



SENIOR SCHOOL
SUBJECT SELECTION GUIDE

2024



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Thank you for choosing Mount Beauty Secondary College for your child's secondary school education.

We take educating our students very seriously. We believe that all students can be educated and that we can help them to reach their potential.

Our mission is to pursue excellence in education in a supportive environment. This will ensure all our students will be able to realise their full academic and personal potential, feel empowered and become strong and resilient young people of great character.

Our school's vision is that we have a culture of respect for all, providing a quality education in a safe environment that meets the diverse needs of our students.

Students are encouraged to be confident and respectful, aspiring ever upward, to prepare for a productive future.

After following a core curriculum in Year 7 and a mixed core and elective system in Years 8 – 10, students should have had the opportunity to experience a broad curriculum, as well as having the opportunity to focus on areas of interest.

By the end of Year 10, students should have an idea of what Learning Areas they enjoy, are good at and how they like to learn. This should be the starting guidance for which subjects they choose in their final years of schooling, along with discussions about careers, further education options or work options.

Mount Beauty Secondary College offers a broad range of subjects at the senior level to ensure that students are able to choose subjects they enjoy or require for their future pathways.

The senior certificates of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and VCE Vocational Major are administered by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) and the school is bound to the rules and regulations set out by them, following the course designs provided by the VCAA.

This is the beginning of the final 2 years of your child's education. It can often be a stressful and busy time. However, if we continue to work as a team to support your child, we will help them succeed in transitioning from school to the next stage in their education, whatever that may look like

Simone Roy - Principal

2024 SUBJECT OFFERINGS

The following units are the list of possible offerings for 2024.

NB: Not all subjects or units will run and some studies will run as a Units 1 – 4 class. If there is a subject that you have a real interest in, you must include it in your preference list from the beginning of the selection process.

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VCE ART CREATIVE PRACTICE

Rationale

VCE Art Creative Practice introduces the role of art in contemporary and historical cultures and societies, and values the meaningful and unique impact of artists on the development of arts knowledge, tradition and experiences, both locally and globally. Students build an understanding of how artists, through their practice and the artworks they create, communicate personal experiences and ideas, and cultural values, beliefs and viewpoints. In this study, students view artworks and investigate the working practices of artists from different cultures and periods of time. Students are challenged to articulate their understanding of the meanings and messages contained within artworks and to examine the effects of artworks upon the viewers or audiences who experience them. Students learn to pose and solve problems, and work independently and collaboratively, to create and convey meaning through art making.

Throughout the study students have opportunities to construct knowledge and communicate personal interpretations by working as both artist and viewer or audience. In making artworks, students use their creativity to solve problems and experiment with visual language and expression. They create personal responses and meaning by applying diverse materials, techniques and art processes. Students develop skills in research, art history and critical theory to analyse, interpret and debate the ideas and issues that are raised by artworks and by artists in their practice.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Unit 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: Interpreting artworks and exploring the Creative Practice

Unit 2: Interpreting artworks and developing the Creative Practice

Unit 3: Investigation, ideas, artworks and the Creative Practice

Unit 4: Interpreting, resolving and presenting artworks and the Creative Practice

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE BIOLOGY

Rationale

VCE Biology enables students to investigate the processes involved in sustaining life at cellular, system and species levels. In undertaking this study, students develop an understanding that, in the dynamic and interconnected system of life, all change has consequences that may affect an individual, a species or the collective biodiversity of Earth. Students gain insights into how molecular and evolutionary concepts and key science skills underpin much of contemporary biology, and how society applies such skills and concepts to resolve problems and make scientific advancements.

In VCE Biology, students develop and enhance a range of inquiry skills including practical experimentation, research and analytical skills, problem-solving skills including critical and creative thinking, and communication skills. Students pose questions, formulate hypotheses, conduct investigations, and analyse and critically interpret qualitative and quantitative data. They assess the limitations of data, evaluate methodologies and results, justify their conclusions, make recommendations and communicate their findings. Students use biological knowledge, scientific skills and ethical understanding to investigate and analyse contemporary bioethical issues and communicate their views from an informed position.

VCE Biology provides for continuing study pathways within the discipline and can lead to a range of careers. Branches of biology include botany, genetics, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology and zoology. In addition, biology is applied in many fields of human endeavour including bioethics, biotechnology, dentistry, ecology, education, food science, forestry, health care, horticulture, medicine, optometry, physiotherapy and veterinary science. Biologists work in cross-disciplinary areas such as bushfire research, environmental management and conservation, forensic science, geology, medical research and sports science.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Students entering Unit 3 without Units 1 and/or 2 may be required to undertake additional preparation as prescribed by their teacher. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education.

All VCE studies are benchmarked against comparable national and international curriculum.

Unit 1: How do organisms regulate their functions?

Unit 2: How does inheritance impact on diversity?

Unit 3: How do cells maintain life?

Unit 4: How does life change and respond to challenges over time?

