



BRENTWOOD
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Introduction to VCE Webinar



Thursday 20th November



6:30 - 7:30pm

This presentation will be recorded.
Recordings, slides and FAQs will be shared via
Compass.



What you will learn

- Overview of VCE pathways
- What VCE Units are and how they're structured
- Difference between Unit 1/2 and Unit 3/4 sequences
- What Advanced Placement (AP) subjects are
- Understanding Satisfactory (S) requirements and assessments
- Overview of VET options
- A simple breakdown of the ATAR and scaling process

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Live in the chat tonight

What is the VCE?

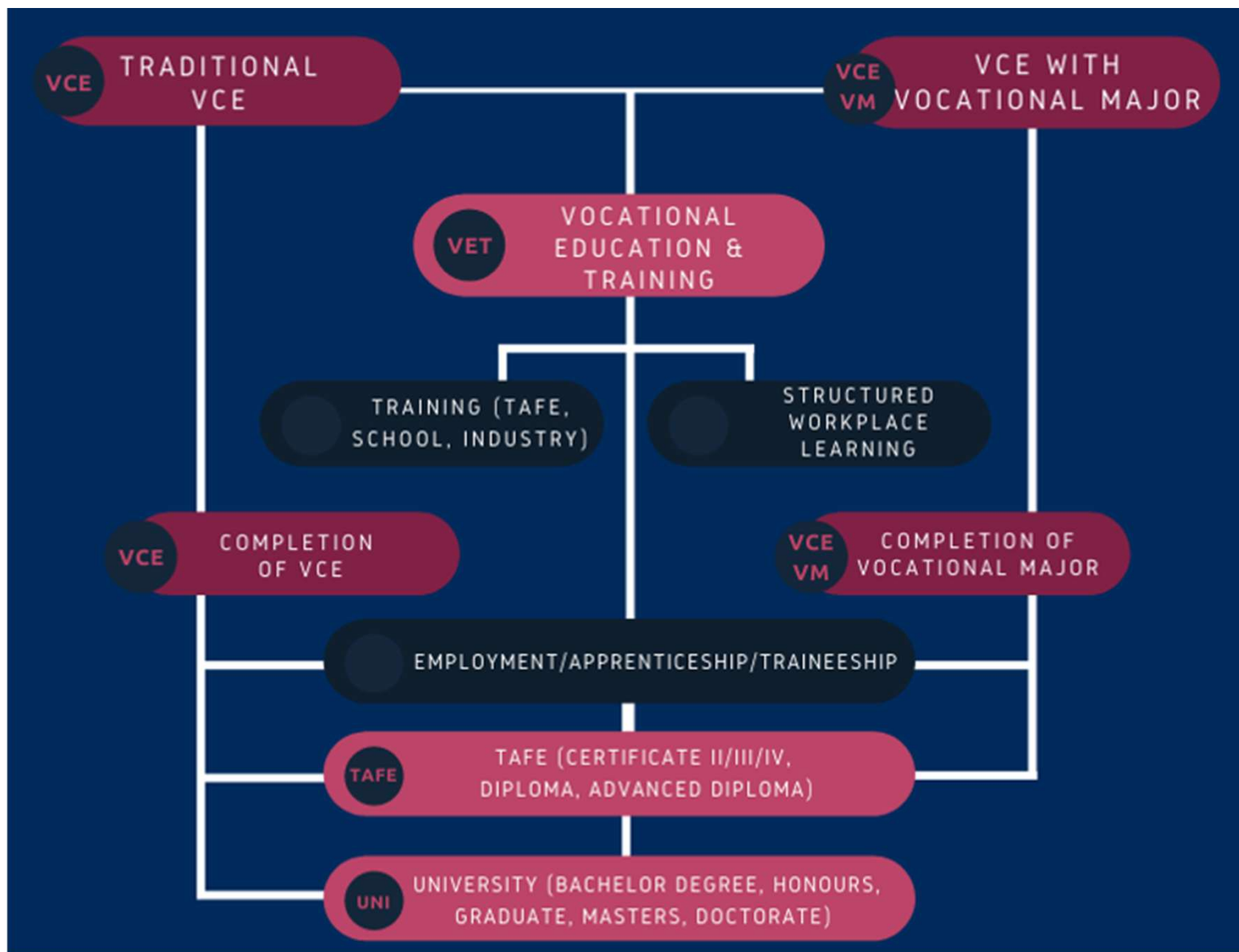
The VCE stands for the **Victorian Certificate of Education**.

