

## Senior Secondary Certificate Statistical Information 2021

Section 1: Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Data source: 2021 data were extracted from the VCAA Assessment Processing System (APS) database at 17 January 2022 (Published).

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact the Data Analysis and Reporting Unit by emailing: [research.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:research.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au).

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# Section 1

In Victoria there are two certificates of senior secondary education, they are the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). This section covers the VCE, and information about VCAL is in Section 5 (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning).

## 1. Victorian Certificate of Education

VCE completion is calculated on the basis of satisfactory completion of units. Refer to the VCE and VCAL Administrative Hand book for the regulations, which may be found on the [VCAA website](#).

**Table 1.1: VCE Participation and Completion, 2017 - 2021<sup>1</sup>**

Students	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Eligible to complete the VCE	52,058	51,999	50,292	51,162	51,746
Satisfactorily completed VCE	50,908	50,981	49,366	50,302	50,774
Percentage of VCE completions	97.8	98.0	98.2	98.3	98.1

**Table 1.2: VCE Participation and Completion by Gender, 2021**

Gender	Eligible	Completion	% Completion
Female	27,810	27,349	98.3
Male	23,837	23,330	97.9
Gender X	99	95	96.0
All	51,746	50,774	98.1

The VCE (Baccalaureate) is an additional form of recognition for those students who choose to undertake the demands of studying both a higher level of mathematics and a language in their VCE program of study. Refer to the VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook for the regulations, which may be found on the [VCAA website](#).

**Table 1.3: VCE Baccalaureate Awarded, 2017 - 2021<sup>2</sup>**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Students	3,939	4,052	3,755	3,763	3,574

<sup>1</sup>These figures are derived from VCAA information in January and include overseas students. Students who have successfully achieved their VCE in previous years but undertook further studies in the current year are included.

<sup>2</sup>The number students that were awarded VCE Baccalaureate are also included in Table 1.1: VCE Participation and Completion, 2017 - 2021 and Table 1.2: VCE Participation and Completion by Gender, 2021.

## 2. Unit Enrolments and Completions

### 2.1 VCE Units

**Table 2.1.1: VCE Unit Enrolments and Completions by Unit Level and Gender, 2021**  
(Excluding credit gained through VET in Senior Secondary Schools)

Gender	Unit Enrolled				Unit Satisfactorily Completed				Percentage Satisfactorily Completed			
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Female	176,730	170,605	148,004	144,627	168,659	163,045	145,758	143,354	95.4	95.6	98.5	99.1
Male	158,883	153,510	126,580	123,367	149,190	144,475	124,102	121,863	93.9	94.1	98	98.8
Gender X	735	653	518	487	643	570	492	473	87.5	87.3	95	97.1
All	336,348	324,768	275,102	268,481	318,492	308,090	270,352	265,690	94.7	94.9	98.3	99
% Female	52.5	52.5	53.8	53.9	53	52.9	53.9	54				
% Male	47.2	47.3	46	45.9	46.8	46.9	45.9	45.9				
% Gender X	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2				

Note that the participation of those students who withdrew during the year without an outcome recorded against their unit enrolments were removed from the dataset. Section 2 (Satisfactory Completion of VCE Units) provides more detailed information of unit participation and completions by study and sequence.

**Table 2.1.2: VCE Units 1-4 Total Enrolments and Completions by Gender, 2021**  
(Excluding credit gained through VET in Senior Secondary Schools)

Gender	Enrolments	Completions	% Completions
Female	639,966	620,816	97.0
Male	562,340	539,630	96.0
Gender X	2,393	2,178	91.0
All	1,204,699	1,162,624	96.5
% Female	53.1	53.4	
% Male	46.7	46.4	
% Gender X	0.2	0.2	

There were a total of 1,204,699 VCE unit enrolments in 2021 of 96.5% were successfully completed. With the introduction of the Northern Hemisphere Timetable (NHT) there were 1113 students from 20 home schools with total 4,565 enrolments at units 1-4 in 2020/2021. The vast majority of NHT students were based in China.

The female completion rate was 97% while the male completion rate was 96%. Females comprised 53.1% of the total unit enrolments while male comprised 46.7%. Females comprised 53.4% of the total unit completions while males comprised 46.4%.

## 2.2 VCE VET Units

Students gain credit toward VCE VET units by successfully completing a prescribed number of hours of Units of Competence.

**Table 2.2: Equivalent VCE VET Unit Credits Gained Through VET Units of Competence (UoC), 2021**

Gender	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Female	14,239	9,408	8,333	6,671
Male	19,471	12,551	9,351	7,596
Gender X	77	49	36	26
All	33,787	22,008	17,720	14,293
% Female	42.1	42.7	47.0	46.7
% Male	57.6	57.0	52.8	53.1
% Gender X	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

## 3. Outcomes of VCE Graded Assessment 2021

Students undertaking Units 3 and 4 sequences will in most cases participate in Graded Assessment. Section 3 (Grade Distributions for Graded Assessments VCE) provides more detailed information on the outcomes for each study where Graded Assessment is available. All VCE studies have three Graded Assessments in each Unit 3-4 sequence, while the VCE VET programs with scored assessment have two Graded Assessments.

In summary, the most awarded grade in 2021 was B comprising 15.6% of the distribution. The median grade was a B, with 56.3% of grades at a B or higher. Table 3.1 shows the number of grades awarded (N), and the percentage awarded per grade. The table includes data for both the VCE Unit 3-4 sequences and the VCE VET scored programs.

**Table 3.1: Aggregate Grade Distributions All Graded Assessments, 2021**

(VCE Units 3-4 Sequences and VCE VET Scored Programs)

Grade	UG	E	E+	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	All
N	2,680	5,987	17,126	36,114	63,747	89,600	112,744	117,152	115,927	106,747	82,497	750,321
%	0.4	0.8	2.3	4.8	8.5	11.9	15.0	15.6	15.5	14.2	11.0	100.0

**Figure 1: Grade Distribution: All Graded Assessments, 2021**