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Rationale

In contemporary Australian society there are a range of businesses managed by people who establish systems and processes to achieve a variety of objectives. These systems and processes are often drawn from historical experience and management theories designed to optimise the likelihood of achieving success. In studying VCE Business Management, students develop knowledge and skills that enhance their confidence and ability to participate effectively as socially responsible and ethical members, managers and leaders of the business community, and as informed citizens, consumers and investors. The study of Business Management leads to opportunities across all facets of the business and management field such as small business owner, project manager, human resource manager, operations manager or executive manager. Further study can lead to specialisation in areas such as marketing, public relations and event management.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: Planning a business

Unit 2: Establishing a business

Unit 3: Managing a business

Unit 4: Transforming a business

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE CHEMISTRY

Rationale

VCE Chemistry enables students to examine a range of chemical, biochemical and geophysical phenomena through the exploration of the nature of chemicals and chemical processes. In undertaking this study, students apply chemical principles to explain and quantify the behaviour of matter, as well as undertake practical activities that involve the analysis and synthesis of a variety of materials.

In VCE Chemistry students develop a range of inquiry skills involving practical experimentation and research specific to the knowledge of the discipline, analytical skills including critical and creative thinking, and communication skills. Students use scientific and cognitive skills and understanding to analyse contemporary chemistry-related issues, and communicate their views from an informed position.

VCE Chemistry provides for continuing study pathways within the discipline and leads to a range of careers. Branches of chemistry include organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, analytical chemistry, physical chemistry and biochemistry. In addition, chemistry is applied in many fields of endeavour including agriculture, bushfire research, dentistry, dietetics, education, engineering, environmental sciences, forensic science, forestry, horticulture, medicine, metallurgy, meteorology, pharmacy, sports science, toxicology, veterinary science and viticulture.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Students entering Unit 3 without Units 1 and/or 2 may be required to undertake additional preparation as prescribed by their teacher. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education.

All VCE studies are benchmarked against comparable national and international curriculum.

Unit 1: How can the diversity of materials be explained?

Unit 2: How do chemical reactions shape the natural world?

Unit 3: How can chemical processes be designed to optimise efficiency?

Unit 4: How are organic compounds categorised, analysed and organised?

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE DRAMA

Rationale

Students tell stories, explore ideas, make sense of their worlds and communicate meaning through the practice of performance-making. The study of drama introduces students to theories and processes for the creative development of new work and allows them to develop skills as creative and critical thinkers. Students develop an appreciation of drama as an art form through their work as solo and ensemble performers, and engagement with professional contemporary drama practice. They develop skills of communication, criticism, aesthetic understanding and aesthetic control.

VCE Drama equips students with knowledge, skills and confidence to communicate as individuals and collaboratively in a broad range of social, cultural and work-related contexts. The study of drama may provide pathways to training and tertiary study in acting, dramaturgy, theatre-making, script writing, communication and drama criticism.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: Introducing performance styles

Unit 2: Australian identity

Unit 3: Devised ensemble performance

Unit 4: Devised solo performance

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

Rationale

The study of English contributes to the development of literate individuals capable of critical and creative thinking, aesthetic appreciation and creativity. This study also develops students' ability to create and analyse texts, moving from interpretation to reflection and critical analysis.

Through engagement with texts from the contemporary world and from the past, and using texts from Australia and from other cultures, students studying English become confident, articulate and critically aware communicators and further develop a sense of themselves, their world and their place within it. English helps equip students for participation in a democratic society and the global community.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1:

In this unit, students engage in reading and viewing texts. They discuss and clarify the ideas and values presented by authors through their evocations of character, setting and plot, and through investigations of the point of view and/or the voice of the text. Students engage with and develop an understanding of effective and cohesive writing. They apply, extend and challenge their understanding and use of imaginative, persuasive and informative text.

Unit 2:

In this unit, students develop their reading and viewing skills, including deepening their capacity for inferential reading and viewing, to further open possible meanings in a text, and to extend their writing in response to text. Students consider and explore the way arguments are developed and delivered in many forms of media. Students apply their knowledge of argument to create a point of view text for oral presentation.

Unit 3

In this unit students read and respond to texts analytically and creatively. They analyse arguments and the use of persuasive language in texts.

Unit 4

In this unit students compare the presentation of ideas, issues and themes in texts. They create an oral presentation intended to position audiences about an issue currently debated in the media.

NB: Foundation English can also be undertaken in Units 1 and 2 as an alternative. This will be negotiated with the Senior School Coordinator and the English teacher.

NB: English as an Additional Language (EAL) will be available if required.

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Rationale

VCE Health and Human Development provides students with broad understandings of health and wellbeing that reach far beyond the individual. Students learn how important health and wellbeing is to themselves and to families, communities, nations and global society. Students explore the complex interplay of biological, sociocultural and environmental factors that support and improve health and wellbeing and those that put it at risk. The study provides opportunities for students to view health and wellbeing, and development, holistically – across the lifespan and the globe, and through a lens of social equity and justice.