It's the main senior secondary certificate in Victoria, and most students complete it over two years — Years 11 and 12.

At Brentwood, students complete either:

- **VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education)**, or
- **VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)** — our applied learning stream

Pathways in the VCE



What are Units?

VCE subjects are made up of Units. Each Unit runs for one semester — or half a year.

**Unit 1 &
Unit 2**

Typically
completed in
Year 11

**Unit 3 &
Unit 4**

Completed as a
paired sequence
in Year 12

Students must pass — or achieve a Satisfactory (S) — in each Unit for it to count toward their VCE.

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Unit 3 and 4 sequences

A Unit 3/4 sequence means students study **both units together in the same year.**

- For example, English 3/4 runs all year and both Units must be completed in order.

The completion of the VCE requires a minimum of 4 x Unit 3/4 sequences (where one must be from the English stream). If a student does not satisfy the requirements of Unit 3, they cannot progress to Unit 4.

- At Brentwood, all Year 12 students undertake 5 x Unit 3/4 sequences

Performance in Units 3 & 4 contribute to the **ATAR**

More on this later



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Advanced Placements (AP)

An Advanced Placement (AP) allows a student in Year 10 to undertake a VCE subject prior to their full-time enrolment in the VCE.

An AP student is committed to studying Unit 1&2 of their VCE subject in Year 10 and Unit 3&4 of the same VCE subject in Year 11.

An AP student is agreeing to undertake an additional Unit 3&4 subject across their VCE compared to a non-AP student.

Non-AP students complete:

Year 11 → 6 × Unit 1&2

Year 12 → 5 × Unit 3&4

AP students complete:

Year 10 → 1 × Unit 1&2

Year 11 → 5 × Unit 1&2 + 1 × Unit 3&4

Year 12 → 5 × Unit 3&4

Students are required to meet eligibility criteria to study an AP

(detailed information regarding the AP process will be shared along with the package of information from tonight)

VCE Eligibility

The minimum VCE requirement is satisfactory completion of **16 units** that must include:

- 3 x units from the English group (including a Unit 3/4 sequence)
- 3 x Unit 3/4 sequences

The remaining Units can be from Units 1-4

At Brentwood, all students are given the opportunity to achieve a minimum of **22 units**.

Unit 1 English	Unit 2 English
Must pass at least one of these	
Unit 3 English	Unit 4 English
Must pass	Must pass

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VCE Eligibility

S = satisfactory completion of Unit

N = non-satisfactory completion of Unit

Unit 1 English	Unit 2 English	Unit 1 Maths Methods	Unit 2 Maths Methods	Unit 1 Accounting	Unit 2 Accounting	Unit 1 Physics	Unit 2 Physics	Unit 1 Health & Human	Unit 2 Health *	Unit 1 Applied Computing	Unit 2 Applied Computing
S	S	N	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N

Unit 3 English	Unit 4 English	Unit 3 General Maths	Unit 4 General Maths	Unit 3 Accounting	Unit 4 Accounting	Unit 3 Physics	Unit 4 Physics	Unit 3 Health & Human	Unit 4 Health *
S	S	S	S	S	S	N	N	S	S

This student is **eligible** to be awarded their VCE. As they have:

- satisfactory completion of **>16 Units**
- with 3 x English Units (including a 3/4 sequence)
- with 3 x Unit 3/4 sequences

