



aitken
COLLEGE
In Mind and Spirit

Accelerated Studies Booklet 2026

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Welcome

Welcome to the exciting journey of selecting your Senior School pathway! It is a pivotal moment filled with both anticipation and a hint of apprehension. The decisions you make now hold the power to shape your post-school pathways and future career trajectories. Rest assured; you are not alone in this endeavour.

Here at Aitken College, a dedicated team is poised to support you every step of the way. From the Head of Year, Careers Counsellors to the Deputy Head of Secondary, Director of Secondary Pathways, and Heads of Faculty, along with your trusted subject teachers, a wealth of guidance and expertise is at your disposal.

This handbook is tailored for Year 9 students and their parents/guardians, to guide them through the decision-making process of choosing an accelerated VCE Subject for 2026. Within these pages, you will discover comprehensive details about the VCE structure and curriculum. The accelerated VCE subjects, provide an opportunity for highly motivated and capable students to undertake VCE studies ahead of the usual schedule. These subjects allow students to deepen their understanding in particular areas of interest and challenge themselves academically.

To participate in an accelerated VCE subject, students need to demonstrate strong academic performance, self-motivation and a readiness to take on the increased workload. Students and parents should carefully consider the commitment involved and seek advice from teachers and Careers Counsellors to ensure it aligns with the student's goals and capabilities.

As you navigate through this process, remember to engage in open discussions with your teachers and parents and seek clarification on any queries you may have. Your final decision should reflect your interests, strengths, and the necessary prerequisites for your chosen post-school pathway. Embrace this opportunity to carve out a path that aligns with your aspirations and ambitions.

Melissa D'Amico

Assistant Principal (Learning & Innovation)



Section A

Course Options
Requirements
Guidelines
Advice

Key Dates for Selection

Date	Activity
Monday 28 July	Information session at Dunhelen Assembly
Monday 28 July	Applications open
Friday 8 August	Final day to submit an application
End of August	Letter of offer sent to students/parents

Year 11 & 12 Course Selection

In planning an academic program for Years 11 and 12, students should consider:

- Personal interests
- Educational strengths and learning styles
- Future career pathways
- Tertiary entrance requirements

Experience has shown that if a student has not been successful in a subject in Year 10 or Year 11 then the prospect of success in continuing similar subjects is low.

Students who undertake a subject they have previously found difficult can lose confidence in themselves and their other subjects often suffer as well.

The relevance of a subject to a career

Some tertiary courses *require* that students have undertaken certain units; these are known as prerequisite subjects. The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) will publish details of tertiary entrance requirements early in Term 3. All students and parents are advised to consult these requirements and discuss them with the Careers Counsellor.

The career aspirations of students need to be realistic. It is important for parents and students to understand that the ability of a student to undertake a subject competently is as important as career aspirations.

Planning Your Pathway

Your Senior School pathway describes your choices in education, training or employment after Year 10. In education, it consists of a collection of studies put together to deliver the requirements for a senior school certificate.

Vocational Education & Training (VET) studies can be included in both VCE pathways. Before you decide about your Senior School program you will need to spend time investigating each of the pathways and what they have to offer.

Your chosen course should:

- Fulfil the specific requirements of the VCE in the number and range of units required
- Allow you to successfully complete the VCE
- Provide you with a viable pathway with choices post-secondary school

When planning your VCE:

- Consider the subject areas you enjoy
- Think carefully about the subject areas you are good at
- Seek advice and talk to a variety of people about your interests and further studies
- Carefully read this Accelerated Studies Booklet
- Research the courses which interest you and check whether there are any prerequisite subjects (<https://vtac.edu.au/before/guides/y10guide>)
- Investigate your career options to ensure your choices will help you reach your goal (use the myfuture website: www.myfuture.edu.au)
- Consult Careers Counsellors

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

VCE students are awarded the VCE Certificate and receive a Study Score for each subject and an ATAR score. VCE students can apply for direct entry to university courses with their ATAR score.

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) offers a broad range of study options. You can choose a variety of studies that let you explore your interests and pursue your goals. Unit 1 and 2 subjects are usually studied in Year 11, and Unit 3 and 4 subjects are usually studied in Year 12. A very small number of academically able students may be invited to undertake a Unit 1 and 2 sequence in Year 10.