VCE Health and Human Development offers students a range of pathways including further formal study in areas such as health promotion, community health research and policy development, humanitarian aid work, allied health practices, education, and the health profession.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 3: Australia's health in a globalised world

Unit 4: Health and human development in a global context

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE INDONESIAN SECOND LANGUAGE

Rationale

The study of Indonesian contributes to student personal development in a range of areas including communication skills, intercultural understanding, cognitive development, literacy and general knowledge. Learning and using an additional language encourages students to examine the influences on their perspectives and society, and to consider issues important for effective personal, social and international communication. It enables students to examine the nature of language, including their own, and the role of culture in language, communication and identity. By understanding the process of language learning, students can apply skills and knowledge to other contexts and languages. Learning a language engages analytical and reflective capabilities and enhances critical and creative thinking.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 and Unit 4 as a sequence. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education. All VCE studies are benchmarked against comparable national and international curricula. VCE Indonesian Second Language is designed for students who have typically studied the language for at least 200 hours prior to the commencement of Unit 1. Entry to VCE Indonesian Second Language is governed by eligibility criteria which are published on the VCAA website and in the VCE Administrative Handbook.

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE MATHEMATICS

Rationale

This study is designed to provide access to worthwhile and challenging mathematical learning in a way which takes into account the interests, needs, dispositions and aspirations of a wide range of students, and introduces them to key aspects of the discipline and its applications. It is also designed to promote students' awareness of the importance of mathematics in everyday life in a technological society and globalised world, and to develop confidence and the disposition to make effective use of mathematical concepts, processes and skills in practical and theoretical contexts.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3; however, students undertaking Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 or Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2 are assumed to have a sound background in number, algebra, function, geometry, probability and statistics. Students must undertake Unit 3 and Unit 4 as a sequence. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education. All VCE studies are benchmarked against comparable national and international curriculum.

Enrolment in Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 assumes a current enrolment in, or previous completion of, Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4.

Foundation Mathematics Units 1–4 provide for the continuing mathematical development of students with respect to problems encountered in practical contexts in everyday life at home, in the community, at work and in study.

General Mathematics Units 1–4 provide for the study of non-calculus and discrete mathematics topics. They are designed to be widely accessible and provide preparation for general employment, business or further study, in particular where data analysis, recursion and financial modelling, networks and matrices are important. Students who have done only Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 will have had access to assumed key knowledge and key skills for General Mathematics Units 3 and 4 but may also need to undertake some supplementary study.

Mathematical Methods Units 1–4 provide for the study of simple elementary functions, transformations and combinations of these functions, algebra, calculus, probability and statistics, and their applications in a variety of practical and theoretical contexts. They also provide background for further study in, for example, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), humanities, economics and medicine.

Specialist Mathematics Units 1–4 provide for the study of various mathematical structures, reasoning and proof. The areas of study in Units 3 and 4 extend content from Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 to include rational and other quotient functions as well as other advanced mathematics topics such as logic and proof, complex numbers, vectors, differential equations, kinematics, and statistical inference. They also provide background for advanced studies in mathematics and other STEM fields. Study of Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 assumes concurrent study or previous completion of Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4.

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE MEDIA

Rationale

VCE Media provides students with the opportunity to analyse media concepts, forms and products in an informed and critical way. Students consider narratives, technologies and processes from various perspectives including an analysis of structure and features. They examine debates about the media's role in contributing to and influencing society. Students integrate these aspects of the study through the individual design and production of their media representations, narratives and products. VCE Media supports students to develop and refine their planning and analytical skills, critical and creative thinking and expression, and to strengthen their communication skills and technical knowledge. Students gain knowledge and skills in planning and expression valuable for participation in and contribution to contemporary society. This study leads to pathways for further theoretical and/or practical study at tertiary level or in vocational education and training settings; including screen and media, marketing and advertising, games and interactive media, communication and writing, graphic and communication design, photography and animation.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: Media forms, representations and Australian stories

Unit 2: Narrative across media forms

Unit 3: Media narratives and pre-production

Unit 4: Media production and issues in the media

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Rationale

Historically, humans have modified outdoor environments to meet survival, commercial, conservation and recreation needs. Outdoor environments have become places of adventure, relaxation, scientific study, social action and enterprise. Outdoor environments also provide space for connectedness with nature and opportunities for reflection upon the past, present and future. These varying values and approaches generate a range of impacts on outdoor environments and can result in pressures and tensions between user groups, leading to issues concerning the preservation and sustainability of outdoor environments. Outdoor and Environmental Studies enables students to critically analyse these different relationships, effects and issues, providing the knowledge and skills to participate in and contribute to contemporary society. Outdoor and Environmental Studies offers students a range of pathways including further formal study in areas where interaction with outdoor environments is central, such as natural resource management, nature-based tourism, outdoor leading and guiding, environmental research and policy, education, and agriculture.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: Exploring outdoor experiences

Unit 2: Discovering outdoor environments

Unit 3: Relationships with outdoor environments

Unit 4: Sustainable outdoor relationships

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Rationale

The study of VCE Physical Education enables students to integrate a contemporary understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of performance and participation in physical activity with practical application. Through engagement in physical activities, VCE Physical Education enables students to develop the knowledge and skills required to critically evaluate influences that affect their own and others' performance and participation in physical activity. This study equips students with the appropriate knowledge and skills to plan, develop and maintain their involvement in physical activity, sport and exercise across their lifespan and to understand the physical, social, emotional and cognitive health benefits associated with being active.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: The human body in motion

Unit 2: Physical activity, sport and society

Unit 3: Movement skills and energy for physical activity

Unit 4: Training to improve performance

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE PHYSICS

Rationale

Physics is a natural science based on observations, experiments, measurements and mathematical analysis with the purpose of finding quantitative explanations for phenomena occurring from the subatomic scale through to the planets, stellar systems and galaxies in the Universe. In undertaking this study, students develop their understanding of the roles of careful and systematic experimentation and modelling in the development of theories and laws. They undertake practical activities and apply physics principles to explain and quantify both natural and constructed phenomena. In VCE Physics students develop a range of inquiry skills involving practical experimentation and research, analytical skills including critical and creative thinking, and communication skills. Students use scientific and cognitive skills and understanding to analyse contemporary physics-related issues and to communicate their views from an informed position.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Students entering Unit 3 without Units 1 and/or 2 may be required to undertake additional preparation as prescribed by their teacher.

