

# WHERE TO NOW?

VCE  
GUIDE TO  
VCAL  
VET

2022

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# CONTENTS

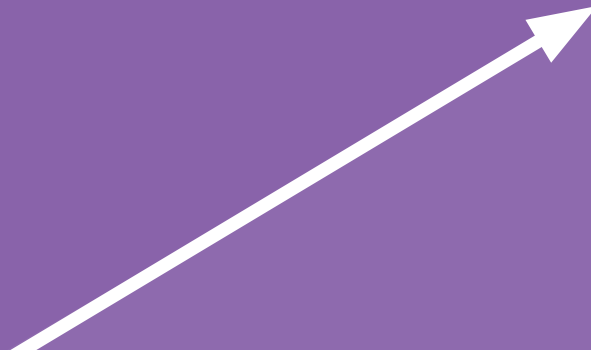
Welcome .....	v
VCE .....	1
Jennifer's story .....	3
VCE subjects in 2022 .....	4
Extra opportunities .....	11
Mitchell's story .....	13
VCAL .....	14
Rosemarie's story .....	16
Excellence and awards .....	17
Elaya's story .....	18
VET.....	20
Cynthia's story .....	23
Madisyn's story .....	24
VCE VET program 2022 .....	25
Glossary .....	28

**WHERE TO NOW?** is your guide to Victoria's senior secondary qualifications – the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) – and where they can take you after you finish school.

This guide explains the many choices you can make.

Make sure your choices are right for you. Before you make your subject preferences, talk to your VCE or VCAL coordinator or careers counsellor.

If you want to do the VCE or VCAL and you have additional needs because of an illness, a disability, or personal circumstances, there are support options available (known as Special Provision). Ask your school about what's available to help you successfully finish your VCE or VCAL.





# WELCOME

Congratulations on reaching your final years of secondary school. This is an exciting time and the choices you make will help shape your future education and career opportunities.

Your senior secondary years are a wonderful opportunity for you to explore your potential, discover new interests and develop skills that will be important throughout your life.

Victoria is committed to making sure our schools have the best facilities, our classrooms have the best teachers and that every young Victorian is given every chance to be their best.

Whether you plan to enrol in university, do further study or training or enter the workforce, this booklet will help you choose a path that is right for you.

The Victorian Government is working to make sure you have a range of choices for your senior secondary pathway through Years 11 and 12. Next year, you can choose from two senior secondary qualifications - the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). You can also undertake a vocational education and training certificate or a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship as part of your VCE and VCAL.

If you choose a VCAL pathway in 2022, you will transition into a new certificate in 2023: either the VCE Vocational Specialisation or the foundation pathways certificate.

The move to the new certificates follows a review into pathways in senior secondary schooling, which found the change would provide all Victorian students with the best opportunity to develop both academic and practical vocational skills.

You will be among the first group of students to transition to the new certificates. All students will be supported with the transition process. Detailed information about the transition is in this booklet so you can feel confident in planning out your course next year.