Completing the VCE can give you an ATAR score, offering a direct pathway to university.

The VCE can take you in many different directions after school and is a great choice if you prefer learning in a classroom environment and know you might want to go to university right after school.

The academic year is divided into two semesters. A Unit 1 and 2 sequence is equivalent to one year of study in a particular subject.

VCE Units have been designed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). All VCE Units taken at Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 are recorded on the VCE Certificate. The units offered at Year 11 level will generally be Units 1 and 2 in each study. In Year 12, students will take Unit 3 and 4 sequences of their chosen studies. **Note: Only Units 3 and 4 are used in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).** Please refer to page 11 for further information.

Where it can take you

The VCE will prepare you for:

- university
- an apprenticeship or traineeship
- further education and training
- going straight into the workforce.

Your VCE subject options

To obtain the VCE, you need to successfully complete at least 16 units. These need to include:

- 3 sequences of Unit 3 and 4 subjects
- 3 units from an English subject group (including Unit 3 and 4).
- Most students do their VCE over 2 years, completing between 20 and 24 units.

Programs of Study: VCE

In Year 11, all students are expected to undertake six studies (twelve units) including two units of English which are compulsory. Approval from the Head of Faculty is required in order to study Literature or English Language without English.

In Year 12, students will be expected to undertake five studies (ten units). The English requirement of a Unit 3/4 sequence can be English Units 3 and 4 and/or Literature or English Language Units 3 and 4. Approval from the Head of Faculty is required in order to study Literature or English Language without English.

VCE Subject Offerings Policy

Each year the number and range of subjects offered to students in Years 11 and 12 are determined by a range of factors that may include (but are not limited to) student enrolment, student/teacher ratio, student choice, viable class size, teacher availability, pre-existing offerings and VCAA policy.

Additionally, the following school policy will apply:

- The Principal will decide the number of subjects to be offered and the number of viable classes
- Providing there is a viable class size, subjects which have been undertaken in Year 11 in one year will be offered in Year 12 the following year
- The minimum class size for a subject to be viable shall be set by the Principal
- For subjects where there is enrolment of less than minimum class size, a combined Year 11/12 class may be considered
- Students who select subjects which do not run due to low numbers will be counselled to choose an alternative.

Satisfactory completion of the VCE

At Aitken College, students would generally undertake 22 VCE units of study across Year 11 and 12. To attain the VCE, a student must satisfactorily complete 16 units. These 16 units must include:

- At least three units of English studies (including at least one Unit 3/4 English sequence); and
- Three sequences of Units 3 and 4 studies other than English.

To qualify for an ATAR, students **must** also pass **both** units of a Unit 3/4 sequence in an English subject.

Assessment in the VCE

For all studies, the College will decide whether a student satisfactorily completes a unit by achieving the relevant learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are what students must know, or be able to do, by the time they have finished a unit. The College will set assessment tasks to monitor student progress. When a student has achieved a satisfactory or unsatisfactory result for Units 1 to 4, the College will report these results to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

Units 1 and 2 Assessment

Each unit of study will use specific work tasks to determine the assessment of outcomes. For any particular outcome, more than one work task is usually required in order to demonstrate achievement of the outcome via the understanding of key knowledge and the demonstration of key skills. To gain satisfactory completion of a unit, students must satisfactorily demonstrate the achievement of each of the stipulated outcomes.

In Year 11, the level of achievement of work tasks or outcomes will be reported by grade levels; A+ to E, UG (Ungraded) or NA (Not Assessed).

Work tasks can include:

- Practical activities
- Questions and problems
- Tests
- The design and implementation of field-based investigations
- Short reports of investigations, written or oral
- Presentation of practical reports in non-text formats such as a poster or multimedia format
- Oral presentations
- Use of computer software and/or applications such as spreadsheets to record and analyse data
- Assignments
- Folio of exercises
- Construction and simulation of models for structures
- Concept maps
- Data analyses
- Media analyses
- Case study analyses

Units 3 and 4 Assessment

For Units 3 and 4 there are additional forms of assessment where grades will be awarded. These graded assessments are either school assessments or examinations. Each study has three graded assessments over Units 3 and 4—either two school assessments and one examination or one school assessment and two examinations.

There are two forms of school assessment:

- School Assessed Coursework (SACs) which assess performance on tasks specified in the study designs. These tasks are done mainly in class time or in supervised sessions after school.
- School Assessed Tasks (SATs), which will be the same for every school, where the specifications are set by VCAA, but the content is determined by the College.

VCAA specifies how marks are awarded for these assessments. The teacher assesses the work and a score is sent to VCAA. Some form of moderation/checking is undertaken to ensure comparability between schools.

External examinations are set and marked by VCAA.

Results for each graded assessment are reported as a grade from A+ to E, UG (Ungraded) or NA (Not Assessed). The final marks given by VCAA for each of the three assessments are used to determine the Study Score, which is then used to calculate the ATAR.

A Study Score is determined by the examination and school assessment results. It indicates the student's performance in comparison with others enrolled in the same study across all schools in Victoria. This will usually be a numerical mark out of 50, with the distribution of marks reflecting a mean of 30 and a standard deviation of 7.

Where there is more than one class of a Unit 3 and 4 study, students will have after school assessments to ensure that all students studying the subject are tested under identical conditions.

Reporting results

At the end of Year 11, VCAA will provide students with a 'statement of results' that states whether they have satisfactorily completed their units of study. In addition, student reports will be distributed by the College.

When you finish your studies in Year 12, you will get:

- an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) score (if you meet the requirements).
- a Statement of Results from the VCAA which includes school assessed coursework and examination and GAT results.
- a Statement of Attainment from your TAFE (if you completed any VET units).
- your VET qualification (if you completed one).
- your Victorian Certificate of Education.
- Students who do not complete the certificate will receive a Student Achievement Profile summary that lists all their achievements.
- All students studying Unit 3 and 4 subjects are required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). Students will be given a score that will be reported on a statement from VCAA. The GAT is used for moderation of School Assessed Coursework (SACs) and School Assessed Tasks (SATs) to ensure that standards across schools are comparable. It is also used as part of the calculation for Derived Examination Scores.

The ATAR: Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

The ATAR serves as a basis for selection into Australian Universities and TAFE institutions. The ATAR will place students on a percentile ranking, with 99.95 being the highest rank. The rank will be used by all courses for which applicants are selected based on VCE results.

For each study, the Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) will scale the study score. An aggregate will then be calculated taking the score for English, then the scores for the best three other studies and 10% of the scores for the fifth and sixth studies. **This aggregate will be ranked on a 'percentile' basis for all VCE students in the State.**

The Tertiary Selection Process

Students applying for tertiary courses will be selected using their ATAR or using a combination of selection criteria to make final decisions.

Generally, where selection is by ATAR, students will be considered based on:

- Completion of course pre-requisites; and
- Their equivalent national tertiary entrance rank; and
- Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application, Subject Bonus and VTAC Personal Statement (where applicable).

Where selection uses criteria in addition to, or other than, the ATAR, students may be selected based on one or more of the following:

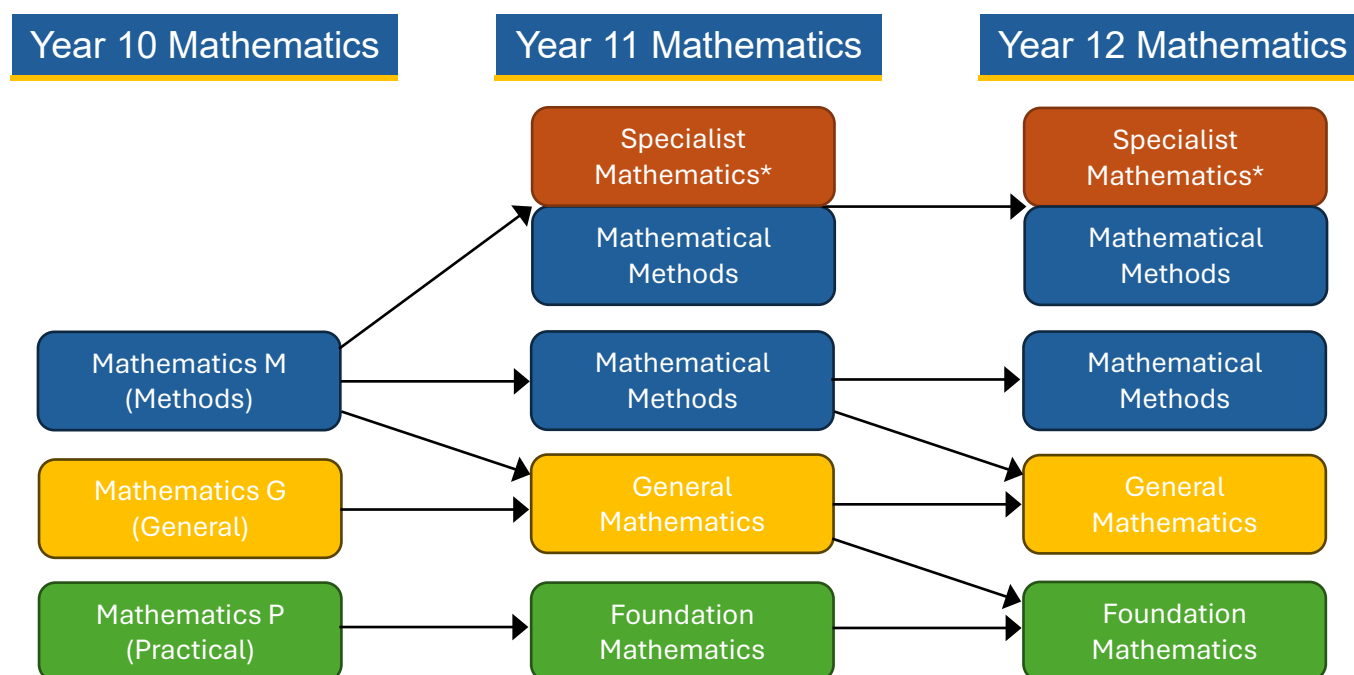
- Completion of course pre-requisites
- Their ATAR
- Pre-selection kit
- Folio presentation
- Audition
- Application form

- Interview; and/or
- Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application, Subject Bonus and VTAC Personal Statement (where applicable)

VCE Mathematics Pathways

VCE Mathematics Pathways

Please use the diagram below to help you understand the VCE Maths subject options and how they connect to each other. Careers Counsellors will be able to provide more information if needed during your careers interview.



*Specialist Mathematics must be taken in conjunction with Mathematical Methods.

Section B

Subject Information

2026 Provisional Accelerated Subject Offerings for Year 9 students

Below is a list of the subject offerings for Year 11 acceleration. Subjects are confirmed after applications close.

The subject offerings **are provisional** and are subject to timetabling.

Commerce

VCE Business Management Units 1-2

Health & Physical Education

VCE Health and Human Development Units 1-2

Humanities

VCE Sociology Units 1-2

Mathematics

VCE General Mathematics Units 1-2

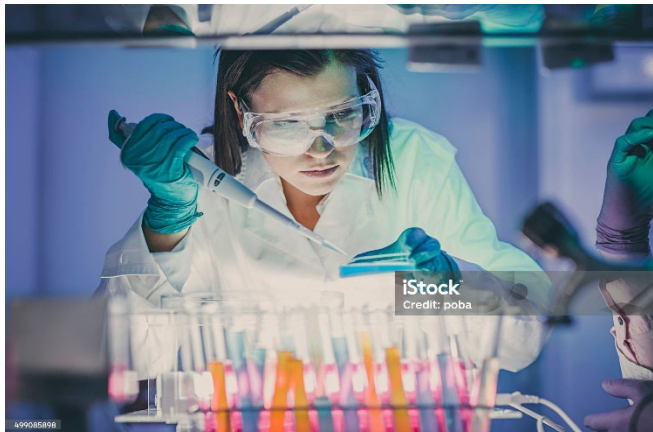
Science

VCE Biology Units 1-2

VCE Psychology Units 1-2

Biology

Head of Faculty: Sherry Daniel
sdaniel@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

The study of Biology explores the diversity of life as it has evolved and changed over time and considers how living organisms function and interact. It explores the processes of life, from the molecular world of the cell to that of the whole organism and examines how life forms maintain and ensure their continuity.

Occupations:

Food science, Sport science, Marine biology, Veterinary science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Optometry, Medicine, Botanist, Geneticist. Pharmacist.

Unit 1 – 2 Biology:

Prerequisites: None

Unit 1: How do organisms regulate their functions?

- Area of Study 1: How do cells function?
- Area of Study 2: How do plant and animal systems function?
- Area of Study 3: How do scientific investigations develop understanding of how organisms regulate their functions?

Unit 2: How does inheritance impact on diversity?

- Area of Study 1: How is inheritance explained?
- Area of Study 2: How do inherited adaptations impact on diversity?
- Area of Study 3: How do humans use science to explore and communicate contemporary bioethical issues?

Summative Assessment tasks (%)

- School Assessed Coursework
- Written Reports
- Practical Reports
- Structured Questions

Examinations (%)

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 Biology:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Unit 1 – 2 Biology will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Unit 3 – 4 Biology.

Unit 3: How do cells maintain life?

- Area of Study 1: What is the role of nucleic acids and proteins in maintaining life?
- Area of Study 2: How are biochemical pathways regulated?

Unit 4: How does life change and respond to challenges?

- Area of Study 1: How do organisms respond to pathogens?
- Area of Study 2: How are species related over time?
- Area of Study 3: How is scientific inquiry used to investigate cellular processes and/or biological change?

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (50%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (50%)
 - 2.5-hour examination

[Click here to download the VCAA Study Design](#)

Business Management

Head of Faculty: Gabriella Raponi
graponi@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

The VCE Business Management Study Design follows the process from the initial idea for a business concept, to planning and establishing a business, through to the day-to-day management of a business. It also considers changes that need to be made to ensure the continued success of a business. Students develop an understanding of the complexity of the challenges facing decision-makers in managing businesses and their resources.

Occupations:

Business Analyst, Human Resources Manager, Event Manager, Entrepreneur, General Manager, Small Business Owner.

Unit 1 – 2 Business Management:

Prerequisites: None

Unit 1: Planning a business

- Area of Study 1: The business idea
- Area of Study 2: External environment
- Area of Study 3: Internal environment

Unit 2: Establishing a business

- Area of Study 1: Legal requirements and financial considerations
- Area of Study 2: Marketing a business
- Area of Study 3: Staffing a business

Summative Assessment tasks (%)

- School Assessed Coursework
- Written Reports
- Structured Questions

Examinations (%)

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 Business Management:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Unit 1 – 2 Business Management will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Unit 3 – 4 Business Management.

Unit 3: Managing a business

- Area of Study 1: Business foundations
- Area of Study 2: Managing employees
- Area of Study 3: Operations management

Unit 4: Transforming a business

- Area of Study 1: Reviewing performance - the need for change
- Area of Study 2: Implementing change

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (50%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (50%)
 - 2-hour examination

[Click here to download the VCAA Study Design](#)

General Mathematics

Head of Faculty: Savita Hanspal
shanspal@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

General Mathematics caters for a range of student interests and focus on real-life application of mathematics. In undertaking these units, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational and real arithmetic, sets, lists, tables and matrices, diagrams, networks, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, recurrence relations, equations, and graphs.

Occupations:

Aviation, ICT, Health Science, Teaching.

Unit 1 – 2 General Mathematics:

Prerequisites: Year 10 General Mathematics or Mathematical Methods.

Unit 1 and 2:

- Area of Study 1: Data analysis, probability and statistics
- Area of Study 2: Algebra, number and structure
- Area of Study 3: Functions, relations and graphs
- Area of Study 4: Discrete mathematics

Summative Assessment tasks (%)

- School Assessed Coursework including open-ended assessments.

Examinations (%)

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 General Mathematics:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Unit 1 – 2 General Mathematics will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Unit 3 – 4 General Mathematics.

Unit 3 and 4:

- Area of Study 1: Data analysis, probability and statistics
- Area of Study 2: Discrete Mathematics (including Recursion and Financial Modelling, Matrices and Graphs and Networks).