Unit 1: How is energy useful to society?

Unit 2: How does physics help us to understand the world?

Unit 3: How do fields explain motion and electricity?

Unit 4: How can two contradictory models explain both light and matter?

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE PRODUCT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Rationale

Designers play an important part in our daily lives. They determine the form and function of the products we use. They transform ideas into drawings and plans for the creation and manufacture of useful products that fulfil human needs and wants. In recent history the use of resources to create an ever-increasing array of products has given designers an increased responsibility to think sustainably. Students develop an understanding of the consequences of product design choices. They develop the necessary skills to critically analyse existing products and to develop their own creative solutions.

VCE Product Design and Technology can provide a pathway to a range of related fields such as industrial, product, interior and exhibition design, engineering, and fashion, furniture, jewellery, textile and ceramic design at both professional and vocational levels.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4

Unit 1: Sustainable product redevelopment

Unit 2: Collaborative design

Unit 3: Applying the Product design process

Unit 4: Product development and evaluation

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE PSYCHOLOGY

Rationale

VCE Psychology is designed to enable students to explore the complex interactions between thought, emotions and behaviour. They develop an insight into biological, psychological and social factors and the key science skills that underpin much of psychology. VCE Psychology is designed to promote students' understanding of how society applies such skills and psychological concepts to resolve problems and make scientific advancements. The study is designed to promote students' confidence and their disposition to use the information they learn in the study in everyday situations. Studying VCE Psychology enables students to develop their capacity to think, question and analyse psychological research and critically reflect on the findings of experiments and research. They are encouraged to use their problem-solving skills, including critical and creative thinking, to establish and articulate their understandings through their class discussions, practical work and written responses – all of which may help students to think deeply and critically about their own lives, manage life circumstances and reach personal goals.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4.

Unit 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

Unit 2: How do internal and external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?

Unit 3: How does experience affect behaviour and mental processes?

Unit 4: How is mental wellbeing supported and maintained?

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Rationale

Visual communication design can inform people's decisions about where and how they live and what they buy and consume. The visual presentation of information influences people's choices about what they think, what they need or want. The study provides students with the opportunity to develop informed, critical and discriminating approaches to understanding and using visual communications, and nurtures their ability to think creatively about design solutions. Design thinking, which involves the application of creative, critical and reflective techniques, supports skill development in areas beyond design, including science, business, marketing and management. The study of Visual Communication Design can provide pathways to training and tertiary study in design and design-related studies, including communication, industrial and fashion design, architecture and media.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 and Unit 4 as a sequence.

Unit 1: Introduction to visual communication design

Unit 2: Applications of visual communication within design fields

Unit 3: Visual communication design practices

Unit 4: Visual communication design development, evaluation and presentation

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

Rationale

Literacy empowers students to read, write, speak and listen in different contexts. Literacy enables students to understand the different ways in which knowledge and opinion are represented and developed in texts drawn from daily life. The development of literacy in this study design is based upon applied learning principles, making strong connections between students' lives and their learning. By engaging with a wide range of text types and content drawn from a range of local and global cultures, forms and genres, including First Nations peoples' knowledge and voices, students learn how information can be shown through print, visual, oral, digital and multimodal representations.

Along with the literacy practices necessary for reading and interpreting texts, it is important that students develop their capacity to respond to texts. Listening, viewing, reading, speaking and writing are developed systematically and concurrently, so that students' capacity to respond to different texts informs the creation of their own written and oral texts. A further key part of literacy in this study design is that students develop their understanding of how texts are designed to meet the demands of different audiences, purposes and contexts, including workplace, vocational and community contexts. This understanding helps students develop their own writing and oral communication, so that they become confident in their use of language and their ability to comprehend, respond to and create texts for a variety of settings.

Students' development of literate practices includes an emphasis on critical literacy so that they understand the social nature of language and how texts position readers in relation to particular ideologies.

Unit 1

Area of Study 1: Literacy for personal use

Area of Study 2: Understanding and creating digital texts

Unit 2

Area of Study 1: Understanding issues and voices

Area of Study 2: Responding to opinions

Unit 3

Area of Study 1: Accessing and understanding informational, organisational and procedural texts

Area of Study 2: Creating and responding to organisational, informational or procedural texts

Unit 4

Area of Study 1: Understanding and engaging with literacy for advocacy

Area of Study 2: Speaking to advise or to advocate

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE VM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

Rationale

The VCE VM Personal Development Skills study focuses on helping students develop personal identity and individual pathways to optimal health and wellbeing. It begins with concepts of personal identity and the range of factors that contribute to an individual's perception of self. Students will investigate health in their community and play an active, participatory role in designing and implementing activities to improve community health and wellbeing.