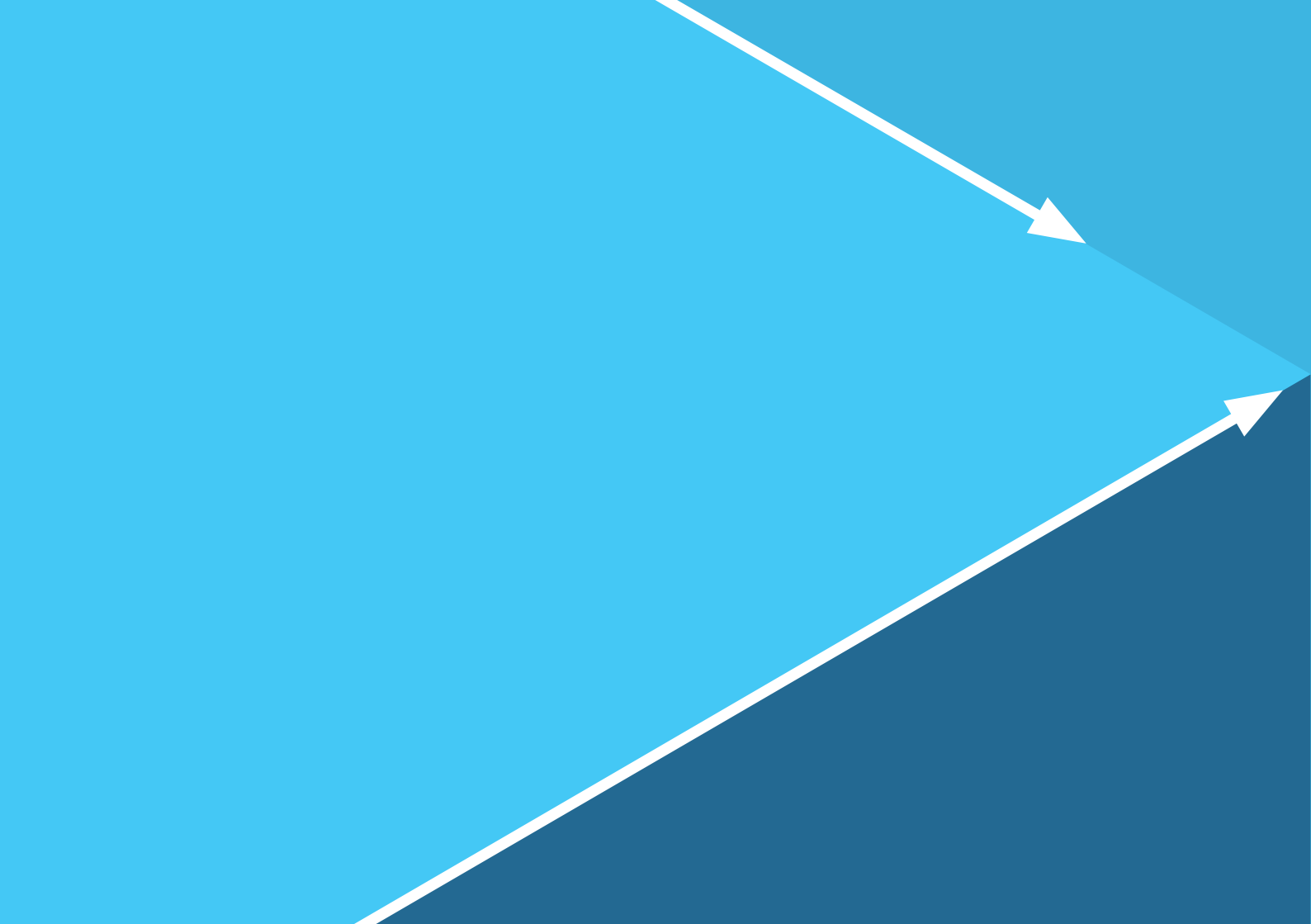
All Victorian education certificates are valuable and recognise the learning and skills you have gained. Discuss your options with your teachers, family and friends to help you make the right choices to achieve your future goals.

I also encourage you to read the stories in this booklet from students who have recently completed their senior secondary education. Their different chosen pathways show what is possible through the flexible learning opportunities available to you. Furthermore, their experiences and advice can help you decide what you want to study and provide you with practical tips for success.

I wish you all the best for the future in your senior school years and beyond.

*The Hon. James Merlino MP*

**Deputy Premier, Minister for Education,  
Minister for Mental Health**



## Victorian Certificate of Education

The VCE opens pathways to tertiary education, advanced certificate courses and the workforce.

The VCE is a highly-regarded qualification recognised all over the world. It offers studies in humanities, science, mathematics, technologies, arts, physical education and languages, as well as vocational studies.

In 2022, the VCE curriculum will offer more than 90 subjects and 26 VCE vocational education and training (VET) programs.

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

### Quick explainer

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

### How is the VCE structured?

The VCE course is made up of subjects – such as English and Biology – structured as units. Most subjects are made up of four units: Units 1, 2, 3 and 4. A unit is one semester long.

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

You can study Units 1 and 2 of a subject as a sequence or as separate units, but these units alone don't qualify for a study score. Completing Units 3 and 4 as a sequence in the same year qualifies for a study score (see page 8).

### What subjects can I choose?

There are more than 90 VCE subjects and 26 VCE VET programs. 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 VCE provider.

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

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

You must successfully complete at least 16 units, including:

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

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

Your teacher can explain the differences between the English group subjects. Or you can find out more on the website of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA): [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au).