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (40%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (60%)
 - 2 x 90-minute examinations

[Click here to download the VCAA Study Design](#)

Health and Human Development

Head of Faculty: Julie Watcher

jwatcher@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

VCE Health and Human Development provides students with broad understandings of health and wellbeing that reach far beyond the individual. Students learn how important health and wellbeing is to themselves and to families, communities, nations and global society. Students explore the complex interplay of biological, sociocultural and environmental factors that support and improve health and wellbeing and those that put it at risk.

Occupations:

Nurse, Social Worker, Dietician.

Unit 1 – 2 Health and Human Development:

Prerequisites: None

Unit 1: Understanding health and wellbeing

- Area of Study 1: Concepts of health
- Area of Study 2: Youth Health and Wellbeing
- Area of Study 3: Health and nutrition

Unit 2: Managing health and development

- Area of Study 1: Developmental transitions
- Area of Study 2: Youth health literacy

Summative Assessment tasks

- School Assessed Coursework
- Case Studies

Examinations

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 Health and Human Development:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Unit 1 – 2 Health and Human Development will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Unit 3 – 4 Health and Human Development.

Unit 3: Australia's health in a globalised world

- Area of Study 1: Understanding health and wellbeing
- Area of Study 2: Promoting health in Australia

Unit 4: Health and human development in a global context

- Area of Study 1: Global health and human development
- Area of Study 2: Health and the Sustainable Development Goals

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (50%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (50%)
 - 2-hour examination

[Click here to view VCAA Study Design](#)

Psychology

Head of Faculty: Sherry Daniel
sdaniel@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

VCE Psychology is designed to enable students to explore the complex interactions between thought, emotions, and behaviour. They develop an insight into biological, psychological, and social factors and the key science skills that underpin much of psychology. VCE Psychology is designed to promote students' understanding of how society applies such skills and psychological concepts to resolve problems and make scientific advancements. The study is designed to promote students' confidence and their disposition to use the information they learn in the study in everyday situations.

Occupations:

Psychologist, Social Worker, Counsellor

Unit 1 – 2 Psychology:

Prerequisites:

- Completion of Year 10 Science

Unit 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

- Area of Study 1: What influences psychological development?
- Area of Study 2: How are mental processes and behaviour influenced by the brain?
- Area of Study 3: How does contemporary psychology conduct and validate psychological research?

Unit 2: How do internal and external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?

- Area of Study 1: How are people influenced to behave in particular ways?
- Area of Study 2: What influences a person's perception of the world?
- Area of Study 3: How do scientific investigations develop understanding of influences on perception and behaviour?

Summative Assessment tasks

- School Assessed Coursework

Examinations

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 Psychology:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Unit 1 – 2 Psychology will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Unit 3 – 4 Psychology.

Unit 3: How does experience affect behaviour and mental processes?

- Area of Study 1: How does the nervous system enable psychological functioning?
- Area of Study 2: How do people learn and remember?

Unit 4: How is mental wellbeing supported and maintained?

- Area of Study 1: How does sleep affect mental processes and behaviour?
- Area of Study 2: What influences mental wellbeing?
- Area of Study 3: How is scientific inquiry used to investigate mental processes and psychological functioning?

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (50%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (50%)
 - 2.5-hour examination

[Click here to download the VCAA Study Design](#)

Sociology

Head of Faculty: Gabriella Raponi
graponi@aitkencollege.edu.au



Subject Rationale:

VCE Sociology is an ideal choice for passionate and socially conscious students who are interested in working with diverse communities, promoting social justice, and creating positive change in society. The subject offers students the opportunity to explore a wide range of fascinating topics that affect us all, from the impact of social media on our lives to the reasons why some groups in society continue to face discrimination and inequality today.

Beyond this, one of the most exciting parts of studying Sociology is the chance to conduct your own research. You will learn how to design surveys, collect and analyse data, and conduct interviews, which will equip you with valuable skills to investigate real-world issues and make a difference in people's lives.