VCE Eligibility

S = satisfactory completion of Unit

N = non-satisfactory completion of Unit

Unit 1 English	Unit 2 English	Unit 1 Maths Methods	Unit 2 Maths Methods	Unit 1 History	Unit 2 History	Unit 1 Chemistry	Unit 2 Chemistry	Unit 1 Vis Comm	Unit 2 Vis Comm	Unit 1 Business Mgmt	Unit 2 Business Mgmt
S	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Unit 3 English	Unit 4 English	Unit 3 Maths Methods	Unit 4 Maths Methods	Unit 3 History	Unit 4 History	Unit 3 Vis Comm	Unit 4 Vis Comm	Unit 3 Business Mgmt	Unit 4 Business Mgmt
S	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

This student is **ineligible** to be awarded their VCE. As they have:

- satisfactory completion of **>16 units**
- with **only 2 x English Units (no 3/4 sequence)**
- with 3 x Unit 3/4 sequences

VCE: Vocational Major Eligibility

The minimum VCE VM requirement is satisfactory completion of **16 units** that must include:

- 3 x VCE VM Literacy units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- 2 x VCE VM Numeracy or other units from the Mathematics studies group
- 2 x VCE VM Work Related Skills units
- 2 x VCE VM Personal Development Skills units
- 2 x VET credits at Certificate II level or above
- 3 x Unit 3/4 sequences (can come from above subjects)

At Brentwood, all students are given the opportunity to achieve a minimum of **22 units**.

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VCE:VM Eligibility

S = satisfactory completion of Unit

N = non-satisfactory completion of Unit

Unit 1 Literacy	Unit 2 Literacy	Unit 1 Foundation Maths	Unit 2 Foundation Maths	Unit 1 WRS	Unit 2 WRS	Unit 1 PDS	Unit 2 PDS	Unit 1 Food Studies	Unit 2 Food Studies	Certificate II Hospitality Services (Year 1)	
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N	S	S	S	S

Unit 3 Literacy	Unit 4 Literacy	Unit 3 Foundation Maths	Unit 4 Foundation Maths	Unit 3 WRS	Unit 4 WRS	Unit 3 PDS	Unit 4 PDS	Certificate II Hospitality Services (Year 2)	
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

This student is **eligible** to be awarded their VCE: Vocational Major. As they have:

- satisfactory completion of **>16 Units**
- with 3 x VM Literacy Units (including a 3/4 sequence)
- with 3 x Unit 3/4 sequences
- with 2 x VM core subjects (WRS, PDS)
- with 2 x Maths group
- with 2 x VET credits



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For satisfactory completion of a VCE unit, students must demonstrate their achievement of the set of outcomes as specified in the study design.



The decision about satisfactory completion of outcomes is based on the **teacher's judgment** of the student's overall performance on a **combination of set work and assessment tasks** related to the outcomes.

- e.g. Hurdles Tasks, Student Assessed Coursework (SACs)



The decision to award an S for satisfactory completion of a unit is separate from the assessment of levels of achievement for study score calculation.

Satisfactory completion of VCE units



Non-satisfactory VCE unit result

VCE % attendance must be maintained at 80% or above

The student will receive an N (not satisfactory) for the unit when one or more of the following occurs:

- the work does not demonstrate achievement of the outcomes
- the student has failed to meet a school deadline for the assessment task (*which can include time granted through an extension for any reason or a special provision or both*)
- the work cannot be authenticated, for example, through **lack of attendance**
- there has been a substantial breach of the VCAA's rules and the school's rules and procedures.



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Introduction to VCE Webinar

5 minute break

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Vocational Education & Training (VET)

- VET can be undertaken by **VCE** and **VCE VM** students
- It is a 2-year program combining school studies with accredited training
- Leads to a nationally recognised qualification and builds industry-specific and workplace skills
- Delivered through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) e.g. Swinburne, Holmesglen, Chisholm etc
- Replaces 1 x VCE subject

Assessment:

- Based on Units of Competency (UoCs)
- Students are assessed as Competent (C) or Not Yet Competent (NYC)
- Assessment occurs in real or simulated workplace settings

Contribution to ATAR:

- **Scored VET:** contributes like any subject when a 3/4 sequence + exam is completed
- **Unscored VET:** contributes 10% increment as a 5th/6th subject

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Example VET Subjects

Construction & Trades

- Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- Certificate II in Building & Construction (Pre-apprenticeship)
- Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Pre-vocational)
- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways / Furnishing

Community & Health

- Certificate III in Community Services
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance

IT & Digital

- Certificate III in Information Technology

Agriculture & Animal Studies

- Certificate II in Agriculture
- Certificate II in Animal Care

Business

- Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation)

Creative Industries (Art, Music, Design, Media)

- Certificate III in Screen & Media
- Certificate III in Music (Sound Production)
- Certificate III in Dance
- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion & Textiles

Beauty & Personal Services

- Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics
- Certificate II in Salon Assistant
- Certificate III in Beauty Services
- Certificate III in Make-Up

Sport & Recreation

- Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics & Recreation*

Hospitality & Tourism

- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate II in Cookery / Kitchen Operations
- Certificate II in Tourism

Aviation

- Diploma Of Aviation (Partial)*

**hosted at Brentwood Secondary College*



Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

What is the ATAR?

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is an overall percentile rank reflecting a student's Year 12 achievement compared to the age group in a given year.

The ATAR allows tertiary institutions to competitively rank students who have completed different combinations of VCE studies.

It is calculated by VTAC **solely** for use by institutions for admission into some tertiary courses.

The ATAR is reported as a number between 0.00 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05. A student with an ATAR of 75.00 has achieved VCE results above 75 per cent of the Year 12 age group.

How is the ATAR calculated?

1. Study scores → scaled scores

- Each subject is marked out of 50.
- Scores are scaled up or down depending on how competitive the subject is.

2. Your ATAR uses:

- English (any English) – *must be included*
- Your next best 3 subjects
 - These four scores make your Primary Four
- 10% of your 5th subject
- 10% of your 6th subject (if you do one)

3. Add them together → ATAR aggregate

- This is a number out of roughly 210.

4. Aggregate → ATAR rank

- The VCAA converts your aggregate into a rank from 0.00 to 99.95.
- It shows how you performed compared to all other Year 12 students in Victoria.

Your best 4 subjects count the most.

Your 5th and 6th subjects add a small bonus.

Then you're ranked against the state to get your ATAR.

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Scaling

What is scaling?

Scaling adjusts study scores so that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged based on the subjects they choose. Some subjects attract more competitive groups of students, so VTAC scales scores to make them fair across all studies.

Why are study scores scaled?

Scaling helps universities compare students fairly, no matter which combination of subjects they take.

When are scores scaled?

Scores are always scaled in the year you completed the subject, which may be different from the year you receive your ATAR.