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

You can complete your VCE over more than two 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 a teacher or careers counsellor about how to structure your VCE program to best suit you.

## Who decides if I have satisfactorily completed a 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 VCE 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.





# JENNIFER'S STORY

## Year 10

Psychology Units 1 and 2

## Year 11

Chemistry Units 1 and 2

Classical Studies  
Units 1 and 2

English Language  
Units 1 and 2

Japanese Second  
Language Units 1 and 2

Mathematical Methods  
Units 1 and 2

Psychology Units 3 and 4

## Year 12

Chemistry Units 3 and 4

Classical Studies  
Units 3 and 4

English Language  
Units 3 and 4

Japanese Second  
Language Units 3 and 4

Mathematical Methods  
Units 3 and 4

## Choosing my pathway

I think it's important to consider what prerequisites you need for future study pathways that may be of interest to you. If you are not certain of your future pathway then don't worry, there are many pathways available.

If a subject is going to be so difficult that it affects your ability to perform well in other subjects, you might like to consider an alternative VCE subject.

## Challenges in senior secondary

Many Year 12s will tell you that the most difficult thing about VCE study is motivation. If you have an interest in your subjects, it will be easier to keep motivated.

Even with these considerations, the future is unpredictable. Despite not studying biology during VCE, I am now studying biomedicine at university and really enjoying it. I was able to enrol in this course because I carefully considered prerequisites in Year 10 and knew if I had studied Chemistry and Maths Methods, I would be able to get into almost all science-based courses.

## My advice to future students

You will have plenty of opportunities to change your mind or take a different path, so try to enjoy your studies and keep motivated.

I graduated in 2020, so the majority of my last year of study was done remotely. Due to these circumstances, I realised the importance of interaction and would encourage everyone to discuss content, especially the confusing stuff, with your fellow students. Study is a lot more enjoyable when you are going through it together.

# VCE SUBJECTS IN 2022

## Arts

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Media
- Music
  - Music Performance
  - Music Investigation\*
  - Music Style and Composition
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Studies
- Visual Communication Design

## Business and Economics

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

## Cross-curricular

- Extended Investigation\*

## English

- Bridging English as an Additional Language†
- English and English as an Additional Language
- English Language
- Foundation English†
- Literature

## Health and Physical Education

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



## Humanities

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

## Mathematics

- Foundation Mathematics<sup>†</sup>
- Further Mathematics\*
- General Mathematics<sup>†</sup>
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics

## Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology

## Technology

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

## Digital Technologies

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

## Key

<sup>†</sup> Units 1 and 2 only

\* Units 3 and 4 only

## Languages

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, Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation, Indonesian First Language, Indonesian Second Language, Italian, Japanese First Language, Japanese Second Language, Karen, Khmer, Korean First Language, Korean Second Language, Latin, Macedonian, Maltese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Vietnamese First Language, Vietnamese Second Language, Yiddish.

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

## How is my VCE work marked?

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

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

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

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

For each VCE subject, there are three graded assessments for Unit 3 and Unit 4. All VCE VET programs with scored assessment have two graded assessments.

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

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

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

Your teacher marks both SACs and SATs.

The VCAA statistically moderates school-based assessments at a Unit 3 and 4 level. This helps make sure the marking system is fair to everybody doing the same subject, no matter which school they go to. Read more about statistical moderation and how it's done on the VCAA website. Or ask your teacher.

**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. However, Music Style and Composition and Extended Investigation also have an externally assessed task.

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

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

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

Yes. If you repeat a unit you must do the full unit again, including all assessments.

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

## What is a study score?

A study score is a number between 0 and 50 that indicates your ranking in relation to all other students doing that subject in that year. See the VCAA website for more information on statistical moderation.

You will receive a study score if you:

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

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

Yes. Repeating a subject at a Unit 3 and 4 level can improve your study score and your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

## How do I get into university or TAFE?

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

### Quick explainer

An ATAR is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. It's a figure (or ranking) between 0.00 and 99.95.

## 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 look at each student's ATAR and the combination of VCE subjects they finished.

To qualify for an ATAR, you need to have at least four study scores; one must be from the English group.

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) calculates your ATAR. See the VTAC website for more about the ATAR, subject combinations and course choices.



