Industry Pathways in the VCE and VCAL

A pathway to your future

Manufacturing and Engineering

The Manufacturing and Engineering industry is incredibly diverse and includes businesses involved in everything from processing food to producing pharmaceutical products to building scientific instruments and airliner components.
In 2012–13, the manufacturing industry contributed $25.6 billion to Victoria's economy. Nationally the industry provided almost 25 per cent of business expenditure on research and development. Engineering skills are critical to manufacturing at the trade, paraprofessional and professional levels. Semi-skilled roles are also important, as are management, sales and administration. Manufacturing operates in a highly competitive global environment, making innovation critical. Employment in a number of sectors within the industry is predicted to grow.

By completing the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering as part of your VCE or Senior VCAL, you have started a pathway to an apprenticeship through your VET options. By completing your senior secondary certificate you also have possible options to enter a diploma or a degree. Diplomas are important in a range of roles, including drafting and design and may articulate to relevant degree qualifications. The maths and English skills you develop in your Industry Pathway will also assist you in trades occupations, and as you move to positions requiring diplomas or degrees, or if you seek to enter these courses directly from school. Because the industry has many different options, another benefit of the Industry Pathway is that the experience you gain through workplace learning and VET studies will help you to better understand the type of employment you are most interested in.

Employment in the Manufacturing and Engineering industry
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How do I get the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering?
To gain the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering you must complete a VCE or Senior VCAL that includes the Industry Pathway program of studies and 80 hours of workplace learning. The content of the program varies by choice of certificate (either VCAL or the VCE), but must include options from the VCE VET program in Engineering Studies or a school-based apprenticeship in the industry (both VCE and VCAL), English, maths (Literacy and Numeracy in VCAL) and further studies related to the industry theme. Details about the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering are available on the VCAA website.

Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering
The Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering has been developed in consultation with schools, industry and tertiary providers.

Why choose the Industry Pathway?
By achieving the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering you have demonstrated that you have a strong mix of industry, maths and English skills. Engineering skills are highly transferable and can be applied in many different job roles.

When is it available?
Industry Pathways are two-year programs that will be available from 2015, with the first Industry Pathway to be awarded in 2016. If you are interested in an Industry Pathway, you should consider your study options in Years 9 and 10 before you commence VET or other senior secondary studies.

How do I apply?
You do not need to make a special application, but it is important that you discuss your plans with your school careers advisor or VET, VCE or VCAL coordinator.

Who is eligible?
Any VCE or VCAL student who meets all the requirements (this applies from 2016, but the program normally takes two years to complete).

What qualification do I obtain?
If you complete the Industry Pathway in Manufacturing and Engineering, this title will also be included on your VCE or Senior VCAL certificate. Depending on your VET options, you may also be eligible for a VET Certificate.

What happens if I don’t meet all the requirements of the Industry Pathway?
You can still get your VCE or VCAL certificate, even if you begin the Industry Pathway and don’t complete all the Industry Pathway requirements.

To find out more about Industry Pathways at your school, contact: