

The Victorian Senior Secondary Certificates are changing!

From 2023 there will be **more senior secondary certificate options** for students in Victorian schools so that all students have access to the pathways that will set them up for a successful post-school transition.

Students will be able to choose between the **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)** and the new **VCE Vocational Major**.

Why are the certificates changing?

The changes will give all students the opportunity to develop a learning journey that meets their needs, based on what they are interested in, with clear pathways to further studies and employment.

The changes will ensure vocational and applied learning in secondary schools is high quality, relevant, and accessible to ALL government school students across Victoria.

What is the VCE Vocational Major?

- The VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) is a new program within the VCE and will replace Intermediate/Senior VCAL from 2023.
- The VCE VM will prepare students to transition successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (through non- ATAR pathways) or directly into employment.
- The VCE VM integrates the best elements from VCE and VCAL, ensuring more Victorian students have access to high-quality **vocational and applied learning pathways**.
- The VCE VM sets students up to thrive in a modern economy by providing a holistic education that develops technical, employability and social skills, including a Vocational Education & Training (VET) course.

The VCE VM will prepare students to transition successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (through non- ATAR pathways) or directly into employment.

Year 11 & 12 Pathways 2023

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

- no change to current VCE subjects or assessment
- Australian Qualifications Framework Level 2-3
- Standards based assessment, and external examinations, leading to an ATAR

VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)

- a new program within the VCE
- replaces Intermediate and Senior VCAL
- Australian Qualifications Framework Level 2-3
- Standards based assessment, no external examinations, no ATAR

Source: Adapted from VCAA
<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/notices/2022/Notice1-2022-Slides-SSCR-new-pathways-schools.pdf>

What is Vocational and Applied Learning?

The practice of **vocational and applied learning (VAL)** is deeply embedded within the new VCE VM. VAL connects students to life outside the classroom, giving them more independence and motivating them to become responsible for their own learning. Students apply skills and knowledge in practical settings.

VAL will support the further development of key attributes and skills including:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Self-motivation and time management
- Creative thinking
- Problem solving

What is Vocational Education and Training (VET)?

VET courses are **nationally accredited qualifications** which aim to provide students with the skills and knowledge for particular careers. School students can do a VET qualification as part of their senior secondary certificate, including as part of the VCE where they can also **contribute towards a student's ATAR**.

All students enrolled in the VCE VM will do a VET course as part of their program.

As well as doing VET as part of the VCE or VCE VM, school students may also gain a VET qualification through a **School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT)**, or as an apprentice or trainee through the Head Start program. This way, young people can **kick start the careers they want before they even finish school!**

There are lots of **benefits** to undertake a VET course at school such as:

- Learn real work skills
- Apply theory to practice
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst at school
- Get a step up into a career pathway straight from school
- Get a job in the field you're interested in while undertaking further study

If you are a VCE VM student, or if you do not achieve the ATAR you need, undertaking a VET/TAFE qualification can provide an alternative pathway to university. (Source: VCAA)

More than half of all new jobs projected to be created by 2022 will be achievable with a VET qualification. (Source: VCAA)

How does this change impact my child?

It is recommended that all students should seek advice from their school career practitioner to discuss which pathway is best for them.

If your child is planning on doing VCE in 2023 or 2024, there will be no changes to your child's education.

If your child is interested in the VCE VM in 2023, they will be able to access the new subjects and may be able to access some VCE units as part of their program.

VET graduates often have a higher initial earning capacity than university graduates

VET and TAFE is not just about trades and apprenticeships – there are hundreds of different qualifications in different areas such as music, game design, nursing, engineering and visual arts

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

- Your school's VCE, VET and Senior Years leaders
- Your school's careers practitioner
- Websites that have further information:
 - Senior Secondary Reforms
- <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/victorianseniorsecondarycertificatereform>
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/senior-secondary-reforms.aspx>
 - The Firth Review
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/vcal-pathways-review.aspx>
- The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) will be running webinars for parents & students on the new VCE VM in the second half of 2022. Further details will be provided when they are available.