## What is a notional ATAR?

Notional ATARs are used to rank applicants who have:

- obtained the International Baccalaureate (IB). An ATAR is calculated for IB students who complete the General Achievement Test (GAT), which is explained in the next section
- previous Victorian Year 12 results (other than VCE results)
- completed at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject outside a January to December timetable
- finished interstate subjects.

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

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

All students studying at least one Unit 3 and 4 VCE subject (or a scored VCE VET subject) are expected to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT measures your general knowledge and skills in written communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, arts and social sciences.

From 2022 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. But they are used to help check that school-based and external assessments have been fairly and accurately assessed.

The GAT may also be used to calculate 'Derived Examination Scores' if you are ill or affected by other circumstances during a VCE external assessment, and if your result is unlikely to be a fair or accurate indication of your learning or achievement.

## How will I receive my results?

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

You will also receive a Statement of Results in December.

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

Your statement will include:

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

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

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

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

Yes. Pages 21 to 27 discuss VET and the many possible subjects. The VCAA website also offers much more information.



# EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

## Higher Education Study in the VCE

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

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

Most major universities in Victoria offer HES. See the VCE Studies webpage 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.

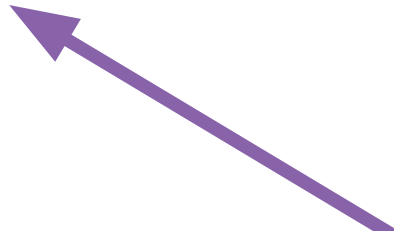
## VCE – Baccalaureate

The VCE – Baccalaureate is one of many awards and forms of recognition for high-achieving students and students undertaking specific study or activities.

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

The VCE – Baccalaureate recognises depth, breadth and achievement in subjects. To receive the VCE – Baccalaureate 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 subject
- VCE Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics
- study scores for at least two more Unit 3 and 4 sequences.



## Excellence and awards

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

- the VCE Season of Excellence, including Top Arts, Top Designs, Top Screen, Top Class, Top Acts and Top Talks
- the Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships for Music Performance and Music Composition
- the VCAA Plain English-Speaking Award
- VCE Leadership Awards
- Premier's VCE Awards.

Find out more about these on the VCAA website or from your school.



# MITCHELL'S STORY

## Year 9

VCE VET Applied  
Language

## Year 10

Psychology Unit 2

## Year 11

Business Management  
Units 1 and 2

Economics Units 1 and 2

English Units 1 and 2

Legal Studies Units 1 and 2

General Mathematics  
Units 1 and 2

Psychology Units 3 and 4

Texts and Traditions Unit 1

## Year 12

Business Management  
Units 3 and 4

English Units 3 and 4

Legal Studies Units 3 and 4

Further Mathematics  
Units 3 and 4

HES Introduction to Public  
Relations

HES Strategic

Communication and  
Writing

## Choosing my pathway

When choosing my VCE subjects, it was important for me to have subjects that I thought I would enjoy and do well in. I chose not to put too much emphasis on things such as subject scaling, as I knew that changes every year depending on a variety of factors.

## Challenges in senior secondary

You'll do well in your VCE by focusing on yourself. Having said that, it is still important to have friends in your classes though!

Make sure you enjoy what you do. It's important that you enjoy what you are studying, this will help you succeed.

Don't worry that it won't go to plan. No matter how much effort you put into your VCE studies, that there will always be another pathway into what you want to do.

## My advice to future students

It's important that you create a space where you will do most of your studying. This space needs to be free of distraction (such as your phone), and needs to be separate from the spaces that you relax and learn in.

Try your best! Not doing too well on a few assessments isn't the worst thing in the world, and there will always be another pathway into what you want to do. Your careers counsellor is always there to talk to.

## Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

If you enjoy applied learning and want to go to TAFE or university, do an apprenticeship or traineeship, or start a job when you finish school, the VCAL may be a good choice for you.

The VCAL provides you with practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills that are important for life and work.

Like the VCE, the VCAL is a senior secondary qualification and a pathway to many careers and future education.

The course is flexible and provides a study program that suits your interests and learning needs in settings such as schools, TAFEs and adult community education centres.

## Changes to VCAL

Next year there are no changes to VCAL. You can enrol in Foundation, Intermediate or Senior VCAL, if VCAL is offered at your school.

