



CHOICE

2016

VCE studies and the ATAR in 2016

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About this publication

Choice is a companion to ***VICTER 2016***. ***Choice*** provides a snapshot of the tertiary education system for Year 10 students, explains the terms you need to be familiar with and debunks some of the myths commonly associated with choosing studies by using real-life examples.

Common misconceptions

Areas you may need explained when selecting your VCE studies are:

- how scaling works
- ‘easy’ and ‘hard’ studies
- why completing a VCE language or a mathematics study does not guarantee you a ‘high’ ATAR
- Higher Education studies.

Choice includes example VCE programs with a variety of study combinations showing that it is not which studies you choose that affect your ATAR, but how well you perform in those studies.

If you have any queries about this publication, talk to your VCE coordinator or careers teacher, see the VTAC website or telephone VTAC on 1300 364 133.

VTAC resources for students

VTAC CourseLink

VTAC CourseLink is a web-based information service available on the VTAC website.



You can register under student access by entering your email address, choosing a 4 digit PIN and planning a VCE program by selecting from the VCE studies available in a selection box.

You can save the program created and go back in using your login and PIN.

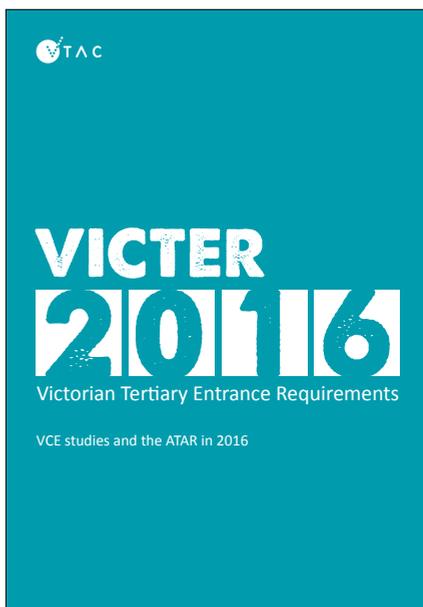
By developing your own sample VCE programs you can:

- compare VCE studies with course prerequisites for 2015 or 2016
- compare one VCE program with another
- sort tertiary course choices by region, area of interest or institution.

VICTER

VICTER is a publication in which institutions outline the VCE study requirements needed for entry into their courses in three years time. This advance information is vital for Year 10 students planning a VCE curriculum and a future tertiary direction.

VICTER is available on the VTAC website and is regularly updated so students have access to the most up to date information when choosing their VCE studies.



Other resources

Victorian Skills Gateway

TAFE and Training Line

Telephone 131 823 (8:30 - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday except public holidays)

Email tafe.courseline@edumail.vic.gov.au

Web www.education.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/

The Job Guide

Web www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au

Print version <http://hobsonsbookshop.com/collections/careers-information>

Youth

Web www.youth.gov.au

Youth Central

Email youthwebsite@dhs.vic.gov.au

Web www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au

So many choices

As a Year 10 student about to choose your VCE study program, the choices can seem a little overwhelming. There might be many questions you are asking yourself:

- How do I know what I will want to do in two years? Study? Work? Travel?
- What if I change my mind?
- How do I know which studies are going to suit my interests?
- How do I know which studies are best for me?
- What if I don't get a good ATAR, and what is a good ATAR?

It is important to realise that the decisions you make now are not binding for life. There are many avenues to tertiary study and/or the job you want. It doesn't hurt however to do some investigation and planning so that you give yourself the best opportunity to be happy with your choices in the long run.

Think about what you like, are good at and what field of study and/or work you are interested in pursuing. If you are interested in tertiary study then check out **VICTER 2016**, which lists the tertiary courses you will be able to choose from when you finish your Year 12 studies—these are tertiary courses that commence in 2016.

Even if you haven't made up your mind yet about tertiary study keep reading and use the information in this booklet to help you choose your VCE studies.

Understanding jargon

Sometimes the most confusing thing about making informed decisions is understanding the language used. The following definitions may provide you with some clarity.

Frequently used statements

Minimum tertiary entrance requirements

You must meet minimum tertiary entrance requirements for Victoria to be eligible for entry into courses (Certificate IV and above) through VTAC. To meet the minimum tertiary entrance requirements you must have satisfactorily completed the VCE or its equivalent, including the appropriate number of units, and have completed Units 3 and 4 of an English study in that sequence in the same year.

