ST MARY'S

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VIRTUS SOLA NOBILITAS
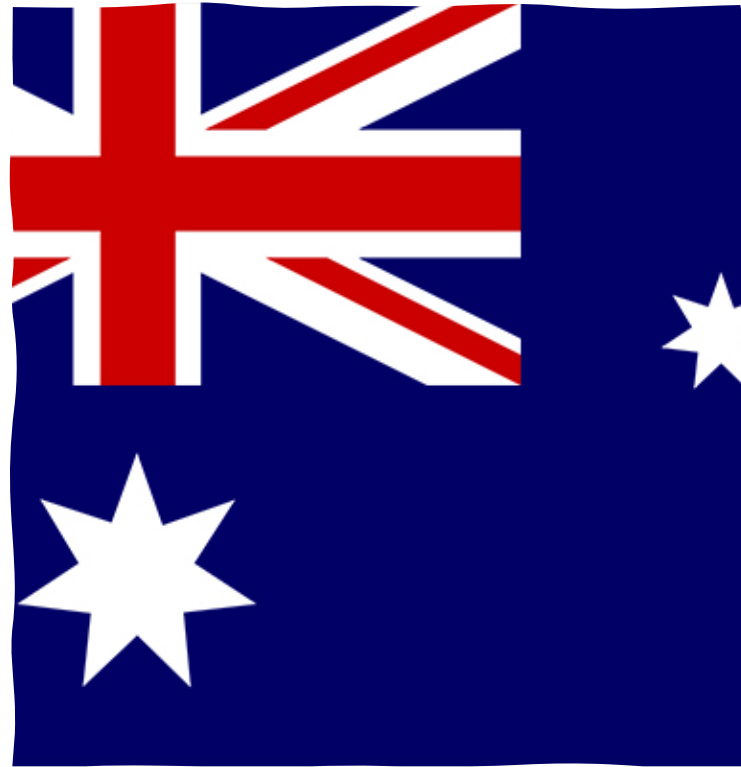
Subject Selection
Senior Studies
Year 11 2025

Acknowledgment of Country

PRAYER

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Mr Darren Atkinson

College Principal

Mr Daniel Di Lisio

Director of Learning and Teaching

Senior Studies Handbook

Pathway Handbooks 2025 ⓘ

Cover Page ∨ ‹ ›

Pathway Handbooks 2025

St Mary's College is an inclusive and liberating coeducational Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition that aspires to excellence in learning, acting with compassion and justice and inspiring one another to shape a better world for all.

Read Now ›

SCHOOL LINKS ⬈ ▢

Links
School

School Links

General Resources
Careers Appointments
Careers Website
Directions - Careers Newsletter
Edmund Rice Education Australia - Our Governi
EdvalChoice - Subject Selections 2023
ePlatform (Wheelers)
KWL
Library Catalogue
PAT
School Website
Senior Studies Pathways Handbook 2025
The Age
Unit 2 Exam Booklet
Year 10 Pathways Handbook 2024
Year 10 Semester 2 Exams
Year 8 Handbook 2023
Year 9 Handbook 2023
Booklist
Booklist 2024
Direct link to Campion

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Terminology

- **ATAR** – The overall ranking on a scale of zero to 99.95 based on study scores
- **GAT** – General Achievement Test
- **SAC** - School Assessed Coursework for Unit 3/4
- **SAT** - School Assessed Task for Unit 3/4
- **Study** – Subject
- **Study Score** - A score from zero to 50 achieved for a unit 3/4 study
- **VET** – Vocational Education and Training
- **VCAA** – Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- **VM** – Vocational Major
- **VTAC** – Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre

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Introduction – Senior Studies Pathways

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)	Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major (VM)
An academic course of study involving coursework, assessment and examinations.	An applied learning course of study involving hands-on learning and practical work-related experience.
Choice of subject – must include an English	4 Strands with a choice of VET and Work Placement
Full time course of study on campus with attendance requirements	3 days on campus 1 day off campus – VET 1 day off campus – Work Placement
Scored course will receive an ATAR Non-scored course will receive a certificate only	Competency based assessment with no score Certificates
Provides a direct pathway to university, TAFE, apprenticeships, other forms of education or employment	Provides a direct pathway to TAFE, apprenticeships, other forms of education or employment. Indirect pathway to university

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Options – Senior Studies Pathways Year 11 2025

- VCE

  - English, Unit 2 Religion and Society + 5 Unit 1 and 2 Studies of your choice

  - English, Unit 2 Religion and Society + 4 Unit 1 and 2 Studies of your choice and 1 Unit 3/4 Study (requires an application)

  - English, Unit 2 Religion and Society + 4 Unit 1 and 2 Studies of your choice and 1 VET Study (requires an external application process)

- VM

  - 4 Strands, Unit 2 Religion and Society + VET Study

  - 4 Strands, Unit 2 Religion and Society + VET Study + VCE Study

Ms Wendy Mair

VCE Coordinator

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Each VCE study (subject) is designed to provide a two-year program.

Units 1 and 2 can be completed as single units

Units 3 and 4 in each study must be completed as a sequence.

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 11	Unit 1	Unit 2
Year 12	Unit 3	Unit 4

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VCE minimum requirements

The minimum requirement is satisfactory completion of 16 units, Units 3 – 4 sequence which must include:

- three units from the English group, including a Unit 3–4 sequence
- at least three other sequences of Unit 3–4 studies, which can include further sequences from the English group.
- A minimum of 8 Units from a 3 – 4 sequence
- 80% attendance

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VCE – Year 11

- 13 Units
- Unit 2 Religion and Society, English plus 5 other studies

Unit 2 Religion and Society	Unit 1 Semester 1	English/ EAL/ Literature	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4	Choice 5
	Unit 2 Semester 2	English/ EAL/ Literature	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4	Choice 5

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VCE – Year 12

- 10 Units and a College-based Religion course
- Minimum of 8 sequential Units 3/4, one of which is from the English group

	School Based RE	Unit 3 Semester 1	English/ EAL/ Literature	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4
		Unit 4 Semester 2	English/ EAL/ Literature	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4

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VCE – Workload

- 3–4 hours of study per night
- Strategic use of time
- Homework – tasks to consolidate each day's learning
- Homestudy – revision time for each subject
- Consistency
- Study includes summary notes, concept maps, practice exam questions
- Subject teachers will help to guide students

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VCE – Acceleration

Unit 3 and 4 study in Year 11

Criteria:

- Successful completion of a Unit 1 and 2 in Year 10
- No Unit 1 and 2 in Year 10 but meet the criteria:
    - Achieved A's in English
    - Achieved A's in at least two other subjects
    - High SPI
- Please consult the handbook
- Individual interview

VCE – Study Score (Unit 3 and 4)

A study score indicates how you have performed **in relation to all other students** who took the Units 3 and 4 study.

It is calculated using **statistically moderated** SACs and VCE exam results.

The weighting of each Graded Assessment depends on the study

Graded Assessments Unit 3 **+** Graded Assessments Unit 4 **+** VCE Examination **=** Study Score

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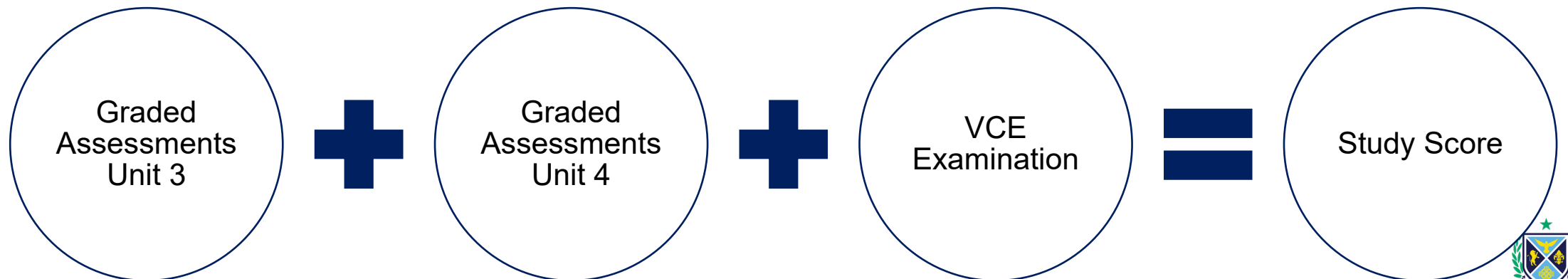
VCE – ATAR