Students will examine community participation and how people work together effectively to achieve shared goals. They will investigate different types of communities at a local, national, and global level. Students will look at active citizenship and they will investigate the barriers and enablers to problem solving within the community. Students understand different perspectives on issues affecting their community, they will also plan, implement and evaluate an active response to community need.

The study examines interpersonal skills and social awareness in different settings and contexts. Students will examine leadership qualities and the characteristics of effective leaders and how these qualities can be applied to the achievement of goals within personal and community contexts. Students participate in an extended project relating to a community issue. Students will identify environmental, cultural, economic and social issues affecting the community and select one for an extended community project. Students will reflect on how community awareness of their selected issue can be improved.

Unit 1: Healthy individuals

Unit 2: Connecting with community

Unit 3: Leadership and goal achievement

Unit 4: Community project

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VCE VM WORK RELATED SKILLS

Rationale

VCE VM Work Related Skills allows students to understand and apply concepts and terminology related to the workplace and further studies to understand the complex and rapidly changing world of work and workplace environments. It helps students understand and develop their skills, knowledge, capabilities and attributes as they relate to further education and employment, to develop effective communication skills to enable self-reflection and self-promotion and to practically apply their skills and knowledge.

This subject requires students to think about and investigate potential employment pathways, to develop a career action plan, to seek appropriate advice and feedback on planned career and further study objectives. Students are required to consider the distinction between essential employability skills, specialist, and technical work skills; to understand transferable skills and identify their personal skill and capabilities and promote them through development of a cover letter and resume and through mock interviews.

Students also learn about healthy, collaborative and productive workplaces, workplace relationships and investigate key areas relating to workplace relations, including pay conditions and dispute resolution. Students look at how teamwork and effective communication contribute to a healthy, collegiate workplace. Students also learn about promoting themselves and their skills by developing an extensive professional portfolio to use for further education and employment applications.

Unit 1: Careers and learning for the future

Unit 2: Workplace skills and capabilities

Unit 3: Industrial relations, workplace environment and practice

Unit 4: Portfolio preparation and presentation

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

Certificate III in Sport and Recreation

Please Note:

In 2024 the VCE VET Sport and Recreation Certificate will be updated to the Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation (SIS30122). The new certificate will apply for all students commencing the study in 2024. Continuing students will complete the current certificate. Full course details will be released later this year by VCAA.

Rationale

The VCE VET Sport and Recreation program is drawn from the SIS Sport, Fitness and Recreation Training Package and provides students with the opportunity to acquire and develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to work in the areas of sport and outdoor recreation. Leadership, organisational and specialist activity skills will be developed through the units of competency undertaken in the selected program.

Certificate III in Sport and Recreation provides students with the skills and knowledge to work in the Sport and Recreation industry. Units 3 and 4 offers scored assessment and includes core units such as conduct basic warm-up and cool-down programs, plan and conduct programs, risk assessment, and control and knowledge of coaching practices. Possible job outcomes for a student with this qualification may include the provision of sport and recreation programs, grounds and facilities maintenance and working in the service industry in locations such as a fitness centre, outdoor sporting ground or aquatic centres. SIS30115

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to VCE VET Sport and Recreation.

Program Structure

The VCE VET Sport and Recreation program offers Units 3 and 4 from SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

The Program consists of:

Units 3 and 4

- Five compulsory units of competency

On successful completion of all Units 1, 2, 3 and 4, students are eligible for:

- The award of SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation
- Recognition of up to three units at Units 1 and 2 level and a Units 3 and 4 sequence.

VCE VET Units 3 - 4 offers scored assessment and include core units such as conduct sport coaching with foundation level participants, plan and conduct sport and recreation sessions and undertake a risk analysis of activities. Students also undertake electives drawn from the Aquatics, Fitness, Sport and Outdoor Recreation streams.

VCE Vocational Major

The VCE Vocational Major Sport and Recreation program (either partial or full completion) may contribute at the Intermediate or Senior levels.

NB: The Units 3 and 4 sequence of SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation is not designed as a stand-alone study. Students are strongly advised against undertaking the Units 3 and 4 sequence without first completing Units 1 and 2.

These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

SENIOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

On completion of an eligible Senior School program students are awarded the **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)**. This is an internationally recognised secondary school certificate.

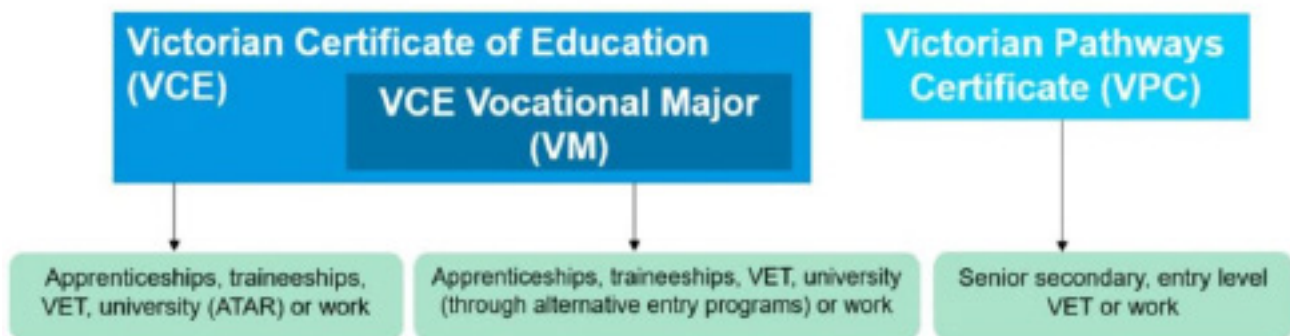
The VCE is designed to prepare students for employment or further study, including entry to university. Students completing a scored VCE are ranked against their peers and on meeting the requirements are issued an **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**.