Course and institutional requirements

You must meet institutional and course requirements to be eligible for entry into a course. No matter how good your ATAR is, unless you also meet the prerequisites and complete the extra requirements you will not be considered by course selection officers for their courses.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite studies are those VCE studies that you must have successfully completed in order to qualify for a course. Courses with **Prerequisites** specify which VCE units are required. **VICTER 2016** lists the prerequisites required for the courses you will be applying for when you finish your VCE.

To stay up-to-date on any changes or additions to course information subscribe to our RSS Feed, VTAC Blog, Twitter or Facebook page.

Extra requirements

These are requirements set for a course—in addition to the VCE—that you must satisfy to be considered for selection.

Extra requirements for art and design courses at some institutions are published in their policy statements in **VICTER 2016**.

If you want a hint of what's to come, check out **Extra requirements** under the course information in CourseSearch on the VTAC website.

Middle band

Many courses specify additional factors that are considered for applicants whose ATAR falls in the middle band. The middle band is the ATAR range just below the minimum ATAR for automatic selection for a course.

Higher Education studies

The VCAA provides very able students the opportunity to undertake some approved Higher Education study as part of the VCE. These studies are recognised as Higher Education studies contributing to completion of the VCE. If you are undertaking such a study, it may count as an increment (fifth or sixth) study provided the conditions outlined in **VICTER 2016** are met.

Study groupings

There are many study groupings used in prerequisite, middle-band and ATAR calculation statements. English and mathematics are the most common. For a complete list refer to **VICTER 2016**.

Mathematics studies

Further Mathematics; Mathematical Methods (CAS); Specialist Mathematics; any Mathematics Higher Education study.

English studies

English; English (EAL); Literature; English Language; any English Higher Education study.

(VCE) VET studies

VET programs with Unit 3 and 4 sequences can contribute to the ATAR in two ways. VET sequences with scored assessment may be included in the calculation of the ATAR aggregate. VET studies with no scored assessment may be counted as fifth and/or sixth studies. The increment will be 10% of the average of the primary four ATAR scaled scores.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Like the VCE, the VCAL is a recognised senior qualification. The VCAL is another pathway to tertiary study. Students who undertake the VCAL are generally focused on training at TAFE, apprenticeships or getting a job after completing Year 12.

Terms associated with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

ATAR

The ATAR is an overall percentile ranking reflecting your comparative Year 12 achievement compared to the relevant age group in a given year. Your ATAR is developed from an aggregate of your VCE study scores after scaling. The aggregate is calculated by adding the scores of the primary four studies to a maximum of two available (and permissible) increments. To be eligible for an ATAR you need a minimum of four permissible scorable studies and have successfully completed the VCE.

ATAR calculations are subject to the restrictions outlined in *VICTER 2016*.

VCE Study score

A score from 0–50, determined by the VCAA, which shows how you performed in a study relative to all other students doing that same study. It is based on your results in school assessments and examinations.

Scaling

A VCE study score provides an indication of your relative performance in a particular study. Scaling adjusts for differences in abilities of students undertaking different studies, so that the scaled scores are comparable across different studies. It ensures that students are neither advantaged or disadvantaged on the basis of the studies they choose. All VCE study scores are scaled (see ABC of Scaling) by VTAC.

Restrictions on studies used in the ATAR calculation

Studies with similar emphasis or content may not be used in combination for the calculation of the ATAR. For a complete list of these restrictions, refer to *VICTER 2016*.

ATAR calculation

Primary four

The four studies that are counted first in the calculation of the ATAR. The primary four aggregate is made up of the scaled score in one of English, English (EAL), Literature or English Language added to the next best three permissible scaled scores.

Increments

An increment is 10% of any fifth and/or sixth permissible scaled score that is available. Increments are added to the primary four during the calculation of the ATAR.

Aggregate

The total produced by adding the primary four to a maximum of two available (and permissible) increments.

Who is responsible for what?



VTAC:

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) is the central office that administers the application and offer process for places in tertiary courses at university, TAFE and most independent tertiary colleges. VTAC receives and forwards application information and supporting documentation to the course selection authorities at institutions.

After selection decisions have been made, VTAC sends offer messages to applicants on the institutions' behalf.