Occupations:

Criminologist, Lawyer, Police Officer, Youth Justice Worker, Social Worker, Forensic Psychologist, Private Investigator, Teacher

Unit 1 – 2 Sociology:

Prerequisites: None

Unit 1: Youth and family

- Area of Study 1: Category and experience of youth
- Area of Study 2: The family

Unit 2: Deviance and crime

- Area of Study 1: Deviance
- Area of Study 2: Crime

Summative Assessment tasks

- Film analysis
- Structured questions
- Research reports

Examinations

A 90-minute end of semester examination

Unit 3 - 4 Sociology:

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated ability to reach the College requirements in Units 1 – 2.
- Students who have not successfully achieved a satisfactory result for Unit 1 or 2 are required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance.
- Students who have not completed Units 1 – 2 Sociology will be required to apply to the VCE Pathways team for acceptance into Units 3 – 4 Sociology.

Unit 3: Culture and ethnicity

- Area of Study 1: Australian Indigenous cultures
- Area of Study 2: Ethnicity

Unit 4: Community, social movements and social change

- Area of Study 1: Community
- Area of Study 2: Social movements and social change

Assessment

Unscored Assessment: S or N

Scored Assessment:

- School Assessment (50%)
 - School Assessed Coursework (SAC) structured questions
- External Assessment (50%)
 - 2-hour examination

[Click here to download the VCAA Study Design](#)

How to apply for an accelerated subject for 2026

Students are required to reflect on their learning journey in Semester One to determine if they have met the criteria listed below:

- The Approaches to Learning in all subject areas have been met to at least a 2 or 3
- An attendance record of 90%
- An overall result of an 'A' grade in every subject for Semester One 2025
- Recommendation from the Subject Teacher based on achievement in the related subject area

All applications will be reviewed by the Assistant Principal (Secondary), Mr Graham, the Director of Secondary Pathways (Mr Inturrisi) and the relevant Head of Faculty.

Students must submit an online application form to be considered to study a Unit 1 and 2 subject in 2026.

Follow the link below to complete the application:

<https://forms.office.com/r/dctHC8z3wU>

The closing date for applications is Friday 8 August 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Victorian Certificate of Education?

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is typically taken over a two-year period delivering a qualification and result which can be the basis for entry into tertiary courses. Subjects are delivered via a unit system with Units 1-2 usually delivered in Year 11 and Units 3-4 taken by students in Year 12. It is the Unit 3-4 sequences which are externally assessed for the purpose of generating an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

What is the Accelerated Studies Program?

This program provides your child the opportunity to commence a VCE sequence earlier than normal by attempting Units 1-2 during Year 10 with the possibility of completing the corresponding Units 3-4 during Year 11.

What subjects are being offered?

Biology, Business Management, General Mathematics, Health and Human Development, Psychology and Sociology are currently available. Places in classes will be subject to a successful application process.

What are the benefits of the program?

In the first year of the program, capable Year 10 students work with Year 11 students which can be challenging and stimulating. During the second year of the program your Year 11 child would undertake Unit 3-4 studies alongside Year 12 students. Consequently, accelerated students are exposed earlier to the demands of the VCE in terms of time management, exam techniques and general study expectation which can be very beneficial. Completion of a Unit 3-4 sequence in Year 11 also allows for the possibility of a University Extension Study in the discipline during Year 12. This would also contribute to the student's ATAR.

How will this program affect the rest of the student's program?

The subjects offered as part of the Accelerated Studies Program will be blocked on the timetable against Year 10 electives. As a consequence, if you accept a position in the program your child will participate in two (2) rather than (4) Year 10 electives. Electives provide a way of exposing students to different subject areas and students generally appreciate the opportunity to 'customise' their course based on interest and ability. This opportunity is reduced.

How much additional work will be required?

Year 10 students attempting Units 1-2 would be required to complete all set work in the subject and a further 2.5-3.0 hours per week. A Year 11 student completing a Unit 3-4 sequence would generally need to devote 3.0-3.5 hours per week to the subject in addition to the completion of all work set. These are guidelines only and individual subject teachers will indicate more specific requirements.

What happens if my child no longer wishes to participate in the Accelerated Studies Program?

After commencing the program, a student may decide they do not wish to continue. A possible exit point would be at the end of Semester One when having completed Unit 1, the student could revert back to the full Year 10 elective program. Other students may choose to complete both Units 1-2 whilst in Year 10 but not continue with Units 3-4 the following year. It is also possible that the student may complete Units 1-2 whilst in Year 10 but prefer to wait until Year 12 to tackle the corresponding Units 3-4. In this scenario the student would cease to be part of the Accelerated Studies Program, as they would be completing Units 3-4 in the 'normal' timeframe.