The VCE now includes an **applied learning pathway** known as the **VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)**. The VCE VM replaces the former Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and provides a pathway for students into employment or trade training. Students who complete an eligible applied learning program are awarded the VCE Vocational Major. VCE VM students are not ranked against their peers and are **ineligible** for an ATAR.

All VCE students are required to sit the **General Assessment Test (GAT)**. VCE VM subjects do not feature end of year exams.

An alternative certificate is available to students for whom the VCE or VCE VM is not suitable. This certificate is called the **Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)**. Contact the school for further information on this pathway.

POST SCHOOL PATHWAYS



These are extracts from the VCAA Study Designs.

Please see: vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/pages/vce-study-designs.aspx

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (VCE)

The VCE is a senior secondary certificate that provides pathways to tertiary education, advanced certificate courses and the workforce. It is a world-class credential that enables students to study a broad range of subjects. It is recognised nationally and internationally. Most students in Victoria receive their VCE when they complete secondary schooling.

How is the VCE structured?

The VCE course is made up of studies and units, some of which must be studied as a sequence.

A study is a subject, for example, English or Biology. It is made up of four units (Units 1, 2, 3 and 4), each of which is a semester in length. For most students, the VCE is completed over two years. Students typically study Units 1 and 2 in their first year, and Units 3 and 4 in their second year of the VCE.

You can study Units 1 and 2 of a study as stand-alone units. However, you must enrol in Units 3 and 4 of a study as a sequence. This sequence needs to be completed in the same year if a study score is to be calculated.

Students usually study between 20 and 24 units (five or six studies) in Years 11 and 12. You can take longer than two years to finish the VCE if you need to. Some students start the VCE in Year 10, and some study Units 3 and 4 in Year 11.

You should talk to your teachers or careers practitioner about how to structure your VCE program to best meet your needs.

What studies can I choose?

You have a variety of study options in the VCE through which you can pursue your interests and build your skills.

There are more than 90 VCE studies and over 20 VCE VET programs across humanities, sciences, mathematics, technology, the arts and languages, as well as vocational studies.

Each school decides which VCE studies and VET programs it will offer. If your school doesn't offer your chosen studies, they might be available from another provider.

You may want to consider Virtual School Victoria or the Victorian School of Languages, or you can speak to your VCE coordinator about other options.

How should I choose which VCE studies to do?

The best idea is to choose studies that:

- interest you
- you are good at
- lead to a job that interests you
- will help you get into a university or TAFE course that you want to do.

What do I have to do to achieve my VCE?

To achieve your VCE you must successfully complete 16 units, including:

- three units from the English group, two of which must be a Unit 3 and 4 sequence
- at least three sequences of Unit 3 and 4 studies, which can include further sequences from the English group.

Your teacher can explain the differences between the English group studies or you can find out more on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) website.

You can complete the remaining units, including the three sequences at the Unit 3 and 4 level, in any study that interests you. This could even be an additional English group study on top of the units you take to meet the minimum English requirement.

Your teacher determines if you have satisfactorily completed a unit, based on the work you submit and your adherence to VCAA and school rules.

How do I achieve marks in the VCE?

Units 1 and 2 are marked by your school; your teachers will set a range of assessments to see how you are progressing. The assessments have deadlines and you will need to plan and submit your work on time. Deadlines can only be extended in special circumstances.

For Units 1 and 2 you will receive either S (satisfactory) or N (not satisfactory). Your school may give you a grade for each unit but only the S counts towards your VCE.

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.

There are three graded assessments for each VCE study at the Unit 3 and 4 level. All VCE VET programs with scored assessment have two graded assessments. Depending on the study, these may be school-based assessments and/or external assessments.

School-based assessments are set by your teacher following the requirements set by the VCAA in the relevant study design. They include school-assessed coursework (SAC), which is completed at school, and school-assessed (SATs), which are completed at school and home. These are marked at your school by your teacher. You can read about the rules for assessment on the VCAA website or you can ask your teachers.

External assessments are set and marked by the VCAA. They are the same for all students taking the same VCE study. Usually this will be an examination – written, oral, performance or in an electronic format. Your external assessments are marked by assessors who are experts in their area of study. All VCE studies are marked to the same standard and there are multiple checks to ensure that marking is fair. Examinations are held each year in October and November. Your school will give you plenty of notice about the exact dates of your examinations.

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

Yes, you can repeat a VCE unit. There is no penalty for repeating but you cannot count a unit more than once towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. If you repeat a unit you must do the full unit, including all assessments for the outcomes.

