



# Many talents. One VCE.

Study options for Years 11 and 12

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government

Department  
of Education

Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
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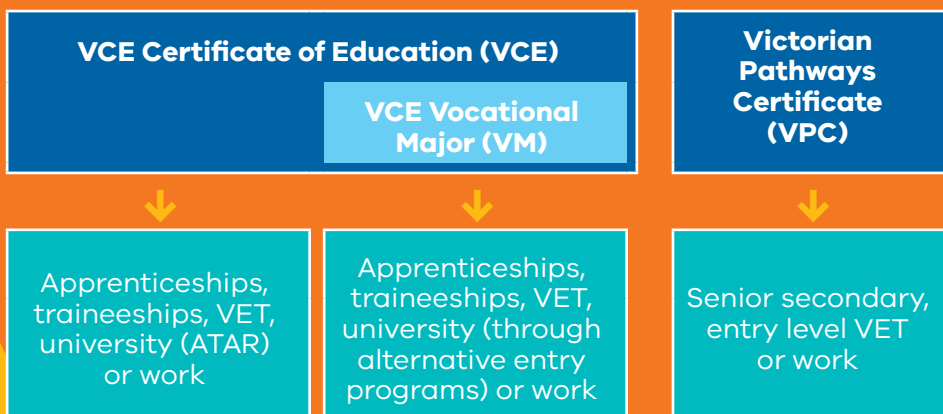
# Senior secondary education in Victoria is changing to give you more pathways and greater choice

There are now two ways to get your Victorian Certificate of Education. You can enrol in VCE or the VCE Vocational Major, a new two-year vocational, applied learning program within the VCE.

The Victorian Pathways Certificate is a new option for students who may not be ready or able to complete a certificate at a VCE level.

You can choose VET subjects to be part of your senior secondary studies. VET subjects give you practical skills and knowledge for work and further study.

Whether you want to take on university, TAFE, an apprenticeship or traineeship, or head straight into the workforce when you finish school, there is a secondary pathway that will help get you there.



# VCE

The VCE is a senior secondary qualification that opens pathways to tertiary education, higher-level TAFE or VET certificate courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and the workforce.

There are more than 90 subjects to choose from across humanities, science, mathematics, technologies, arts, physical education and languages. There are also 27 vocational studies like automotive, health, and hair and beauty.

Check with your school what subjects they offer. If you want an ATAR when you finish school, you should select the VCE pathway.

## **Deshi's VCE pathway**

Deshi wants to be a lawyer so they're going to enrol in VCE subjects like English, Mathematics, Legal Studies, Physical Education, History and VCE VET Business. They will finish secondary school with their VCE.

Deshi has chosen subjects that are relevant to their future career as well as those they have a genuine interest in. They discussed their choices with their teacher and school careers practitioner so that Deshi meets the university course prerequisites to study law.

## **Deshi's Year 10 subjects**

VCE Physical Education Units 1 and 2

## **Deshi's Year 11 subjects**

VCE English Units 1 and 2

VCE Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2

VCE Legal Studies Units 1 and 2

VCE Modern History Units 1 and 2

VCE Physical Education Units 3 and 4

VCE VET Certificate III in Business Units 1 and 2

## **Deshi's Year 12 subjects**

VCE English Units 3 and 4

VCE Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4

VCE History Revolutions Units 3 and 4

VCE Legal Studies Units 3 and 4

VCE VET Certificate III in Business Units 3 and 4



## VCE Vocational Major

The VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) is a two-year vocational and applied learning program, now placed directly in the VCE. It is designed to equip you with the essential skills for work, further education and your personal pursuits as an active and engaged member of society.

This is a great choice if you prefer to learn in a real-world, work environment and don't need an ATAR for your post-school goals. This is a good pathway to an apprenticeship, traineeship, further study, or directly into a job.

You'll study core units – Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills – and complete 180 hours of Vocational Education and Training (VET) at Certificate II level or above.

The VCE VM has no external examinations, other than the General Achievement Test (GAT) or in some VCE VET programs. This means you will not receive a study score for VCE VM subjects or an ATAR.

You can add VCE subjects and VCE VET programs to your VCE VM learning program.

## **Kamala's VCE VM pathway**

Kamala likes learning on the job and wants to be a metal fabricator, so she's enrolled in the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM). She'll do VCE VM studies and a VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering. Kamala will finish secondary school with her Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major. She discussed all this with her family, teacher and school careers practitioner.