The ATAR is a rank based on each student's aggregate (or total) produced by adding:

- English study
- The next best three VTAC scaled study scores permissible
- 10% of the fifth and sixth permissible scores that are available

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VCE – ATAR & Permissible scores

To ensure all students receive a well–rounded education in VCE, some Subject Areas have groupings.

At most, two results from the same study area grouping can be included in the primary four.

At most three results from the same study area grouping can contribute to the ATAR, the third being an increment.

Subject Area Groupings exist in:

• English, Mathematics, Music, History, Contemporary Society, Information Technology, Language and VET Industry Areas

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Mr Grant Godbold

Vocational Major Leader

Victorian Certificate of Education – Vocational Major (VM)

- Accredited Senior Secondary qualification

- Practical, hands on, work-related experience and learning

- Part-time apprenticeship or traineeship options

- VET/ TAFE learning options as part of the VM VCE Course

- Integrated approach to study

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VM Week

Cycle	Level	Monday/Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Year 11 / Year 12	Literacy Numeracy Work Related Skills Personal Development Skills Unit 2 Religion & Society	VET/ SBAT	Literacy Numeracy Work Related Skills Personal Development Skills Unit 2 Religion & Society	Work Placement/ SBAT
2	Year 11 / Year 12	Literacy Numeracy Work Related Skills Personal Development Skills Religion	VET/ SBAT	Enrichment Day Program	Work Placement/ SBAT

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VM Course Structure

The VM has in school subjects:

- Literacy

- Numeracy

- Work Related Skills

- Personal Development Skills

 Students also undertake:

- Unit 2 Religion and Society

- Selected VET study or VCE Elective

- Work placement

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Ms Mandy Ellwood

VET Coordinator and Careers Counsellor

VET IN THE VCE and VCE VM

VET SUBJECTS

In both VCE and VCE VM, students may choose to study a VCE VET subject that

aligns with their interests.

This may lead to a future career choice or just be an interest.

VCE VM students are able to undertake a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT), as well as or, in some cases, instead of a VET Subject.

Graduates will receive an Industry recognised Certificate 2 or 3 in addition to their VCE.

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How VET works

- **Vocational Education and Training = VET**

- A mix of theory and practical work

- Competency based assessment - *demonstrate* a skill, plus theory units

- *Training* more than teaching

- A **huge range** of interest areas

- Transferrable skills as well as specific employment skills – essential in current and future job market (e.g. creativity, problem-solving)

- Safe work practices

  ✓**Counts towards the ATAR for VCE**

  ✓**Compulsory for VCE VM students**

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VET at St Mary's College

- External VET Programs are organised through the Inner Eastern VET Cluster as well as individual TAFE Institutes

- **Student travels to another venue** to do the VET Subject, usually on Wednesday afternoon (4- 6 hours per week), but some morning or all-day classes too.

- Structured Work Placement – usually 1 week per year but only compulsory for a few VET Subjects

- Only VCE VM students can do **all-day classes**

- ***Extra cost to families is involved** – amount varies for each program – to be confirmed. Usually between $800 and $2000 dollars after subsidy.*

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VCE VET

A VET Study is *OPTIONAL* in VCE

- VCE VET Subject is taken *as one of the VCE Subject Choices*
    - "SCORED" provides a normal study score – students complete exam and coursework. This means VET Study can count in the best 4 like any other VCE subject
    - "UNSCORED" provides an increment – no exam, but 10% of the *lowest* of your best four. This is added as a 5th or 6th subject