- VTAC provides a central point of contact for applicants, by ensuring that relevant information is collated into one place and distributed to the institutions.
- VTAC calculates The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank and is responsible for scaling the VCE study scores into ATAR scaled scores.
- VTAC conducts online and face-to-face information sessions for secondary school students and their parents, careers teachers and adults returning to study.

Contact details:

Telephone: 1300 364 133

Email: www.vtac.edu.au/contact-us.html

Web: www.vtac.edu.au

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



VCAA:

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) administers the two Victorian senior secondary certificates. The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is awarded for the successful completion of secondary education and provides pathways into tertiary education, training and work. The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a practical work related certificate and provides pathways into training, apprenticeships and work.

Once your VCE and VET results have been issued, your study scores and grades are passed on to VTAC for the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Contact details:

Telephone: (03) 9032 1700

1800 134 197 (for country callers)

Email: vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au

Web: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Institutions and qualifications

Types of institutions

Universities, TAFE providers and independent tertiary colleges all offer courses through VTAC. There are also 14 independent tertiary colleges which administer their own applications and offers but promote their courses through VTAC. These institutions are listed in the VTAC Guide and in **VICTER 2016**.

Universities

...offer mainly 3-year and 4-year degree courses, although some offer diplomas, advanced diplomas, double degrees and honours programs of differing lengths. Many university courses have prerequisites.

Prerequisite studies for specific courses are listed in **VICTER 2016** and should be read closely when planning your VCE program. Students can use this information in VTAC CourseLink to plan their VCE program and work towards the course they would like to do.

TAFE providers

...offer certificate I–IV, diploma and advanced diploma courses. Most courses are offered either full-time or part-time. Some TAFE providers also offer Higher Education degree courses.

Many VET courses don't have prerequisites, so **VICTER 2016** provides an overview of the types of courses that can be undertaken at TAFE providers. Generally, TAFE courses offered through VTAC are post-Year 12 and include full-time certificate I–IV, diploma, advanced diploma and degree courses.

Independent Tertiary Colleges (ITCs)

...offer a range of courses including certificate, diploma, advanced diploma and degree courses.

Types of courses

Courses available to current Year 12 students through VTAC include bachelor degrees, associate degrees, advanced diplomas, diplomas and certificate I–IV courses.

A bachelor degree is an award for a three to four year completed tertiary course and associate degrees require at least two years full-time study.

Diplomas and advanced diplomas generally require at least two years full-time study although some offer an accelerated one year program.

Diplomas are designed to teach theoretical knowledge and improve technical and creative skills while certificate IV courses can be (but are not always) the first year qualification of a diploma and are largely focused on preparing students to go straight into the workforce.

Higher education courses

Higher education courses provide professional qualifications with an emphasis on theory and the development of transferable skills. Some courses are vocational, leading to careers in clearly identified areas while others are 'generalist' with no vocational skills component.

Vocational Education Training (VET) Courses

VET courses provide both professional and para-professional qualifications with an emphasis on practical skills and vocational outcomes that lead into higher level training, higher education or employment. A wide variety of study areas are offered.

Scaling and the ATAR

Why are studies scaled?

In calculating VCE study scores, the VCAA does not determine any measure of overall performance in the VCE, but rather the performance of each student in each individual study. In order to facilitate selection, institutions require an overall measure of the performance of students undertaking the VCE.

Before the scores of different VCE studies can be added together for the ATAR, they need to be scaled to take into account the different ability levels of the students taking different studies. This ensures that the ATAR provides a fair comparison for all students regardless of the combination of studies they take. This is called the scaled score.

Principles of scaling

Scaling is the process which adjusts VCE study scores to enable:

- you to take the studies that you enjoy and are good at
- all studies to be treated equally in the ATAR
- tertiary institutions to fairly compare students who have taken different combinations of studies.

VTAC adjusts study scores for each study to take account of the strength of competition in each study. The strength of competition is measured by how well the students performed in their other studies.

- **If competition is high**—study scores are scaled up.
- **If competition is low**—study scores are scaled down.

For example, Economics students in 2012 were of above average strength in their other studies. Therefore the scaling process adjusted the study scores upwards so that the average scaled score for Economics was set at 32.

The 2012 Psychology students averaged around 28 in their other studies, therefore the scaling process adjusted the study scores downwards.

When are study scores scaled?