How long has this system been operating?

Many Aitken College students have successfully 'accelerated' through the VCE over the last 10 years.

Who will teach my child?

Experienced VCE teachers deliver the program.

Glossary

ASSESSMENT TASKS	Pieces of work which are undertaken over a designated period of time or as an examination which are graded to determine the student's level of proficiency.
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank. A rank that is generated from a student's VCE results (study scores). This rank is used by most tertiary institutions as a tool for selection purposes.
GAT	General Achievement Test. A general knowledge examination undertaken by all students who are studying any Unit 3/4 sequence. The GAT is used by VCAA as a means of verifying grades. It also becomes particularly important when a student is unable to sit an end of year exam(s).
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Learning Outcomes are the basis for satisfactory completion of VCE units. There are two to four Learning Outcomes per unit. Learning Outcomes define what students will know and be able to do as a result of undertaking a study.
PREREQUISITE SUBJECTS	These are VCE units that must be satisfactorily completed before the student is eligible for selection into specific tertiary courses. Students should check prerequisites with the relevant institutions before finalising their VCE course selection.
SAC	School Assessed Coursework. This refers to assessment tasks that are specified in a study design and set by class teachers which students must complete satisfactorily. This work is completed in class and assessed by your teacher.
SAT	School Assessed Tasks. These are completed in subjects that produce a product or model. This Unit 3/4 work receives a grade from A+ to UG, based on the quality of the work. The work is marked internally, according to VCAA specifications, and is confirmed externally.
STUDY	A VCE subject (usually Units 1 – 4).
STUDY SCORE	A score (usually 0 – 50) which sums up the student's total achievement in all work set in each study, relative to all other students doing that same study. It is based on school assessments and examinations. It only applies to results from Units 3 and 4.
UNIT	A self-contained study of one semester.
VCAA	Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The body that administers the VCE and awards study scores.
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education. A senior school certificate based on mainly theoretical learning. The VCE offers a broad range of study options and the ATAR.
VCE VOCATIONAL MAJOR PATHWAY	A senior school certificate based on mainly practical learning
VET	Vocational Education and Training. Industry endorsed programs that enable students to obtain joint VCE and TAFE qualifications. The VET subjects offered at Aitken all have scored assessment tasks with an end of year exam, giving the student a study score and contributing to the ATAR.
VTAC	Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre. This organisation administers applications for entry to most tertiary institutions post-Year 12, scales the study scores and converts them to an ATAR.

Further Information

Click on the links below to access further information about VCE as well as useful careers websites.

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority www.vcaa.vic.edu.au	Administers the Victorian Certificate of Education.
Myfuture www.myfuture.edu.au	A comprehensive site that gives students and their parents information on occupations, industries, scholarships, courses, careers etc. There are videos, quizzes, and a mini career explorer to help you narrow down your options.
The Good Universities Guide www.gooduniguide.com.au	Assists young people to make informed decisions about university study in Australia. The guide contains information about what a degree is, what you can study and where, and it contains independent 5-star ratings and comparisons of courses and providers.
Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) www.qilt.edu.au/	This site is available to students who are interested in studying at university in the future. You will be able to search for courses, learn about universities, and explore alternative pathways.
VTAC Website www.vtac.edu.au/	Allows students to explore course options.

Where To Get Help



Mr Chris Graham

Assistant Principal (Secondary)

cgraham@aitkencollege.edu.au



Ms Abigail Bose

Deputy Head of Secondary (Middle School)

abose@aitkencollege.edu.au



Mr Christian Inturrisi

Director of Secondary Pathways

cinturrisi@aitkencollege.edu.au



Ms Clare Borg

Careers Counsellor

cborg@aitkencollege.edu.au



Ms Jo Miles

Careers Counsellor

jmiles@aitkencollege.edu.au



aitken
COLLEGE



1010 Mickleham Road
Greenvale VIC 3059



T 03 9333 9100
E admin@aitkencollege.edu.au



www.aitkencollege.edu.au

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