In Year 10, Kamala participated in a TAFE taster day and experienced VET engineering. She then went on a careers excursion to a local caravan manufacturer and asked if she could do Structured Workplace Learning at the company while she was in Year 11. This means she'll spend some school time at the caravan manufacturer learning on the job. She will receive credit for this time towards her VCE Vocational Major. When she completes Year 12, Kamala hopes to gain an apprenticeship with this company.

## **Kamala's Year 11 subjects**

VCE VM Literacy Units 1 and 2  
VCE General Mathematics Units 1 and 2  
VCE VM Work Related Skills (WRS) Units 1 and 2  
VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering Studies Units 1 and 2  
VET Unit 1 Structured Workplace Learning (90 hours)

## **Kamala's Year 12 subjects**

VCE VM Literacy Units 3 and 4  
VCE General Mathematics Units 3 and 4  
VCE VM Personal Development Skills (PDS) Units 3 and 4  
VCE VM Work Related Skills (WRS) Units 3 and 4  
VCE VET Certificate II in Engineering Studies Units 3 and 4  
VET Unit 2 Structured Workplace Learning SWLR (90 hours)





## Victorian Pathways Certificate

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is a foundation secondary qualification for students who may not be able or ready to complete a certificate at VCE level and need flexibility in learning. The VPC is at Australian Qualifications Framework Level 1.

It offers an engaging curriculum and additional support for you to develop the work-related skills and capabilities you need to succeed.

The VPC is normally completed in Year 11 and 12, but it is flexible so it can be started earlier or finished over a longer period than 2 years. The coursework is designed and delivered at a more accessible level than the VCE or VCE Vocational Major. You can study the VPC at your own pace and your teachers will assess your progress through a range of classroom learning activities.

When you've finished the VPC program, you will be awarded a Victorian Pathways Certificate. You should talk about whether this option is right for you with your teachers and family.

## **Brandon's VPC pathway**

Brandon needs flexibility as he returns to school with an ongoing medical condition. Brandon's teacher discussed the VPC with him and his parents.

Brandon likes the VPC because he can start his learning program when he wants to. Brandon decides to enrol in VPC subjects, doing community projects and working in a team. It could take Brandon longer than two years to complete his learning program.

Instead of completing Year 10 English and Mathematics, Brandon does the VPC Unit 1 of Literacy and Numeracy. When he makes his choices for Year 11 and 12, Brandon knows the VPC is the right program for him because he still needs flexibility.

In Year 11 he starts the Certificate II in Small Business because this VET is run onsite at school which makes it easier for him to attend. By Year 12, Brandon is attending school on a regular basis and enrolls in the Certificate II in Salon Assistant. He undertakes Structured Workplace Learning in a hair salon which means he'll gain credit for his work placement.

Brandon wants an apprenticeship as a hairdresser when he leaves school.

## **Brandon's Year 10 subjects**

VPC Literacy Unit 1

VPC Numeracy Unit 1

## **Brandon's Year 11 subjects**

VPC Literacy Unit 2

VPC Numeracy Unit 2

VPC Personal Development Skills (PDS) Unit 1

VPC Work Related Skills (WRS) Unit 1

VET Unit Certificate II in Small Business  
(Operations/Innovation) Units 1 and 2

## **Brandon's Year 12 subjects**

VPC Literacy Unit 3

VPC Personal Development Skills (PDS) Unit 2

VPC Work Related Skills (WRS) Unit 2

VET Certificate II in Salon Assistant Units 1 and 2

VET SWLR Unit 1 (90 hours)



## Choosing the right pathway

The best way to choose the right pathway for you is to talk with your careers practitioner, teachers and family to help make your choice.

Think about your key strengths, the subjects you enjoy now and what you would like to do when you finish school.

Do you want to go straight into the workforce or into further study? Do you want to work in a trade or are you thinking about an office environment?

*Where to Now? Guide to senior secondary school pathways in Victoria* is a booklet that explains everything you need to know about your final years of school and will help you understand your options.

It's available from your school or [vcaa.vic.gov.au/where-to-now](https://vcaa.vic.gov.au/where-to-now).

For more information about the new senior secondary pathway options go to [vic.gov.au/onevce](https://vic.gov.au/onevce).