What is a study score?

If you obtain at least two graded assessments and achieve an S for both Units 3 and 4 in a study in the same year, you will receive a study score. A study score is a number between 0 and 50 that indicates your ranking in relation to all students doing that study in that year.

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

Yes, you can repeat a study. Repeating a study at the Unit 3 and 4 level can also be a way of improving your study score and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). To do this, it is necessary that you repeat the Unit 3 and 4 sequence of the VCE study.

VOCATIONAL MAJOR (VCE VM)

What is the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)?

The VCE Vocational Major is a vocational and applied learning program that sits within the VCE. It takes what is called an 'Applied Learning approach'. Applied learning involves students engaging in relevant and authentic learning experiences. It is a method of learning where theoretical information comes to life for students in a real world context that relates directly to their own future, is within their own control and is within an environment where they feel safe and respected. Students' knowledge grows and expands as they take action to learn, reflect on that action and plan how to do it better next time. It is a two year program over Year 11 and 12. The VCE VM will prepare students to move successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university through alternative entry programs or directly into the workforce. The four main studies are assessed at a school level through authentic assessment activities. There are no external examinations for the VCE VM studies and therefore students do not receive a study score, and are not eligible to receive an ATAR. Students who have completed the satisfactory completion requirements of the VCE VM will receive a Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major to recognise their achievements.

How is the VCE VM structured?

The VCE VM has specific subjects designed to prepare students for a vocational pathway. The subjects are VCE VM Literacy, VCE VM Numeracy, VCE VM Work Related Skills, and VCE VM Personal Development Skills (and 180 hours of VET at Certificate II level or above). Each subject has four units and each unit has a set of outcomes which are assessed through a range of learning activities and tasks. Students 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?

Students must successfully finish at least 16 units, including:

- 3 VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- 3 Unit 3-4 sequences other than English
- 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 hours)

Most students will undertake between 16-20 units over the two years. You can also do other VCE subjects, and structured workplace learning.

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

The result of Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory is determined at a school level for each unit. This decision is based on the work submitted and must follow the VCAA, and school, rules and procedures.

Can I combine VCE subjects with VCE VM subjects?

Yes. Students may access and gain credit for any VCE subject in addition to the mandatory requirements of the VCE VM.

Can I participate in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) or a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) as a part of the VCE VM?

Yes, SWL or an SBAT can be included in the VCE VM. Students can receive credit for time in the workplace via Structured Workplace Learning Recognition.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

VET allow you to study nationally recognised training as part of your VCE or VCE VM. It enables you to combine general vocational studies, explore career options and pathways, learn in the workplace and develop skills that prepare you for the workforce and further study. A list of the approved VCE VET programs is available on the VCAA website. There are three ways to include VET as part of your VCE or VCE VM.

1. Complete a VCE VET program

VCE VET units contribute towards a satisfactory completion of your VCE and will give you a qualification that is recognised around Australia.

VCE VET programs that have Units 3 and 4 can be included in the calculation of an ATAR by the VTAC.

2. Participate in a school based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT)

To become an apprentice or trainee you have to be in paid work and sign a contract of training, which must be registered with the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority.

Your VCE or VCE VM program would then include:

- VCE studies at school
- VET at an RTO, such as a TAFE institute
- part-time paid work in the industry in which you are doing the training

There are many industries in which you can do a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship as part of your VCE, including agriculture, building and construction, early childhood education, and sport recreation.

A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship qualification contributes to satisfactory completion of the VCE or VCE in the same way that VCE VET programs do by giving credit for Units 1 to 4. School-based apprenticeships or traineeships may contribute to an ATAR.

3. Complete a different VET certificate

If you are interested in doing a VET certificate that is not available as a VCE VET program, you may be able to count this training towards satisfactory completion of your VCE. Block credit is the name given to this arrangement.

There are specific rules for block credit, so ask your VCE coordinator for more information to ensure your certificate will count towards your VCE.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Occasionally there are subjects which Mount Beauty Secondary College is unable to offer to students at VCE. Costs are varied depending on the subject selected and course provider.

Students who undertake studies by distance education are expected to work independently and with limited assistance. The distance education tutors are available for scheduled online consultations, but are not able to be contacted on demand by students. Students need to be aware that Mount Beauty Secondary College staff are not their teacher for the Distance Education subject and should not be expected to provide assistance.

Distance education students conduct their studies at school. Coursework is submitted via the distance education coordinator.

Students need to discuss the possibility of studying by distance education with the career practitioner with applications made through the distance education coordinator.

As the application process is time consuming and late applications could mean a delay in work being delivered to school, students need to apply for distance education subjects before the start of the semester.

Students who fall behind in their studies will need to provide satisfactory reasons for continuing with the course, in writing. Enrolment in Unit 2 and Unit 4 studies is not automatic.

All students undertaking distance education are expected to adhere to the following from the distance education policy:

Student Agreement

To ensure that students are able to complete their distance education study Mount Beauty Secondary College requires that students agree to the following:

- Have excellent reports for the previous semester particularly in the areas of homework and work habits to be eligible for Distance Education study.
- Complete an enrolment application which has been signed by the Principal and relevant Coordinator at Mount Beauty Secondary College.
- Pay their fees promptly after receiving the invoice and purchase all supplementary course material.
- Work independently at school with minimum interaction with other students. Any problems or questions should be taken to the Distance Education Education Coordinator at Mount Beauty Secondary College.
- Keep up to date with all work. If Mount Beauty Secondary College finds that a student is failing to make satisfactory progress a Student Support Group meeting will be held with the Year Level Coordinator to determine the next steps.

