



VCAL

2020 Handbook

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Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Like the VCE, the VCAL is a recognised senior secondary qualification. Unlike the VCE, which is widely used by students as a pathway to university, the VCAL focuses on 'hands-on learning'. Students who do the VCAL are more likely to be interested in going on to training at TAFE, doing an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing Year 12.

The VCAL's flexibility enables students to design a study program that suits their interests and learning needs. Students select accredited curriculum components from VCE studies, Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications, and VCAL units. There are four compulsory strands in VCAL:

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

What are the VCAL Levels?

VCAL has three levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Senior. Students start and complete their VCAL certificate at the level that matches their needs and abilities. It is common for some students to study for the one VCAL level over two years, however, they are encouraged to meet all outcomes over one year. The Senior VCAL certificate requires a strong commitment and can only be achieved by Year 12 students.

Are there any Entry Requirements?

There are no entry requirements to VCAL. Students begin at the level that is suitable to their capabilities. VCAL teachers support students with identifying which level is suitable for each individual.

How long will it take me to complete the VCAL?

VCAL was developed for Year 11 & 12 students and is usually completed over two years. Lavalla Catholic College provides Year 10 students with the option to undertake Foundation level Work Related Skills (WRS) and Personal Development Skills (PDS)

What do I get after successfully completing the VCAL?

If you successfully complete your learning program you will receive a VCAL Certificate for either Foundation, Intermediate or Senior level, depending on the VCAL level you chose to complete. You will also get a Statement of Results, listing all VCE (if VCE units were successfully completed as part of your VCAL course), and VCAL units, and a Statement of Attainment for VET courses. These will list all units and modules you have successfully completed as part of your VCAL program.

Can I swap to the VCE if I change my mind?

Yes. Students who change their mind can swap to the VCE. If students want to pursue the VCE after completing the VCAL, any VCE units successfully completed as part of their VCAL will count towards their VCE. Students may also be able to transfer credits for other VET units and modules completed as part of their VCAL.

Students and parents are encouraged to discuss student pathways with their Learning Leaders, Learner Advisors, teachers and careers counsellors to ensure the student has enough credits in their program to enable them to achieve either the VCAL or VCE certificates. NOTE: Students must meet the English requirements for VCE (Please refer to “How is VCE assessed”.)

Source: (VCAA, 2018)

Can I swap over to VCAL from VCE?

Yes, however, it is strongly advised that this takes place within the first 4 weeks of the school year. Due to the structure of the VCAL Business Pathways Program (BPP) and the initial 9 weeks intensive delivery in the Essential Skills Program (ESP), those students who miss this important part often struggle to meet the requirements of the certificate level in that calendar year.

How is the VCAL assessed?

The VCAL includes accredited courses/certificates. The VCAL program is assessed by mentor teachers in accordance with assessment requirements for each part of the program. The VCAL’s flexibility enables students to undertake a study program that suits their interests and learning levels.

Fully accredited modules and units are selected for the following four compulsory strands.

References

VCAA. (2018, March 19). *VCAL - Frequently Asked Questions by students and parents*. Retrieved from Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority:
<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vcal/students/studentfaq.aspx>

What do I study?

Strand 1 - Literacy and Numeracy skills

Your VCAL program must include Literacy and Numeracy subjects. These can be selected from VCAL literacy skills and VCAL numeracy skills units and/or VCE English and Maths units.

Strand 2- Industry specific skills

The Intermediate and Senior levels must include components of Nationally Recognised VET programs. Students are not required to focus on or complete any single VET certificate. However, students must complete 90 hrs of a Nationally Recognised VET to be eligible for Intermediate or Senior.

For example, students may choose to complete various modules or units from a range of VET certificates to meet VCAL requirements and gain experience in a range of vocational areas.

The range of VET options is quite extensive.

Strand 3 - Work related skills

In order to develop employability skills, VCAL gives students the choice of undertaking a structured work placement or students can undertake a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) a part-time apprenticeship/traineeship,.

Students will only be considered for Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and SBATs in **Year 11**.

Students will also study units that will help prepare them for work, for example Occupational Health & Safety or job preparation skills.

Strand 4 - Personal development skills

As part of the VCAL program students participate in projects and activities in the community or school that aim to develop teamwork skills, self-confidence and other skills important for life and work.

There is a strong focus on community awareness where students work with their peers to deliver a community awareness project.

Year 10 Program completing Applied Learning (VCAL)

SEM	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7
1	Religious Education	English	Maths	Work Related Skills 1	Personal Development Skills 1	On Campus VET	Elective
2	Religious Education	English	Maths	Work Related Skills 2	Personal Development Skills 2	On Campus VET	Elective