VCAL

2022 Handbook

Contents

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. It is designed to prepare students for further education, training or employment by providing them with work-related experience, literacy and numeracy skills and an opportunity to develop personal and work related skills. It endeavours to provide students with an understanding of a workplace in both a practical and theoretical setting. VCAL is a pathway to Technical and Further Education (TAFE), apprenticeships/traineeships or employment.

The qualification aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attributes to enable students to make informed choices about employment and education pathways. Personal development, students' interests and pathways for senior secondary students, in the context of applied learning, underpin the design of VCAL.

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 Strand
- Industry Specific Skills Strand (nominal hours) - through TAFE etc.
- Work Related Skills (WRS) Strand
- Personal Development Skills (PDS) Strand

What are the VCAL Levels?

The three VCAL qualification levels provide flexible entry and exit points for a range of student's abilities and interest and offer a clear progression for knowledge, skills and attributes.

The VCAL is accredited and issued at three award levels:
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning – Foundation
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning – Intermediate
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning - Senior.

Students start and complete their VCAL certificate at the level that matches their needs and abilities. Students are encouraged to meet all outcomes over one year; however, it is common for some students to study for the one VCAL level over two years. Certain levels of VCAL are not obtainable if students have not completed the necessary nominal certificate hours through (TAFE), or in the case of year 11 students if they do not receive a satisfactory result for their VCE Unit 1 and 2 subjects. 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 formal entry requirements for the VCAL program. Students begin at the level that is suitable to their capabilities, school program and TAFE components. VCAL teachers' support students by identifying which level is suitable for each individual and will advise students of this. Advice given is on a case by case basis. Priority is given to Year 11 and 12 students as VCAL is a VCE program; however, students in year 10 may apply.

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. Therefore, VCAL intake is preferable at the beginning of each year, and not at the end of Semester 1.

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). As Literacy and Numeracy programs are not offered to Year 10 students, they will finish the year with a partial completion of Foundation, and not the full certificate.

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?

Under some circumstances students who change their mind can swap to the VCE. However, it is strongly advised that this takes place within the first 4 weeks of the school year. 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, the VCAL Coordinator, 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)***

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.

Important Information:

Course selection in 2022

We are supporting all students in their course selections for 2022 and are providing the following advice and information to students considering a VCAL pathway.

If students are studying VCAL in 2022 they will transfer into the VCE Vocational Specialisation with credit for completed VCAL subjects in 2023. In 2023, students will continue to study Senior VCAL subjects in the new certificate as part of the implementation process. At the end of 2023, these students will be awarded the VCE Vocational Specialisation if they meet the requirements.

This approach provides assurance and clarity to current Year 10 students some of whom will be among the first cohort to receive a VCE Vocational Specialisation certificate in 2023.

The following diagram sets out the senior secondary pathways for students commencing the VCE or VCAL in 2022.

Note:

- Students can also move between certificates
- Foundation VCAL will be offered at Lavalla Catholic College.
- If you would like to talk further about these changes please contact, Alice Nelson (VCAL Co-ordinator).

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/studentsfaq.aspx

What do I study?

Strand 1 - Literacy and Numeracy Skills Strand

In year 11 and 12 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 Strand

Intermediate and Senior VCAL levels must include components of Nationally Recognised VET programs. Students must complete 90 hrs of a Nationally Recognised VET to be eligible for an Intermediate or Senior VCAL Certificate. One credit will be given for the successful completion of accredited VET units of competency that total 90 nominal hours. This could include, for example, three completed 30-hour units of competency or one completed 90-hour unit of competency. If a student partially completes a VET unit of competency, for example 90 hours of a 150-hour unit of competency, they will receive no credit towards the VCAL.

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 extensive and is available on the school website: under the Learning tab.

Strand 3 - Work Related Skills (WRS) Strand

The purpose of the VCAL Work Related Skills Strand is to develop student skills, knowledge and attributes valued within community and work environments such as preparation for employment. The development of employability skills within this strand provides students with a capacity to explore, consider and choose from a range of pathways. Knowledge and understanding of occupational health and safety (OHS) is integral to student preparation for a variety of community and work environments.

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

Students will only be considered for a structured work placement and SBATs in Year 11, or Year 12. Applications for structured work placement or SBATs will considered via an interview process with the VCAL co-ordinator and student's progress within the VCAL program.

Strand 4 - Personal Development Skills (PDS) Strand

The purpose of the VCAL Personal Development Skills Strand is to develop student knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to self-development and community engagement through:
- Family, social, community and environmental responsibilities
- Resilience, self-esteem and efficacy
- Health and wellbeing
- Valuing participation in a democratic society.

Curriculum selected for the Personal Development Skills Strand must be consistent with the strand purpose statement. Through aligning curriculum with the strand purpose statement, the learning program will provide opportunities for skill progression and experiences that are important for VCAL 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. As a result of its individualised nature all student programs differ slightly.

Year 10 Program completing Applied Learning (VCAL)

Semester	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8
1	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English Group	Maths	Work Related Skills	Personal Development Skills	On Campus VET	Elective
2	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English Group	Maths	Work Related Skills	Personal Development	On Campus VET	Elective

Year 11 Program completing Applied Learning (VCAL)

Semester	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8
1	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English or Literacy	Maths or Numeracy	Work Related Skills	Personal Development Skills	VET	VCE Elective: Unit 1
2	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English or Literacy	Maths or Numeracy	Work Related Skills	Personal Development	VET	VCE Elective: Unit 2

Year 12 Program completing Applied Learning (VCAL)

Semester	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8
1	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English or Literacy	Maths or Numeracy	Work Related Skills	Personal Development Skills	VET	VCE Elective: Unit 3
2	Religious Education	Personal Learning	English or Literacy	Maths or Numeracy	Work Related Skills	Personal Development	VET	VCE Elective: Unit 4