In 2023, Intermediate and Senior VCAL will be replaced by a new two-year vocational specialisation within the VCE and a new two-year foundation pathways certificate will replace Foundation VCAL. Many of the original VCAL subjects will be retained and updated to ensure they meet your needs.

In 2023, you will transition with credit into the second year of the new certificate and, upon successful completion, become eligible to be awarded the VCE Vocational Specialisation or foundation pathways certificate. Keep reading for more information on the VCAL transition arrangements.

### Quick explainer

The VCAL is the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. It is a senior secondary certificate of education usually completed in Years 11 and 12.

The VCAL has three levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Senior.

In 2022, you can enrol in VCAL and in 2023 you will transition into a vocational specialisation within the VCE or a foundation pathways certificate.

## Where do I start?

The VCAL has three levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Senior.

In 2022, you can start your VCAL at the level that matches your needs and abilities. Your teacher or careers counsellor can help you make this choice.

If you meet satisfactory completion requirements, you can complete your VCAL in 2022 or you can transition with credit into one of the new certificates.

## What can my VCAL program include?

A VCAL program can include:

- VCAL units
- VCE units
- VET units of competency.

Your VCAL learning program must include:

- a minimum of two VCAL units
- at least one Literacy unit
- at least one Numeracy unit
- at least one unit from the Industry Specific Skills strand. At the Intermediate and Senior levels, this must include at least 90 hours from a VET qualification
- at least one unit from the Work Related Skills strand
- at least one unit from the Personal Development Skills strand
- six credits at the attempted VCAL level (Foundation, Intermediate or Senior) or above. One of these credits must be for Literacy Skills and one must be for Personal Development Skills.

Your teacher or careers counsellor can help you develop a program that suits your learning needs and interests.

## How do I achieve my VCAL in 2022?

You must complete 10 units of study that include at least five units from four compulsory strands:

- Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Industry Specific Skills
- Work Related Skills
- Personal Development Skills.

## How will I be assessed for VCAL?

All units in your VCAL program are assessed by your teacher and/or registered training organisation (RTO).

If you include VCE subjects in your VCAL, refer to the VCE section of this guide for more information on assessment.

VCAL providers are listed on the VCAA website.

## How will I receive my 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.



# ROSEMARIE'S STORY

## Literacy and Numeracy Skills

Oral Communication  
(Senior)

Reading and Writing  
(Senior)

Numeracy Skills (Senior)

## Personal Development Skills

Units 1 and 2  
(Intermediate)

Units 1 and 2 (Senior)

## Work Related Skills

Units 1 and 2 (Intermediate)

Units 1 and 2 (Senior)

## Foundation English

Units 1 and 2

## Foundation Mathematics

Units 1 and 2

## Physical Education

Units 1 and 2

## Choosing my pathway

I chose the VCAL because my strengths are more suited to hands-on learning. The VCAL has given me valuable experience, and a recognised qualification in line with my chosen career path. As part of my VCAL course I studied outdoor education, personal training and community service. I am currently completing my VCAL in Year 12.

## Challenges in senior secondary

It is important to work hard and never give up. There are multiple pathways available if you are unsure of what your future career path looks like. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there, you never know what lies behind the door.

The VCAL has given me the opportunity to gain experience and make new friends. The valuable lessons learnt will assist me personally, as well as in my future career. I am now working towards a career in emergency management, as I want to help others and change lives in the process. The biggest reward will be knowing that you have made a difference to others.

## My advice to future students

My top study tip would be to work hard and never leave anything until the last minute. If you don't know what you're doing, ask for help. Teachers are there to support you along the way and ensure you get the best out of yourself. I found working out beforehand and studying in a space free of distractions was very useful.

## Rosemarie was the 2020 VCAL Intermediate Outstanding Achievement Award recipient



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

Yes. Speak to your teacher or careers counsellor to work out how much of that study counts towards your VCAL/VCE Vocational Specialisation so you can plan the rest of your program.

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

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

## **Can I switch to the VCE if I change my mind?**

Yes. If you decide to take this option, you should discuss it with your teacher or careers counsellor.

# **EXCELLENCE AND AWARDS**

The VCAL Achievement Awards are available for high-achieving VCAL students who demonstrate commitment to community service. The awards provide opportunities to further your VCAL studies and your personal development.

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

Yes. The VET certificate that you study can meet two of the four VCAL curriculum strand requirements: Industry Specific Skills and Work Related Skills.

