

# WHERE TO NOW?

YOUR GUIDE TO SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL  
PATHWAYS IN VICTORIA

2025

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*Where to Now? 2025 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 an individualised program at a more accessible level than the VCE.

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 career counsellor.

## 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** on reaching this important milestone – your final years of schooling.

The course and subject choices you make now will help shape your future study and career opportunities.

This book is a great guide to help you navigate your options and plan a Year 11 and 12 program that helps you meet your goals and aspirations.

In Victoria, we have the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) as our school qualification. In the VCE, you can take knowledge-based pathways that normally leads to an ATAR, or you can take a skill-based pathway through the VCE Vocational Major (VM).

If you are not ready or able to take on the VCE, the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) might be right for you. The VPC offers a flexible curriculum and excellent support so that you can move into

employment or continue study and training.

Many students enrich their studies with Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs or school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

As the student pathways in this book show, there are many varied and exciting study options available to you – from academic exploration to skills development in high-demand industries.

Read about these options carefully and discuss them with your teachers, career counsellors, friends, and family. This will help you to make the best decisions for your final years of school and beyond.



Whatever you decide, I wish you the very best.

**The Hon. Ben Carroll MP**  
*Deputy Premier of Victoria  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Medical Research*

# 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 government school education, apprenticeships and traineeships.

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

A test completed by all students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 subject sequence. Section A of the GAT is completed by students enrolled in one or more VCE 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 unit in VCE, VCE VM, or VPC, or units of competency for VCE VET.

### ● **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 (SBAT)**

An apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken in the VCE, VCE VM or 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.

### ● **Student Achievement Profile**

A holistic summary of a student's achievements captured during their senior secondary education that will complement the existing Statement of Results.

### ● **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 VET 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 an 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 28 VCE VET programs.

The VCE has expanded to include the Vocational Major (VM). The VCE VM is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE. You have to be enrolled in the VCE VM program to do VCE VM Literacy or VCE VM Numeracy. There is more information about the VCE VM on [pages 13 to 15](#).

## 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. However, you can complete one or more Unit 3–4 sequences in Year 11. Check with your school. 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 and complete the required graded assessments, you can achieve a study score. A Unit 3–4 sequence means that you must undertake Unit 3 followed by Unit 4.

## 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.

## QUICK EXPLAINER

The VCE is the Victorian Certificate of Education. Successfully completing the VCE and achieving study scores in at least 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 the same subject in that year.

### 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 (Units 1 and 2 only), English and English as an Additional Language, English Language, Foundation English (Units 1 and 2 only), 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, or certain subjects like VCE VM Personal Development Skills or VCE VM Work Related Skills. You have to be enrolled in a VCE VM program to do VCE VM Literacy or VCE VM Numeracy.

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 career counsellor about how to structure your VCE program to best suit you.

## VCE SAMPLE PROGRAM

Ali likes the idea of working in a laboratory and would like to keep open the option of a biomedical science career. They have loved visual communication and design since Year 7 and would like to learn more about the business world. They are studying a scored VCE VET, and will finish secondary school with 6 VCE subjects.

### Year 10 subjects

VCE Units 1 and 2  
Legal Studies

### Year 11 subjects

VCE Units 1 and 2 English,  
Mathematical Methods,  
Chemistry, Art, VCE VET  
Laboratory Skills

VCE Units 3 and 4  
Legal Studies

### Year 12 subjects

VCE Units 3 and 4 English,  
Mathematical Methods,  
Chemistry, Art, VCE VET  
Laboratory Skills

### What is the VCE VM?

The VCE VM is a 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 certificate with Vocational Major shown on it.

### 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 VM 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 career counsellor 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 further study, work and life. They are VCE VM Literacy, VCE VM Numeracy, VCE VM Work Related Skills and VCE VM Personal

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

The VCE VM also requires you to complete 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II level or above.

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
- A minimum of 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II level or above (read about VET on 30).

Most students will undertake 16–20 units over the 2 years. That's 4 or 5 subjects across Year 11 and 12, as well as 180 nominal hours of VET at Certificate II or above (or 2 VCE VET units).

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 SWL 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 do VCE subjects with VCE VM subjects?

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

# VCE, INCLUDING VCE VM SUBJECTS IN 2025

## ARTS

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

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

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

## CROSS-CURRICULAR

- Extended Investigation\*

## ENGLISH

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

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

## HUMANITIES

- Classical Studies
- Geography
- History
  - Ancient History
  - Australian History\*
  - Empires<sup>†</sup>

KEY: <sup>†</sup> Units 1 and 2 only    \* Units 3 and 4 only



- Modern History<sup>†</sup>
- 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

KEY: <sup>†</sup> Units 1 and 2 only    \* Units 3 and 4 only

## TECHNOLOGIES

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

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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

## VCE VM

- VCE VM Literacy (only available to students enrolled in a VCE VM program)
- VCE VM Numeracy (only available to students enrolled in a VCE VM program)
- VCE VM Work Related Skills
- VCE VM Personal Development Skills

## VCE VET PROGRAMS

- Structured Workplace Learning Recognition for VET<sup>†</sup>

For a full list of VCE VET programs see [pages 32–34](#).