A VCE VET Study is *COMPULSORY in VCE Vocational Major*

VET is a two-year program for VCE or VCE VM– it counts as:

- Units 1 & 2 (Year 11) – two or more units
- Units 3 & 4 (Year 12) – two or more units (Primary Study Score or 10% Increment)

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SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIP or TRAINEESHIP – VCE VM only

These are available in some Industry Areas:

with Gowrie Centre, AFL Sportsready, Reece and Masters Institute

- Barbering

- Business

- Early Childhood Education and Care

- Retail

- Sport, Aquatics and Recreation

- Warehousing

How to find out more…

IE VET CLUSTER HANDBOOK
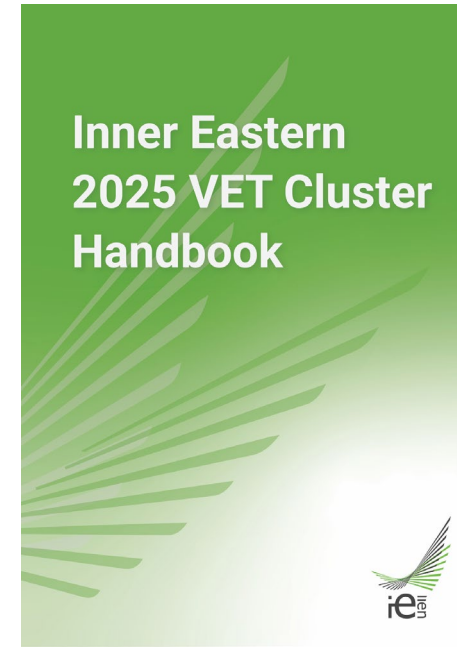
St Mary's College VCE VET STUDIES LIST 2025

Inner Eastern 2025 VET Cluster Handbook

VET APPLICATION PROCESS CHECKLIST

VCE VET STUDIES 2025 — These are the studies available to St Mary's College Students in 2025. Venues, days and times subject to change.

VET APPLICATION PROCESS CHECKLIST 2025

There are several steps involved in applying for a VET Subject. This Checklist should help. It is very important that the student and parent follow this process carefully and check that they have completed each step.

STEP	TASK	DONE
1	Apply for a **USI** – Unique Student Identifier at https://www.usi.gov.au/ EVERY VET or University student needs a USI to enrol in a course. It is a simple process. Record this safely here and in your phone too. _____ *If you think you already have a USI, do not apply again! You can check on the website.*	
2	Check the VET Studies available in 2024 on the list St Mary's College List of VCE VET Studies 2025 St Mary's College List of VCE VET Studies 2025 . You should research the VET Studies that interest you – eg the Videos at GET VET	
3	Student and parent should carefully read the course descriptions and requirements in the various handbooks: Inner Eastern VET Cluster VET Handbook AFL Sports Ready VDSS and SBAT Guide Box Hill Institute Kangan Institute Melbourne Polytechnic William Angliss Institute VET Hospitality, Cookery & Tourism Victoria University – ask Ms Ellwood for a copy	

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GET VET Website

GET INFORMED!

Many Case Studies and videos to help you decide.

Foreword >	VET myths versus facts >	How VET is different >
What you get from VET >	How VET can prepare you for the future >	What a VET pathway looks like >
7 questions to ask yourself >	Which VET are you? >	VCE VET programs >
Structured workplace learning >	School-based apprenticeship or traineeship >	Other VET qualifications >
Get a taste of VET careers and training >	Where to find out more about VET >	Resources >

VET Health

Join Madi to discover the experiences, skills and knowledge you can gain through VET Health.

📄 **VET Health transcript (docx – 22.52kb)**

VET Business

Join Mia to discover the experiences, skills and knowledge you can gain through VET Business.

📄 **VET Business transcript (docx – 21.52kb)**

VET Electrical Industry

Join Bailey to discover the experiences, skills and knowledge you can gain through VET Electrical Industry.