VCE studies are always scaled in the year in which they were undertaken (this may not necessarily be in the year in which you receive your ATAR). If you do a Unit 3 and 4 in Year 11, the study will be scaled that year.

This scaling process is carried out each year for each VCE study and VCE VET program for which there is a study score. There are no pre-determined outcomes—the adjustments are based on the performance of students each year. Nevertheless, the process is very stable and there is very little difference from year to year in terms of the scaled score.

Mathematics

VCE mathematics studies are designed to cater for students of differing abilities and interests. Specialist Mathematics is the most difficult, followed by Mathematical Methods (CAS) and then by Further Mathematics.

To ensure that students undertaking the more difficult mathematics studies are not disadvantaged, all three mathematics studies are scaled against each other as well as being scaled against all other studies. The higher of the two resulting scales is used.

Like all VCE studies, there is no point choosing the more difficult mathematics unless you are capable of performing well.

Languages (previously LOTE)

As a result of government policy to encourage the study of languages, a further adjustment is made during the scaling process. Each VCE Language is adjusted up by adding five to the initial scaled score average. All students of a VCE Language receive an adjustment, but it is not a uniform adjustment.

For scores at or close to 30, the adjustment is 5, but the adjustment decreases as the score moves away from 30. For full details refer to **VICTER 2016**.

For more information about Scaling and the ATAR refer to the ABC of Scaling available at www.vtac.edu.au

Choosing your VCE studies

Selecting your VCE program based on studies that are scaled up will not guarantee you a high ATAR.

The ATAR is based on your overall performance in VCE studies, not just one or two studies.

You are better off choosing studies that:

- you enjoy
- you are good at
- reflect what you are interested in studying at tertiary level
- help provide you with more career options if you are undecided.

Scaling ensures that all studies are treated equally in the ATAR calculation, so that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged by the studies they undertake.

Examples of ATAR calculation

The following real examples provide an overview of some of the study programs chosen by the 2012 graduating VCE group.

KIM

Here is an excellent example of a student who knew what she liked, what she was interested in and good at. Kim chose studies based on all of these factors and as a result was in the top 10% of the state even though five of her six studies were scaled down.

Kim completed Health & Human Development in Year 11 so her study score was scaled in 2011. Her result for Health & Human Development was included in the Primary Four.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled Score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	English	SS	A	A	B	34	32.25	32.25
2011	Health & Human Development	SS	A+	A+	A+	43	40.69	40.69
2012	Physical Education	SS	A+	A+	A+	42	40.28	40.28
2012	Geography	SS	A+	A	A	39	38.46	38.46
2012	Further Mathematics	SS	A	A+	A+	40	38.17	3.81
2012	Physics	SS	B	A	B+	33	35.45	3.54
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								159.0
2012 ATAR								90.05

JADE

Jade chose four studies that were scaled up. Jade did not excel in any of her studies and even though four of her six studies were scaled up, the ATAR was still not as high as it might have been if she had chosen studies based on what she was good at, interested in and enjoyed.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	English	SS	D	D+	D	16	12.88	12.88
2012	VCE Languages: Chinese First Language	SS	B	A	C+	27	29.93	29.93
2012	Accounting	SS	E+	D+	E+	21	19.86	19.86
2012	Physics	SS	E+	C	E+	18	18.14	18.14
2012	Mathematical Methods (CAS)	SS	D	E	E	15	17.57	1.75
2012	Chemistry	SS	UG	E+	NA	12	12.09	1.20
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								83.7
2012 ATAR								34.70

ALEX

Alex didn't know what he wanted to do when he left school, so he chose a wide range of studies that he was good at. He performed well across all of his studies and met the prerequisites of the course he was interested in and was offered a place. Alex also completed seven studies. Only six studies can contribute to the ATAR. At least one study from the English group and the next three highest scaled scores make up the primary four. The two highest increments are then included. The seventh study, which is Politics: Global Politics was provided to institutions for their information.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	English Language	SS	A	A+	A+	39	41.05	41.05
2012	Mathematical Methods (CAS)	SS	B	B	B	30	35.73	35.73
2012	Chemistry	SS	B	B+	C+	31	35.51	35.51
2011	Legal Studies	SS	B+	A	B+	34	32.56	32.56
2012	Literature	SS	B+	B+	B	31	32.18	3.21
2012	Philosophy	SS	B+	B+	B	32	31.42	3.14
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								151.2
2012 ATAR								86.15