## 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?

Students enrolled in the VCE are assessed in 2 ways. All students doing Units 1 to 4 are assessed for satisfactory completion of each unit. Each unit has areas of study and outcomes that will test your key knowledge and skills in each subject. Satisfactory completion means you have met each of the outcomes outlined in each of the subjects you have chosen.

For Units 1 and 2 you will receive an S (satisfactory) or an N (not satisfactory) result. Only the S counts towards achieving your VCE. Schools apply their own assessments and grading processes for Units 1 and 2.

The second form of assessment, in Units 3 and 4, is the levels of achievement. Levels of achievement are determined by completing school-based assessments and external assessments (including examinations).

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 for each unit.

The VCAA website has loads more information about the VCE assessment process.

For each VCE subject, there are 3 graded assessments for Units 3 and 4. Depending on the subject, these may be school-based assessments, external assessments or a mix of both.

For each scored VCE VET program there are 2 graded assessments for Units 3 and 4 – school-based coursework and an external assessment.

However, not all VCE VET programs offer scored assessment.

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 or scored VCE VET program
- **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 uses your school's examination results to check the accuracy of their school-based assessments. This is called statistical moderation. 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 they differ 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.

The General Achievement Test (GAT) is held in June and exams are held in October and November. Your school will give you plenty of notice of your exact GAT and exam dates.

### Can I complete VCE Unit 3–4 sequences without completing scored assessment?

Typically, students are expected to undertake scored assessment as part of their VCE. Scored assessment provides a more detailed record of your achievement and can maximise your pathways to further education and training.

Some students choose to complete their VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequences without receiving scores on their assessment tasks other than S or N due to specific and personal circumstances. However, all students must achieve satisfactory completion by undertaking the same range of set work and school-based assessment tasks to obtain their VCE.

The decision to not undertake scored assessment for one or more Unit 3–4 sequences should be determined collaboratively by you, your family and your teachers.

You don't have to decide on scored assessment before you start a VCE or VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence. If you think this option suits you, either before or during your studies, you should talk to your teachers and family before making a final decision.

It is important that you understand the impacts of not completing scored assessment and how this could affect your future pathways. You must achieve satisfactory completion and complete scored assessment in at least 2 graded assessments in a study to get 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.

## 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 S (satisfactory) or N (not satisfactory). Each S you receive is a step towards 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 shows you have met the required learning outcomes in each unit.

Unlike other VCE subjects, there are no external assessments like exams, apart from Section A of the GAT for students enrolled in one or more VCE VM Unit 3 and 4 subject sequence (see [page 24](#)). This means you will not get final grades or study scores for your VCE VM subjects.

### 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 VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence are expected to sit Sections A and B of the GAT. Students studying one or more VCE VM Unit 3 and 4 subject sequences are expected to sit only Section A of the GAT.

The GAT measures your general knowledge and skills in literacy, numeracy, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, arts and social sciences.

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

Your GAT results do not count directly towards your VCE or VCE VM, but they are used to help check that VCE Units 3 and 4 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. Register 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 only, 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
- final 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 VCE certificate with VCE Vocational Major shown on it.

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

Yes. [Pages 30 to 32](#) discuss VET and the many possible programs. The VCAA website also has more information.



## VCE VM SAMPLE PROGRAM

Jude really enjoys creating content for games and websites and wants to spend more time on the practical elements. They attended a workshop at a local TAFE during the school holidays and can see themselves studying there after they finish their VCE VM. Their career counsellor has suggested that this could lead to university studies in the future. They studied Year 10 mathematics that leads to General Mathematics, and their school has suggested that they enrol in this for their VCE VM.

### Year 11 subjects

VCE VM Units 1 and 2  
Literacy, Personal Development  
Skills, Work Related Skills

VCE Units 1 and 2  
General Mathematics

VET Certificate III in  
Screen and Media

### Year 12 subjects

VCE VM Units 3 and 4  
Literacy, Personal Development  
Skills, Work Related Skills

VCE Units 3 and 4  
General Mathematics

VET Certificate III in  
Screen and Media

# ABOVE AND BEYOND

## Higher Education Study in the VCE

If you've done well in your subjects and want something more challenging, 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 – Baccalaureate

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

It can provide opportunities and a portfolio to help your career and personal development. It recognises depth, breadth and achievement in VCE subjects.

