

LAVALLA

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

STRONG MINDS COMPASSIONATE HEARTS



Year 11 & 12

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

(VCAL)



VCAL

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

VCAL gives you practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. VCAL, like the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is a recognised senior secondary qualification.

Students who do VCAL are likely to be interested in going onto training at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institute, starting an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing school. However, if you start your VCAL and then decide the VCE is the right option for you after all, it won't be too late to change your mind. In fact, any VCE units you complete as part of your VCAL will count towards your VCE, should you decide to transfer between certificate courses.

While the VCE is a good option for students who would like to go on to further education at University, you might feel that this is not the right option for you. VCAL is an accredited senior secondary qualification undertaken in Years 11 and 12. The VCAL program is based on hands-on learning also known as applied learning. If you choose to do VCAL, you will gain practical experience and employability skills, as well as the skills you will need to go onto further training in the workplace or at TAFE and at some universities.

What are the VCAL Levels?

VCAL has three levels **Foundation**, **Intermediate** and **Senior**. You would start and complete your VCAL at the level that matches your needs and abilities.

Are there any entry requirements?

No. You begin VCAL at a level suitable to your capabilities. Your VCAL teacher will be able to help you decide which level is suitable for you.

How long will it take me to complete the VCAL?

VCAL has been developed for Years 11 and 12 students and is completed over the two years. Lavalla gives selected Year 10 students the option to undertake Foundation level WRS and PDS.

What do I get after successfully completing the VCAL?

If you successfully complete your VCAL program you will receive a VCAL certificate at either the Foundation, Intermediate or Senior level. You will receive a Statement of Results, listing all VCAL, VCE and VET (vocational education and training) units you have successfully completed.



What counts toward my VCAL?

What is a Vocational Education & Training (VET) certificate?

VET training programs provide an opportunity for schools, training institutes and industry to work together in preparing students for employment and further training. At Lavalla we offer Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses, both on and off campus, that contribute to satisfactory completion of VCAL and provide a vocational education and training credential that is recognised nationally.

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

Yes. If you change your mind and want to swap to the VCE, any VCE units successfully completed as part of your VCAL will count towards your VCE. You should discuss this with your teacher or careers counsellor if you decide to take this option. Note: You will need to make this decision in YR 11 as you may not have enough units to change over in YR 12.

What do I study?

How is the VCAL Assessed?

The VCAL is made up of accredited courses/certificates. Your VCAL program is assessed by your teacher in accordance with assessment requirements for each part of the program.

The VCAL's flexibility enables you to undertake a study program that suits your interests and learning needs. Fully accredited modules and units are selected for the following four compulsory strands.





Strand 1

Literacy & Numeracy Skills

Your VCAL program must include literacy and numeracy subjects. Subjects that meet the requirements for this strand include VCAL Literacy, VCAL Numeracy, VCE English Units, and VCE Maths Units. You will be given advice on the best options for you during your application interview.



Strand 2

Industry Specific Skills

Your VCAL program, at the Intermediate and Senior levels must include components of nationally recognised VET programs. However, you are not required to focus on, or complete, any single VET certificate. For example, you can 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 extensive and some examples are automotive, engineering, building and construction, hospitality, retail, multimedia, information technology, agriculture, horticulture, warehousing and hair and beauty.





Strand 3

Work Related Skills

In order to develop employability skills, VCAL gives you the choice of undertaking a structured work placement or a part-time apprenticeship/traineeship, or part-time work. You can also study units and modules that will help prepare you for work, for example occupational health and safety or job interview skills.



Strand 4

Personal Development Skills

As part of your VCAL program you will participate in projects and activities in your community or school that will help develop your teamwork skills, self-confidence and other skills important for life and work. As part of your CEO Program you may liaise with a community group, local school or pre-school to provide a service or product. This service or product will be planned and delivered over the course of the year. You will also research a community issue to help raise awareness amongst your peers or the wider community.