PETA

Peta did a total of six studies over two years. A maximum of six studies can contribute to the ATAR.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	Literature	SS	A+	A+	B+	36	37.43	37.43
2011	Studio Arts	SS	A+	A+	A+	46	44.49	44.49
2012	Art	SS	A+	A+	A+	44	43.62	43.62
2012	VCE Languages: French	SS	B+	B+	B+	31	42.33	42.33
2012	Further Mathematics	SS	B+	B	B	32	29.69	2.96
2012	Approved Higher Education Study	SS						4.0
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								174.8
2012 ATAR								95.75

As can be seen in the example, Peta attempted an approved Higher Education study.

Higher Education studies can include first year university studies and advanced standing TAFE courses, recognised by the VCAA and made available to VCE students who are very able academically and have the endorsement of their school principal. Upon satisfactory completion, such a study will contribute as an increment in the calculation of the ATAR. Peta's result in the Higher Education study program contributed 4.0 to the aggregate. Results in Higher Education studies will contribute as an increment based on the student's performance in the particular study.

See **VICTER 2016** for more information and calculation details about Higher Education studies.

SAM

Sam chose a range of studies including VCE VET Interactive Digital Media and VCE VET Community Recreation. This example shows how scored VET studies can be included in the primary four and how they can also contribute to the ATAR as an increment.

VET in Schools programs contribute directly to completion of the VCE. VET programs with Units 3 and 4 scored sequences are calculated for the ATAR in the same way as other VCE studies.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	Literature	SS	B+	B+	A+	37	38.46	38.46
2012	English	SS	A+	A	A	37	35.73	35.73
2012	Studio Arts	SS	A+	A+	A	37	33.18	33.18
2012	Interactive Digital Media (VCE VET) C	SS	B+	B+		34	29.01	29.01
2012	Further Mathematics	SS	B+	B	C+	31	28.68	2.86
2011	Community Recreation (VCE VET) A	SS	B+	B		32	25.32	2.53
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								141.7
2012 ATAR								80.65

TESS

Tess completed a VCE VET Wholesale Retail & VET Personal Services Program that does not have a scored component. This means that this study contributed only as an increment. The increment is calculated as 10% of the average of the primary four studies. In this example it means that the ATAR increment for the VCE VET Wholesale Retail & VET Personal Services Program was 2.73.

See **VICTER 2016** for more information about VET studies.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution	
2012	English	SS	B	B	B	29	26.55	26.55	
2012	Further Mathematics	SS	B+	C+	C+	32	29.69	29.69	
2012	Media	SS	B+	A	C+	32	27.58	27.58	
2012	Visual Communication Design	SS	C+	A+	C	30	25.74	25.74	
2012	Business Management	SS	B	B	C	29	24.90	2.49	
2012	Wholesale Retail & VET Personal Serv A Bulk Credit (non scorable VET)	SS	10% of Primary Four Average						2.73
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								114.7	
2012 ATAR								60.55	

KRIS

Kris was interested in studying in the humanities field, so he chose mostly humanities based studies to meet the prerequisites for those courses. Kris enjoyed these studies and was good at them so he performed well overall and received a good result. He met the prerequisites for the course he was interested in and was offered a place. It is important to note that Kris did not undertake any mathematics studies, completed two Unit 3 and 4 studies in Year 11 and achieved a high ATAR even though most of his studies were scaled down.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	English	SS	A+	A+	A+	44	43.81	43.81
2012	Business Management	SS	A+	A+	A+	46	44.70	44.70
2011	Sociology	SS	A	A	A+	41	38.94	38.94
2011	Health & Human Development	SS	A	A	A+	40	36.92	36.92
2012	Religion & Society	SS	A+	B+	A	36	36.06	3.60
2012	Physical Education	SS	B	B	B+	31	27.76	2.77
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								170.7
2012 ATAR								94.65

MIA

Mia completed VCE LOTE Japanese Second Language (VCE LOTE now known as VCE Languages) and the scaling process added 5 points to the mean of the initial Japanese Second Language scaled score, giving her a scaled score of 31.89. As the result was not part of the primary four Mia received an increment of 3.18 for Japanese Second Language.