## **Can part-time work count towards my VCAL?**

Part-time work may contribute to your VCAL. Other work activities that may contribute to your VCAL include:

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

The awards also acknowledge the achievements of teachers and partner organisations. See the VCAA website for more information about these awards.



# ELAYA'S STORY

## Literacy and Numeracy Skills

Literacy Oral Communication (Intermediate and Senior)

Literacy Reading and Writing (Intermediate and Senior)

Numeracy Skills Units 1 and 2 (Intermediate and Senior)

## Personal Development Skills

Units 1 and 2 (Intermediate and Senior)

## Skills for Further Study

Units 1 and 2

## Work Related Skills

Unit 1 (Foundation)

Units 1 and 2 (Intermediate and Senior)

## VET Certificate I in Employment Pathways

VET Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefight Ops)

VET Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

## Choosing my pathway

My goal was always to become a chef, so I chose to do the VCAL because it allowed me to finish my senior secondary studies and attain a certificate while working towards my future employment aspirations at the same time.

The VCAL also allowed me to continue being involved in the life of the college, such as school productions, sporting events and the senior formal. It is a very supportive program, with the help of teachers, mentors and peers to guide you and give you the practical skills, knowledge and training to become a more confident person in your chosen career.

As an apprentice female chef, I felt I needed the education and support in communication and in personal development to be able to cope effectively with the stresses of the hospitality industry. The VCAL has a flexible study plan, so I was able to design self-directed projects around my interests in hospitality. This kept me motivated and interested.

The VCAL is more than just a school program. The supportive environment has lifted my self-esteem and built my confidence so that I'm able to explore and take on challenges. The VCAL has given me employment skills through the

many volunteering and community projects I have been involved in. By working within team projects and through practical experiences, I have been able to gain leadership qualities.

## Challenges in senior secondary

You quickly master the art of time management when you're juggling the responsibilities of school, work and TAFE. I really enjoyed the hands-on approach to learning and all the community-based projects we did throughout the year. It gives you direct access to industry, so you can use this time to network and form relationships with future employers and explore all opportunities. I feel I have a better understanding of my industry and my options for the future. It is a rewarding program for students and a great start to building towards a great career.

## My advice to future students

Prioritise your assignments to due dates, organise your study notes/assignments – I used a different folder for each assignment I was working on – and set achievable goals each week and don't leave things to the last minute.

**Elaya received the 2018 VCAL Intermediate Outstanding Achievement and the 2019 VCAL Senior Outstanding Achievement awards.**



## Transition from VCAL to the VCE Vocational Specialisation or the foundation pathways certificate

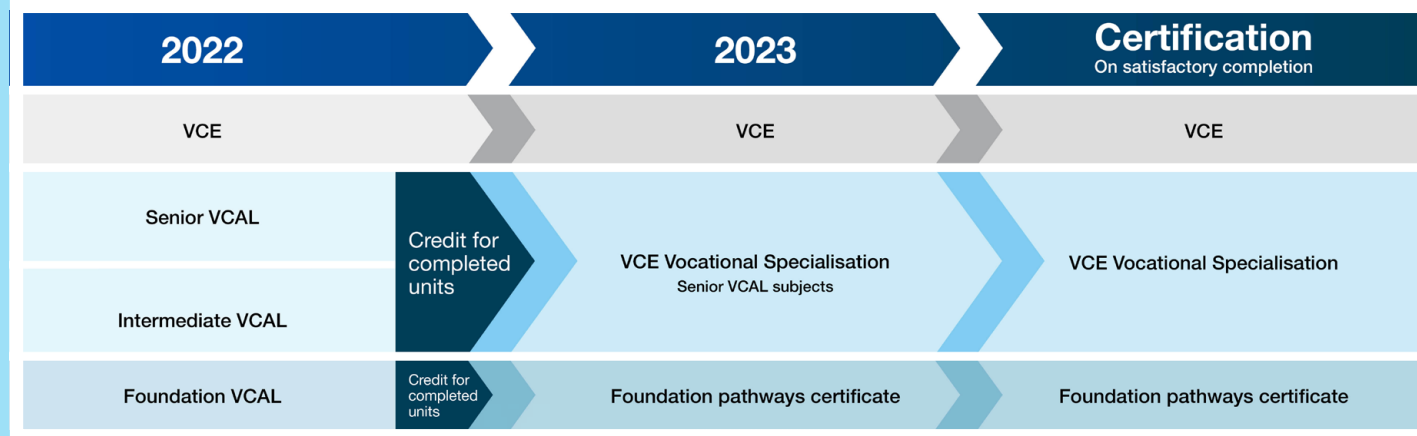
As Year 10 students in 2021, you will be the first cohort to be eligible to complete the VCE Vocational Specialisation Certificate or foundation pathways certificate when you finish school. These changes are part of the Victorian Government's reforms to school-based vocational education in schools.