VCAL Program 2020

New Applicant

This form, including items on checklist must be completed and returned to the VCAL Office, no later than:

Tuesday 13th August 2019

YEAR 11 (2020)

YEAR 12 (2020)

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAMES: _____

STUDENT ID: _____ Year Level: _____ LA: _____
Office Staff

Subject	Your Selection
Religious Education	
VCE English OR VCAL Literacy	
VCE Maths OR VCAL Numeracy	
WORK RELATED SKILLS – WRS	
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS – PDS	
VCE Subject 1 OR VCE/VET 1	
VCE Subject 2 OR VCE/VET 1	

1. Identify three (3) future career pathways you would like to do:

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2. Briefly outline why you have chosen to apply for VCAL.

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Applicant tasks to complete prior to interview

- **Research the VCAL program and VET option** (please note: the VET requires a separate application form)
- **Application letter** (Outlying your suitability/reasons for wanting to do VCAL)
- **Provide current resume**
- **Complete VCAL interview question sheet enclosed**
- **Supporting documentation:**
 - Semester one Feedback 2019
 - Other evidence - could include: planning tools, demonstrating organisation, certificates, samples of assessments
 - Work experience reports

Subject selection information

Students completing the VCAL Program at Year 11 can be enrolled in:

- Foundation VCAL, WRS, PDS, Literacy and Numeracy
- Year 11 students undertaking a Unit 1/2 English or 1/2 Maths and Certificate II VET Subject will be enrolled in Intermediate VCAL
- Year 12 students undertaking Senior VCAL Literacy or English 3/4 and have completed a Certificate II VET Subject will be enrolled in Senior VCAL

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact

Mr. Jason Szkwarek or Mrs. Cheryl Hunter at the VCAL office prior to your interview.



VCAL Interview Questions

2020

1. Please circle the most appropriate no. (1- Of concern - 5 - Highly acceptable)

Self-evaluation checklist	1	2	3	4	5
I use class time productively					
I meet due dates punctually					
I work independently when required					
I am an active learner					
I can work well in a group environment					
I display leadership within a group environment					
I communicate well with others around me					
I am a reflective learner					

Employability Skills

Give examples of where you have used these skills at school, work, sport or other group activities

- Planning & organising:** Managing your own and others peoples' time, meeting deadlines, being responsible and carrying out activities successfully.
- Teamwork:** Being able to work effectively with others, help out, ask questions when needed and seek feedback.
- Communication:** Being able to effectively speak, listen, and write for workmates, supervisors, customers and others
- Problem solving:** being able to work out the best solution, persevere, use maths and logic and seek help when needed.
- Self-awareness:** Honestly knowing your strengths and weaknesses and being able to take steps to improve yourself.
- Technological:** Being able to use computing and communications (ICT), machinery, equipment and tools safely and effectively
- Learning:** Involves both on-the-job training under supervision and off-the-job training by doing relevant courses.
- Initiative and enterprise skills:** Being able to use all your skills to develop better ways of completing tasks, being flexible, negotiating, communicating and solving-problems.



Employability Skills

(Please give examples below)

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YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW (notified via school email) at which you will have the opportunity to present *evidence* in support of each of the employability skills examples you listed. It is important that you are able to provide a range of relevant support material Examples: Planning tools demonstrating organisation, certificates, reports, samples of assessments and work in progress in order to strengthen your application.

YOU MUST ALSO BRING TO YOUR INTERVIEW, A CURRENT RESUME AND APPLICATION LETTER

Please retain a copy of this completed application for your reference.

Student signature: _____ Date: / /

I/We understand that my/our son/daughter's entry into the VCAL program is not automatic, as numbers are limited. Should my/our son/daughter not be granted a place, they will be required to undertake a regular VCE course at Lavalla Catholic College during 2020.

Parent signature: _____ Date: / /

Comment /s:



VCAL Interview Questions

Name: _____

LA: _____

- What do you know about the VCAL program? _____

- What pathway goals do you have and what VET option do you hope to complete? _____

- What do you know about the job you want to do? _____

- Have you had any work experience? If so, where? _____

- Tell us about your attendance and behaviour at school: _____

- What are your favourite subjects at school? _____

- Describe one thing that you want to improve at school and how you will make the change: _____

- What sort of things do you do in your spare time? _____