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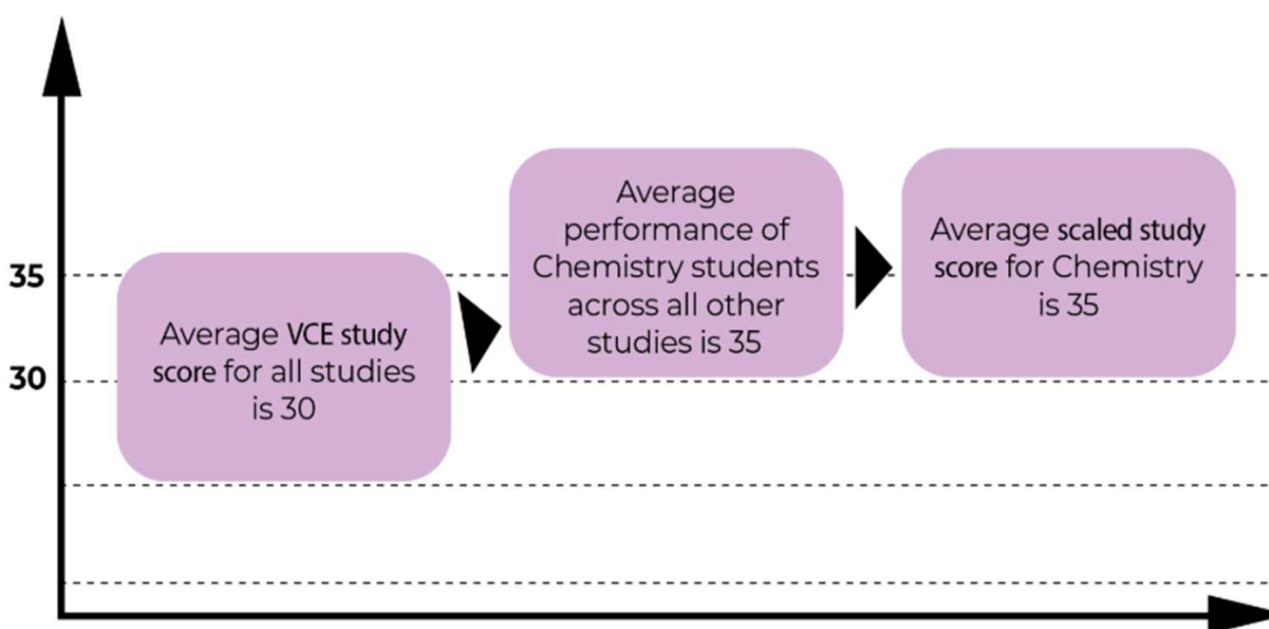
Scaling

How study scores are scaled

1. VCAA sends your study scores (out of 50) to VTAC.
2. Every subject is standardised so the average score is 30.
3. VTAC checks how competitive each subject was by looking at how students in that subject performed in their other subjects.
4. If a subject had a stronger cohort, scores are scaled up.
5. If a subject had a less competitive cohort, scores are scaled down.
6. These adjusted numbers are called scaled study scores, and they are the scores used to calculate the ATAR.

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The basics of scaling: an example



Note: This diagram uses simplified figures and processes for the purpose of clarity. Refer to the details elsewhere in this publication and on the VTAC website for more details about the scaling process.

1. The average **VCE study score** for all studies is 30. Therefore, Chemistry VCE study scores are calculated with a fixed average of 30.
2. VTAC analyses the performance of Chemistry students in all their other studies, and calculates their overall average—across all their studies. In this example Chemistry students' overall average is 35.
3. Because the overall average for Chemistry students is higher than 30, we can see that it was harder for Chemistry students to obtain the average (or above) in Chemistry than it was in their other studies. This means, to be fair, the average for Chemistry needs to be adjusted to the new average of 35.
4. All Chemistry study scores are recalculated around the average of 35, producing **scaled study scores** for the study.

Year	Study	Study Score	Scaled Score	2023 Aggregate Contribution
2023	English	31	28.94	28.94
2023	Health and Human Development	40	37.25	37.25
2022	Psychology	34	32.25	32.25
2023	Business Management	35	31.99	31.99
2023	Visual Communication Design	35	32.03	3.20
2023	Maths: General Mathematics	28	25.41	2.54
Aggregate				136.17
Aggregate converted to an ATAR of				80.30

Year	Study	Study Score	Scaled Score	2023 Aggregate Contribution
2023	English	17	14.07	14.07
2023	Languages: Chinese Second Language	28	39.20	39.20
2023	Maths: Specialist Mathematics	17	23.59	23.59
2023	Algorithmics (HESS)	18	23.02	23.02
2022	Accounting	18	17.53	1.75
2023	Physics	17	17.30	1.73
Aggregate				103.36
Aggregate converted to an ATAR of				57.15



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