In 2022, if you:

- **start your Intermediate VCAL**, you will transition into the Vocational Specialisation in 2023. You will receive credit for the studies you completed in 2022 and will complete Senior VCAL subjects in 2023
- **partially complete your Foundation VCAL**, you will transition into the foundation pathways certificate in 2023. You will receive credit for the studies you completed in 2022
- **complete your Foundation VCAL**, you can transition into the Vocational Specialisation in 2023.

You can also transfer to the VCE if you change your mind. The diagram shows how your pathway will transition to the new certificate over the next two years. All students will be supported with the transition process, so you can feel comfortable in planning your course.

### Enrolment options



# VET

VET allows you to do nationally recognised training as part of your VCE or VCAL. You can combine general and vocational studies, explore career options and pathways, learn in the workplace, and develop skills that prepare you for the workforce and further study.

In 2020, more than 50,000 Victorian students were enrolled in a VET certificate program, developing skills and knowledge in a diverse range of industries, including engineering, equine studies, automotive, health services, dance and more.

## Quick explainer

VET stands for Vocational Education and Training. VET gives you specific practical skills and knowledge to help you in the workplace.

## How do I include VET in my VCE or VCAL?

### 1. Complete a VCE VET program

There are 26 VCE VET programs with 45 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 or VCAL and give you a qualification that is recognised around Australia.

VCE VET programs that have Units 3 and 4 can be included in your ATAR calculation.

If you are interested in a particular area of work, ask your school how a VCE VET program in that area can contribute to your VCE or VCAL.

### 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 or VCAL program would then include:

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

You can do a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship in many industries as part of your VCE or VCAL. These include agriculture, building and construction, early childhood education, and sport and recreation.

A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship qualification contributes to successfully finishing the VCE or VCAL, just like VCE VET programs do by giving credit for Units 1 to 4. School-based apprenticeships or traineeships may contribute to an ATAR.

Ask your school how they can help arrange a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship for you.

### 3. Complete a different VET certificate

If you are interested in doing a VET certificate that's not available as a VCE VET program, you may be able to count it towards satisfactory completion of your VCE or VCAL. This arrangement is called block credit.

There are specific rules for block credit, so ask your VET or VCE coordinator 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 or VCAL.

### Structured workplace learning

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

SWL can be a valuable component of your VET qualification undertaken within your VCE or VCAL.

SWL complements your training at school or with another provider. It should be spread across the whole training program, and it allows you to:

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

### Structured workplace learning recognition

When you take SWL in the same industry as your VCE VET certificate, you can gain extra units towards your VCE or VCAL by completing SWL Recognition. This process gets you to reflect on your SWL experiences in a Workplace Learning Record and discuss these with your school. This also applies if you are undertaking a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

### Get VET videos

Looking for more information on VET? Go to the VCAA website to be inspired by VET student stories, discover how VET is different from a VCE subject or a VCAL unit, and more.

## HOW VET FITS INTO VCE OR VCAL

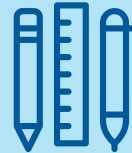
1

Choose from  
**26 VET programs**  
with **45 qualifications**



2

Do a school-based  
apprenticeship  
or traineeship



3

Do any other  
**VET qualification**  
and get credit towards  
the VCE or VCAL



4

Develop your skills and  
knowledge through  
VET plus SWL to start  
a pathway into further  
training or employment





# CYNTHIA'S STORY

## Year 10

Psychology Units 1 and 2

## Year 11

Psychology Units 3 and 4

Further Mathematics  
Units 1 and 2

English Units 1 and 2

Economics Units 1 and 2

Business Management  
Units 1 and 2

VCE VET Dance  
Units 1 and 2

## Year 12

VCE VET Dance  
Units 3 and 4

Further Mathematics  
Units 3 and 4

English Units 3 and 4

Economics Units 3 and 4

Business Management  
Units 3 and 4

## Choosing my pathway

As a dancer, choosing VCE VET Dance opened my eyes to industry, and provided me with real life skills. The VET program showcased my knowledge of dance and my movement as a dancer, which I had been working on since I was four years old.