📄 **VET Electrical Industry transcript (docx – 22.04kb)**

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Application process

Follow the process outlined in the Senior Pathways Handbook:

- **All VET applications are made through the VET Coordinator**
- Multi-step process – please follow all steps – see the VET Application Process Checklist in the Senior Pathways Handbook
- **Online Form for all VET subjects – link in Handbook**
- Complete application by 30 August
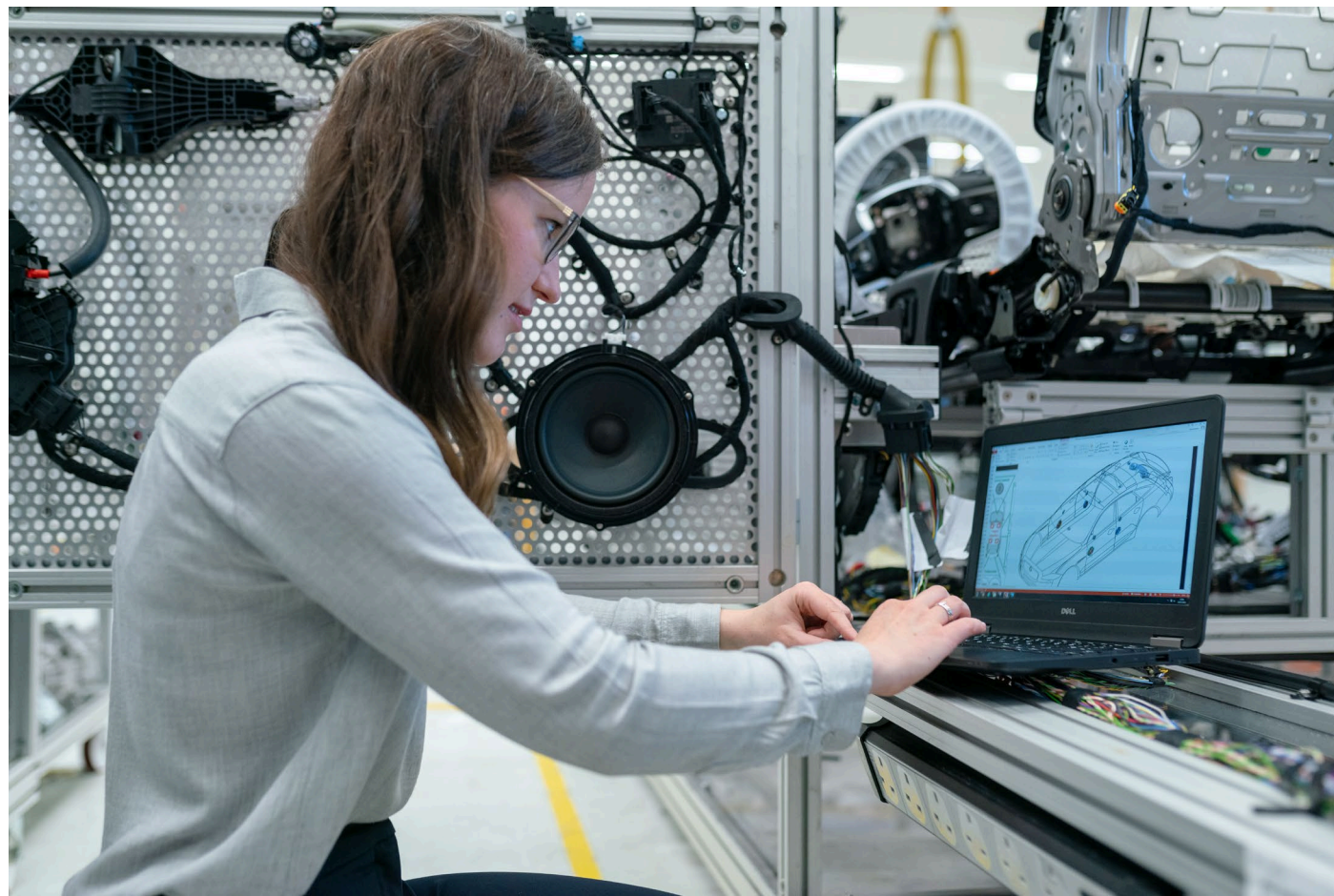- There may be further forms or an induction or enrolment day for some classes.