To receive the VCE – Baccalaureate 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 – Baccalaureate, you will receive your Victorian Certificate of Education – Baccalaureate, which will be sent to your school.

## Excellence and awards

Awards and recognition are available for high-achieving students, and students studying arts, design, technologies 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 an inclusive Year 11 and 12 foundation secondary certificate designed to meet the needs of students who require a more individualised and flexible program for their last 2 years of secondary schooling.

The certificate can be an end point, or help you move into a senior secondary qualification, entry level VET course or straight into a job.

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

## What can my VPC program include?

You can choose from 4 subjects:

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

You can also add VCE and VCE VM units or VET units at Certificate I level or above to your VPC program.

You can spend some time in a workplace through SWL or work experience.

## QUICK EXPLAINER

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is an inclusive Year 11 and 12 foundation secondary certificate designed to meet the needs of students who require a more individualised and flexible program for their last 2 years of secondary schooling.

### 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 career counsellor 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 career counsellor 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 career counsellor. 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
- SWL placements
- SWL recognition.

## VPC SAMPLE PROGRAM

Kai needs flexibility because they have family responsibilities. They want to use their time in Year 11 and 12 to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. They are thinking about working in a friend's business or looking for an apprenticeship. They enjoy designing and making furniture.

### Year 11 subjects

VPC Units 1 and 2  
Literacy, Numeracy,  
Work Related Skills, Unit 1  
Personal Development Skills

VCE Units 1 and 2  
Product Design

### Year 12 subjects

VPC Units 3 and 4  
Literacy, Numeracy,  
Work Related Skills, Unit 2  
Personal Development Skills

VET Certificate II in  
Small Business

# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Vocational Education and 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 talents, and helps you work towards a formal VET qualification. You can choose from more than 50 certificate qualifications across 28 VCE VET programs.

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

### 1. Complete a VCE VET program

There are 28 VCE VET programs with 55 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 may 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 subjects 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

## 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.

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 career counsellor 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 learning and experience 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 allows you to:

- build and improve your skills
- apply practical industry knowledge
- expand your job opportunities.

### SWL recognition for VET

When you complete SWL in an industry aligned with an eligible VCE VET program or school-based apprenticeship and traineeship (SBAT), you can gain extra units towards your VCE, VCE VM or VPC by completing a unit of VCE SWL Recognition for VET. This VCE study gets you to investigate, document and reflect on the on-the-job-learning you undertake through an authentic workplace experience related to your VET qualification or SBAT.

### 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 2025

## AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Agriculture<sup>#</sup>
- Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management<sup>#</sup>
- Certificate II in Horticulture (all sectors)<sup>#</sup>
- Certificate II in Rural Operations<sup>#</sup>

## ANIMAL CARE

- Certificate II in Animal Care<sup>#</sup>

## APPLIED FASHION DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

- Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology<sup>#</sup>

## APPLIED LANGUAGE

- Certificate II in Applied Language
- Certificate III in Applied Language<sup>#</sup>

## AUTOMOTIVE<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation<sup>#</sup>

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Building and Construction<sup>#</sup>
- Certificate II in Construction Pathways<sup>#</sup>

## BUSINESS<sup>o</sup>

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

## CISCO

- Cisco Networking Academy v7<sup>#</sup>

## CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE<sup>o</sup>

- Certificate II in Civil Construction<sup>#</sup>

KEY: † Scored VCE VET program # Unscored 3 and 4 ° Priority pathway



## COMMUNITY SERVICES°

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

## CREATIVE AND DIGITAL MEDIA°

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

## DANCE

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

## ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

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

## ENGINEERING°

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

## EVENTS AND TOURISM

- Certificate III in Events<sup>#</sup>
- Certificate II in Tourism
- Certificate III in Tourism<sup>#</sup>

## EQUINE STUDIES

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

## FURNISHING

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

## HAIR AND BEAUTY°

- 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°

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

## HOSPITALITY°

- 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>

KEY: † Scored VCE VET program # Unscored 3 and 4 ° Priority pathway

## LABORATORY SKILLS

- Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement
- 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<sup>°</sup>

- Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)<sup>#</sup>

## SMALL BUSINESS

- Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)<sup>#</sup>

## SPORT AND RECREATION<sup>°</sup>

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

## VISUAL ARTS

- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Certificate III in Visual Arts<sup>#</sup>

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 not all.

The VCE VET programs list is correct at time of publication. Further information about these industry groupings will be available on the [VCAA website](#).

KEY: <sup>†</sup> Scored VCE VET program    <sup>#</sup> Unscored 3 and 4    <sup>°</sup> Priority pathway