After I had chosen my VCE subjects, I thought about doing a subject that I knew I could do well in, but also learn a lot from and enjoy. I really enjoyed the class because I actually had fun. Dance is something I love to do and being able to do it as a subject was great.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and to teach business, which I'm studying at university, but I would also like to teach dance at a secondary school. VCE VET Dance has given me the foundation to continue my dance studies.

## Challenges in senior secondary

I believe mindset changes everything. Instead of just cramming information to get a good grade on your SAC, try to understand it. You never know when you may need to use the information you learnt in that Friday afternoon class. Use the SACs and exams as a tool to gain knowledge. Breathe and do your very personal best because that's enough.

## My advice for future students

Choose what you love. Consider which prerequisites you need to get into your course, but your best work will always come from what you are passionate about and where your interests lie.

Take advantage of all the opportunities that VET provides and just enjoy the process. I can honestly say Year 12 was my favourite year! Do as much as you can, push yourself and you will come out of it a stronger person.



# MADISYN'S STORY

## Year 11

Biology Unit 1  
English Units 1 and 2  
Health and Human  
Development Units 1 and 2  
Health Services (VCE VET)  
G Unit 1  
Maths: General  
Mathematics Units 1 and 2  
Psychology Units and 2  
Health Services (VCE VET)  
G Units 3 and 4

## Year 12

English Units 3 and 4  
Health and Human  
Development Units 3  
and 4  
Health Services (VCE VET)  
H Units 3 and 4  
Psychology Units 3 and 4  
Sociology Units 3 and 4

## Choosing my pathway

I considered subjects that were going to help me in my development for my future career. VCE VET studies are amazing for gaining more skills and engaging in practical activities that relate to your chosen career path.

I participated in VET Allied Health and it aligned perfectly with my career goal of becoming a midwife. This program taught me the basic skills that I have now undertaken in greater detail in university.

## Challenges in senior secondary

It is really important to develop a study routine that works well for you as soon as possible, and try to stick to your routine as much as you can. Give yourself time to debrief and make time to do other things you enjoy so you avoid burning out.

## My advice to future students

Choose what you enjoy. The thing I enjoyed most about my VET studies was gaining first-hand experience of my chosen career. Being engaged in placements and being able to take part in the practical skills needed for my future career was incredibly helpful.

# VCE VET PROGRAMS 2022

## Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management

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

## Animal Studies

- Certificate II in Animal Studies

## Applied Fashion Design and Technology

- Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology

## Applied Language

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

## Automotive

- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation

## Building and Construction

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

## Business

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

## Cisco

- Cisco Networking Academy v7

## Civil Infrastructure

- Certificate II in Civil Construction

## Community Services

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



## Creative and Digital Media

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

## Dance

- Certificate II in Dance<sup>†</sup>

## Electrical Industry

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

## Engineering

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

## Equine Studies

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

## Furnishing

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

## Hair and Beauty

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

## Health

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

## Hospitality

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

## Information, Digital Media and Technology

- Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology
- Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology<sup>†</sup>



## Integrated Technologies

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

## Laboratory Skills

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

## Music Industry

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

## Plumbing

- Certificate II in Plumbing

## Small Business

- Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)

## Sport and Recreation

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

### Key

<sup>†</sup> Scored VCE VET program

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

# GLOSSARY

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

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

## **Department of Education and Training**

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

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

Completed by all students enrolled in a VCE Unit 3 and 4 subject or a scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 subject.

## **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)**

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 achieved the outcome for a unit. If a student does not satisfactorily complete a 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 or VCAL, 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 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 a student's VCE or VCAL results, and if the relevant certificate has been awarded.



**structured workplace learning (SWL)**

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

**subjects**

The studies available in the VCE.

**study score**

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

**TAFE**

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

**units (VCAL)**

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

**units (VCE)**

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

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

Manages the VCE and VCAL.

**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.