Careers

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

You do not *need* to have a career path worked out yet. It is okay to be unsure… but do research the options!

Change is the one constant we can rely on.

Be open to ideas and opportunities.

Use your Morrisby Profile to research and inspire.

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Formula for success

1. Choose subjects that really *interest* you – you cannot go wrong! (check your Morrisby Profile)

2. Temper this with a consideration of your *skills*! (Morrisby again)

3. Lastly consider the subjects you might *need* or that might fit well with your other choices or have a relationship to a future career area – eg history as a background for Law, or psychology for Teaching

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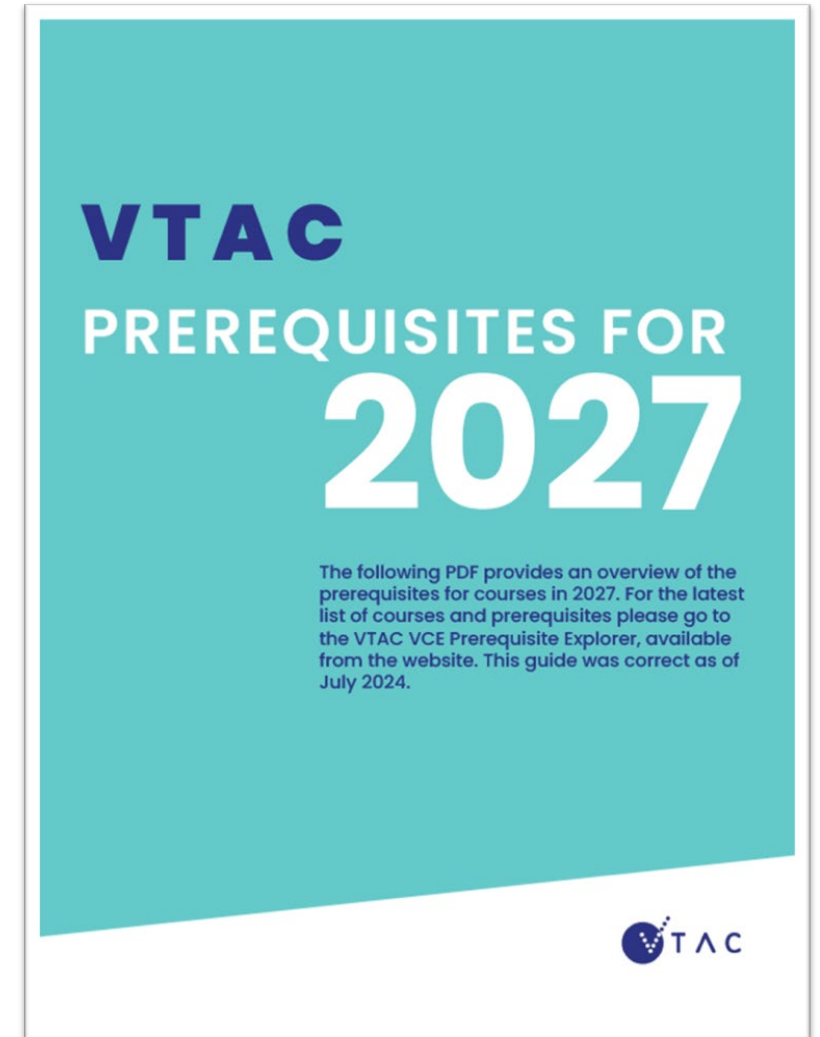# What subjects do you NEED?

Many tertiary courses have specific Prerequisite Studies:

▪VCE Studies that are required in order to gain entry to a University course.

▪These are set **3 years ahead**, so students can plan their VCE.

For example:

"25 in Mathematical Methods" or

"30 in English" or just "English"

The link is in the Handbook

VTAC

PREREQUISITES FOR 2027

The following PDF provides an overview of the prerequisites for courses in 2027. For the latest list of courses and prerequisites please go to the VTAC VCE Prerequisite Explorer, available from the website. This guide was correct as of July 2024.