Choosing a language does not guarantee 5 extra ATAR points. The 5 point adjustment is made at the average or mean scaled score, prior to finalising the scaled score for the language.

Year	Study	Unit 3/4 Results	GA 1	GA 2	GA 3	Study Score	Scaled score	2012 Aggregate Contribution
2012	English	SS	A+	A+	A	39	38.06	38.06
2012	Further Mathematics	SS	A+	A	A+	41	39.28	39.28
2012	Physics	SS	A	A	A+	36	38.61	38.61
2011	Mathematical Methods (CAS)	SS	B+	C+	B	31	36.45	36.45
2011	Chemistry	SS	C	B	B	28	32.19	3.21
2011	LOTE: Japanese Second Language	SS	C+	C+	C	23	31.89	3.18
Aggregate Truncated at 1 decimal place								158.7
2012 ATAR								89.90

Students say

Christine, 21



VCE Studies

Media, Drama, English,
Accounting, Business
Management.

(Lyndale Secondary College)

Now Studying:

Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Victoria University)

CHOOSING YOUR VCE STUDIES

“Don’t do the all the hardest subjects in your final year; spread them out if possible.”

Why did you choose these studies?

I enjoyed school, I was aiming towards teaching Drama and PE.

What do you wish someone had told you before you chose your studies?

Don’t do the all the hardest subjects (English, Maths Methods, Chemistry, and Physics) in your final year; spread them out if possible. This will allow your more time to study for the harder subjects.

Do you have any suggestions for others choosing their VCE studies?

Talk to the course counsellor about options if you get a low ATAR.

YOUR VCE EXPERIENCE

“Do what you enjoy rather than focusing on the ATAR.”

What was the most difficult part?

Exams, I am not good at exams, I am more practical. I’m better at doing than writing.

What do you wish someone had told you before you started Year 12?

Do what you enjoy rather than focusing on the ATAR. You’ll do better because you are enjoying it.

Who or what helped you keep going?

I was self-motivated. I had to do well; I wanted to get to Uni.

CHOOSING TERTIARY COURSES

“Go with what you enjoy doing”

Why did you choose this course?

It’s more P.E. based and had easy access.

What advice can you give others choosing their courses?

Go with what you enjoy doing.

CHOOSING YOUR VCE STUDIES

“Teachers were very approachable”

Why did you choose these studies?

They were interesting.

What resources were the most helpful?

Teachers were very approachable.

YOUR VCE EXPERIENCE

“You should really study. Not just do the homework but you should be reviewing your notes as you go.”

What do you wish someone had told you before you started Year 12?

You should really study. Not just do the homework but you should be reviewing your notes as you go.

If you could do it again would you do anything differently?

To check if VCE level, I could have started earlier.

What advice can you give others studying Year 12?

Take advantage of the resources available. Take anything available and keep your option open.

CHOOSING TERTIARY COURSES

“There’s always hope even if you don’t get the right ATAR: explore your pathways”

What advice can you give others choosing their courses?

Check out the environment you would be studying in. The required subjects and what subjects you will be studying. There’s always hope even if you don’t get the right ATAR: explore your pathways. Call the University directly.

What would you have done differently to research your courses?

Don’t be put off by location—different environment can be better.



VCE Studies

Business, Health and Human Development, English, Turkish, Legal Studies

(Gleneagles Secondary College)

Now Studying:

Bachelor of Education

(Victoria University)

Emily, 20



VCE Studies

English, Further Mathematics,
Chemistry, Biology, Physical
Education, French.

(St Columba's College)

Now Studying:

Bachelor of Nursing

(Australian Catholic University)

CHOOSING YOUR VCE STUDIES

"Work hard and pick subjects you have a passion for"

Why did you choose these studies?

*Because I enjoyed them and had a passion for science/
health sciences.*

What resources were the most helpful?

*VTAC Guide, university websites, my school's Careers
Advisor, so I could choose subjects relevant to what I wanted
to study at university.*

What do you wish someone had told you before you chose your studies?

*Shift work isn't always easy! In all seriousness though, I
would have liked to better understand the transition between
school and uni.*

Do you have any suggestions for others choosing their VCE studies?

Work hard and pick subjects you have a passion for.

YOUR VCE EXPERIENCE

*"Keep a diary or write lists. It not only keeps you
organised but it feels great ticking things off."*

Was Year 12 what you expected?

