

## **Small Business**

Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)#

## **Sport and Recreation°**

Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation

Certificate II in Sport and Recreation

Certificate III in Sport and Recreation†

## **Visual Arts**

Certificate II in Visual Arts

Certificate III in Visual Arts#

Priority pathways reflect industries that have a high need for skilled workers and growing job opportunities.

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