VTAC

More on Pre-requisite Subjects

- Many courses require only an English

- Some courses have no pre-requisites

- Some pre-requisites have a minimum score as well.

- The main concerns are:
  - Maths Methods, Chemistry, Physics.
  - Teaching and Nursing may need a Year 11 Maths.

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Ms Wendy Mair

College Timetabler

Online Selection

Edval Choice
- Link on SIMON
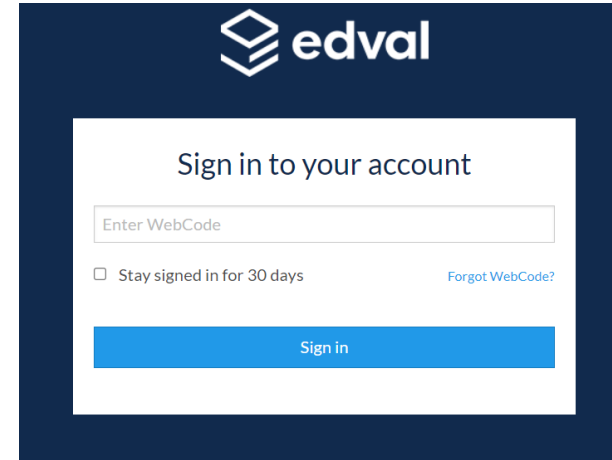- Detailed instructions
- Unique webcode
- One submission

Certificate
- VCE or VM

Preferences
- English
- Religion
- Choose 5 studies + 2 reserve studies
  - **Preference order**

Acceleration
- Request an application form from Mr Di Lisio

's

Online Selection

Subject Selections - VCE

Main Units	Subject	Units
Year 12 Religious Education	Year 12 Religious Education ▾	1
RE Preference 1	Year 12 Religion: Service ▾	2
RE Preference 2	No selection ▾	0
English	Unit 3/4 English ▾	4
VCE Preference 1	Unit 3/4 Mathematics: Further ▾	4
VCE Preference 2	Unit 3/4 Legal Studies ▾	4
VCE Preference 3	Unit 3/4 Physics ▾	4
VCE Preference 4	Unit 3/4 Chemistry ▾	4
	Total	23

Reserve Units	Subject	Units
VCE Reserve 1	Unit 3/4 Visual Communication & Design ▾	4
VCE Reserve 2	Unit 3/4 Psychology ▾	4
RE Reserve 1	Year 12 Religion through Music ▾	2
	Total	10

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Mr Daniel Di Lisio

Director of Learning and Teaching

Course Counselling Interview

14 August 2024

8:30am – 6pm

Book on PAM (Parent Access Module) – same as Parent / Teacher Interviews

Bring to interview:
- Semester 1 Report
- Course planner from the handbook
- Morrisby feedback
- Careers research – prerequisites

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Choosing subjects for 2025

Make informed choices
- Pathway
- Prerequisite

Not reasons to choose a subject
- Friends
- Subject teacher
- Easy choice
- Upscaled – difficult subject

Seek advice from trusted people
- Teachers
- Parents
- Past students

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Q & A

Daniel Di Lisio: Director of Learning and Teaching

Wendy Mair: VCE coordinator and timetabler

Grant Godbold: VM coordinator

**Mandy Ellwood:**   Careers Counsellor

FAQ – Senior Studies Subject Selection

- *What must be included in a course to attain a VCE certificate? (Di Lisio)*

- *What is a Study Score and how does this differ from an ATAR? (Mair)*

- *What does scaling mean and how does it work? (Mair)*

- *How many subjects do students study in Year 11 and 12? (Mair)*

- *What is studied in the Vocational Major pathway? (Godbold)*

- *Can a student change a subject after Semester 1, can they change subjects? (Mair)*

- *If a student completes a Unit 3/4 subject in Year 11, do they do one less subject in Year 12? (Di Lisio)*

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FAQ – Senior Studies Subject Selection