It was, I felt like my school prepared me well.

What was the most difficult part?

*Staying balanced—it's still important to hang on to your
hobbies and do things for yourself—it keeps you sane!*

What do you wish someone had told you before you started Year 12?

It's not the be all and end all, so try not to stress (too much!)

If you could do it again would you do anything differently?

*Yes and no. It's all well and good to say "don't stress" but not
always plausible!*

Who or what helped you keep going?

*My Year 12 teachers and definitely the St Columba's sport
staff. I also swore by Tim Tams as my study motivation!*

What changes did you make during Year 12?

I actually changed my mind in terms of my career path.

What advice can you give others studying Year 12?

Keep a diary or write lists. It not only keeps you organised but it feels great ticking things off it!

CHOOSING TERTIARY COURSES

“I love people and really liked the idea of doing such a hands on placement inclusive course”

Why did you choose this course?

Because I love people and really liked the idea of doing such a hands on placement inclusive course.

What resources did you find really helpful?

VTAC Guide, open days, university websites, EAP guest speaker at my high school.

What advice can you give others choosing their courses?

Choose something you want to do, and something you can see yourself working in that field or industry.

What value did you get out of open days?

Looking at the campuses and what they had to offer in terms of my nursing course, values of unis.

What would you have done differently to research your courses?

Nothing.

Hannah, 21



VCE Studies

English, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, Health & Human Development and Indonesian.

(Warrnambool College)

Now Studying:

Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Paramedicine

(Australian Catholic University)

CHOOSING YOUR VCE STUDIES

"I would have loved to complete more subjects"

Why did you choose these studies?

A combination of what interested me and what I would require for university prerequisites.

What resources were the most helpful?

Peers and dedicated teachers.

What do you wish someone had told you before you chose your studies?

I could complete more than one Unit 3 and 4 subject during Year 11, I would have loved to complete more subjects.

Do you have any suggestions for others choosing their VCE studies?

I highly suggest studying Unit 3 and 4 subjects in Year 11 if you feel you are capable.

YOUR VCE EXPERIENCE

"Better than expected!"

Was Year 12 what you expected?

Better than expected!

What was the most difficult part?

Balancing social and work commitments with study.

What do you wish someone had told you before you started Year 12?

I don't think we could have been given much more information!

If you could do it again would you do anything differently?

I would change around the way I structured my subjects and try just a little bit harder! VCE is only two years of your life.

Who or what helped you keep going?

Knowing what I wanted to study kept me focused to get there.

What changes did you make during Year 12?

I actually took on more commitments! Year 12 was one of the busiest of my life so far.

What advice can you give others studying Year 12?

Don't let all the pressure stress you out. Your result isn't going to define you and there are so many opportunities for you to do exactly what you want to do, but make sure you still try!

CHOOSING TERTIARY COURSES

“Speaking to actual students was one of the best sources of information and made decisions a lot easier”

Why did you choose this course?

I had considered studying medicine for a long time but gradually changed that to wanting to become a paramedic. The dual degree, paramedicine and nursing, seemed like such a logical choice. Why wouldn't I complete an entire second degree for only one extra year?

What resources did you find really helpful?

My careers councillor was fantastic help, as well as the university websites. I completed all my research utilizing the careers office, university websites and VTAC Guides.

What advice can you give others choosing their courses?

Visit lots of the universities, go to open days as well as experience days.

What value did you get out of open days?

The open days were fantastic to really get a feel of the university. Speaking to actual students was one of the best sources of information and made decisions a lot easier.

What would you have done differently to research your courses?

Started earlier, there is lot going on, quite often on the same weekend. Start looking early and you won't miss any dates.

To help you choose your VCE study program...

Do

- think about what interests you have and what you like doing
- check out what VCE studies your school is offering
- talk with your careers teacher and/or VCE coordinator
- keep your options open
- log on to VTAC CourseLink to start researching the types of courses you will be eligible to apply for
- attend open days.

Don't

- panic if you have no idea what studies to take up
- choose studies that you don't like just because you think doing those studies will help you get a 'good' ATAR—your ATAR represents your performance across all of your studies
- choose studies based on their scaling—there is no point selecting a study that you struggle with simply because it is scaled up. Selecting your VCE program based on studies that are scaled up will not guarantee you a high ATAR.



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