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY (CHES)

If you've done well in your studies and want an extra challenge, you might be able to do a Higher Education Study in Year 12.

A Higher Education Study provides you with a defined pathway into a tertiary program. It can count towards your VCE and the first year of a university course in that study.

Only one Higher Education Study can contribute towards your VCE, and your school has to approve you for the program.

Higher Education Studies are offered by the VCAA in conjunction with most major universities in Victoria. The VCAA website has a list of universities that offer Higher Education Studies. You can find them on the VCE Studies webpage.

Further information on CHES:

Website: <https://ches.vic.edu.au>

Video introduction: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dE6NWn5d_38 - including current CHES students

CHES phone: 03 9063 1170

Enrolment

CHES welcomes applications from all government schools. Applications for 2024 subjects will close on 31 August 2023.

Students apply for enrolment in a CHES subject or course here: <https://ches.vic.edu.au/apply-now/application/>

Enrolment is not first-in-first-served; students can apply right up until 31 August. Please note that the application process includes a School Endorsement & Approval section.

Our aim at CHES is to enhance student participation in early-access university subjects through a hybrid and flexible framework (online and on-site learning options) and to further extend and support high-ability and high-achieving students right across Victoria. Our offerings are intended to complement the programs at your schools and further strengthen opportunities for government school students. These HES subjects enable students to earn an ATAR contribution and potential university credits.

VCE BACCALAUREATE

You might be eligible for the VCE – Bacculaureate in recognition of the depth, breadth and achievement level of your studies. To receive the VCE – Bacculaureate you must complete the VCE with:

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

Your school can give you more information about the VCE - Bacculaureate.

Awards can provide opportunities and a portfolio that can help your career and personal development.

EXTERNAL VET

In addition to the VCE VET courses offered on site, students may be able undertake an approved VCE VET course provided by an external Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

These courses may be available in a number of ways including:

- VET through distance education (various providers)
- School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBAT)
- Part Time Apprenticeships & Traineeships

School based Apprenticeships & Traineeships

A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) is an apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken by a student enrolled in a senior secondary program, with at least one day per week timetabled to be spent on the job or in training during the normal school week.

An SBAT combines:

- part-time, practical experience in the workplace
- recognised, structured training with a Registered Training Organisation
- school studies

SBATs provide the opportunity for young people to gain quality VET qualifications and undertake employment while also completing a senior secondary certificate. Under these arrangements the student is both a student and a part time employee with employment and training requirements as for other apprentices. A number of people are involved in arranging a SBAT, including the student, parents, employer, TAFE or training organisation, the school and an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN).

An SBAT requires a minimum of 13 hours per week, consisting of both training and employment, and must be integrated with your school timetable. It contributes towards your VCE or VCE VM, leads to a nationally recognized qualification and includes paid work.

Part-time apprenticeships and traineeships

Students who undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship that is not integrated into their school timetable will undertake a part-time apprenticeship or traineeship. This type of arrangement may still provide credit into the VCE if the College is aware of the arrangement. These arrangements do not require school endorsement.

VET Delivered to Secondary Schools (VDSS)

External providers allow students to undertake a VET course as a correspondence study, although a work placement maybe required as part of the course. Costs will vary considerably depending on the course selected.

The school (via the Department of Education) will contribute to the course fees, however there may be additional costs for texts, resources and materials fees for individual VET studies.

Wodonga TAFE are offering several VDSS courses for Expression of Interest. Please see the Wodonga TAFE list for details. Transport (fully funded) is accessible as part of the VDSS program to enable student access to external VET.

GLOSSARY

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

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

Department of Education and Training (DET)

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

General Achievement Test (GAT)

Completed by all students studying a VCE Unit 3 and 4 study or a scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 study.

Outcomes

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

Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

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

Satisfactory (S)

A student has achieved the outcome for the unit. If a student does not satisfactorily complete the unit, they will receive an N (not satisfactory).

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)

Occurs in studies where products and models are assessed.

School-based apprenticeship or traineeship

An apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken in the VCE, with at least one day per week spent on the job or in training during the normal school week.

Semester

Half the academic year (around 20 weeks across two 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 the student's VCE results, and whether 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.

Studies

The subjects available in the VCE.

Study Score

A score between 0 and 50, showing how a student performed in a VCE study or score VCE VET program, relative to all other students. Calculated using the scores achieved in each of the graded assessments for the study – two for VCE VET and three for VCE.

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institute

Offers a range of vocational tertiary courses up to the level of advanced diploma.

Units (VCE Major)

Accredited units in Literacy and Numeracy Skills, Industry Specific Skills, Personal Development Skills and Work Related Skills.

Units (VCE)

The parts of a study in the VCE. There are usually four units in a study.

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)

Responsible for managing the VCE.

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)

Responsible for calculating and distributing the ATAR and for processing tertiary entrance applications.

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