- *What does scaling mean and how does it work?*

The graph below shows the Normal curve for the raw scores in 2 different studies – A and B – and the standardised Normal curve for study scores.
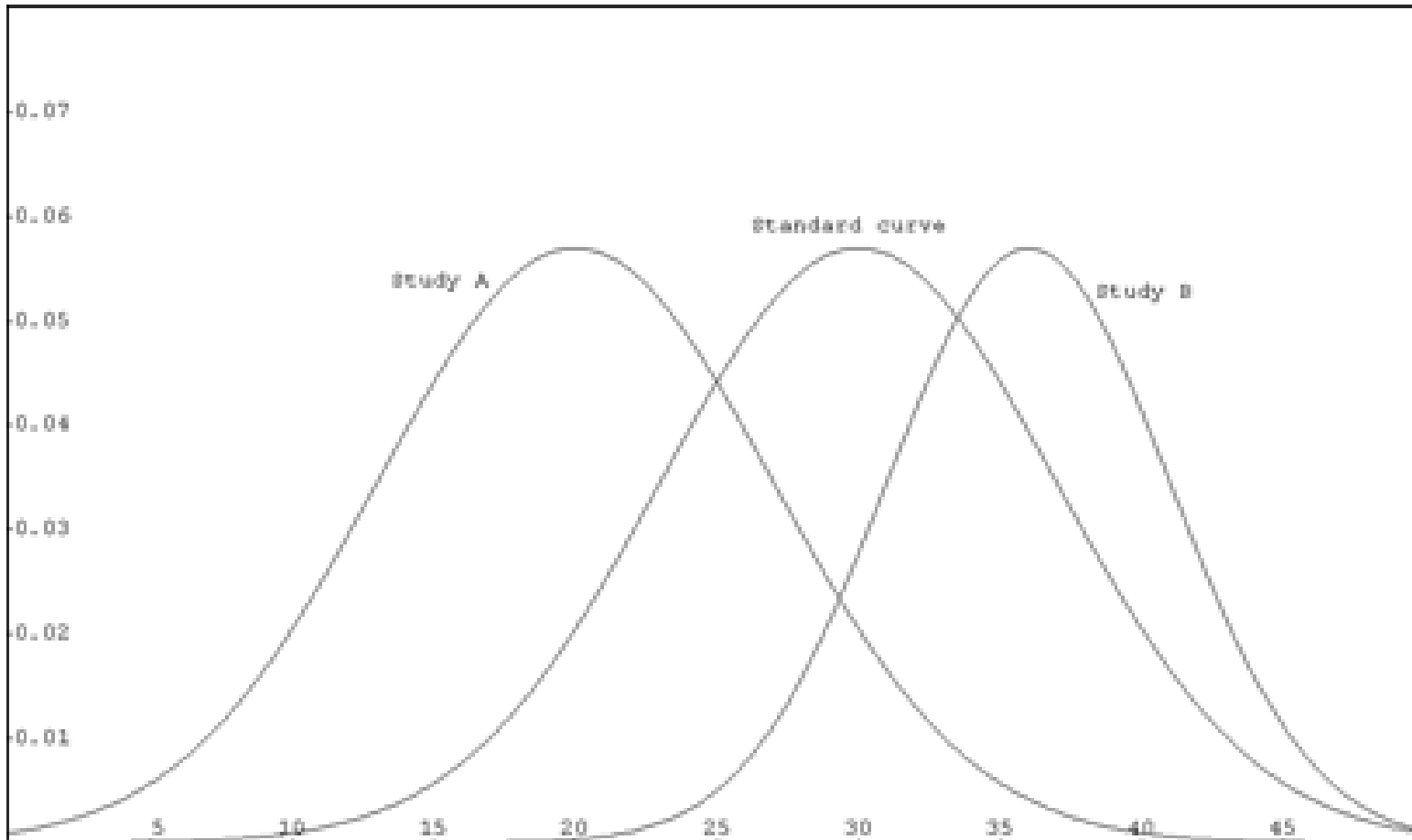
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