



Knowledge is Power

# Gladstone Park Secondary College

## **VCE 2021 Parent Information**

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri People and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*



# Live Parent Q&A Sessions

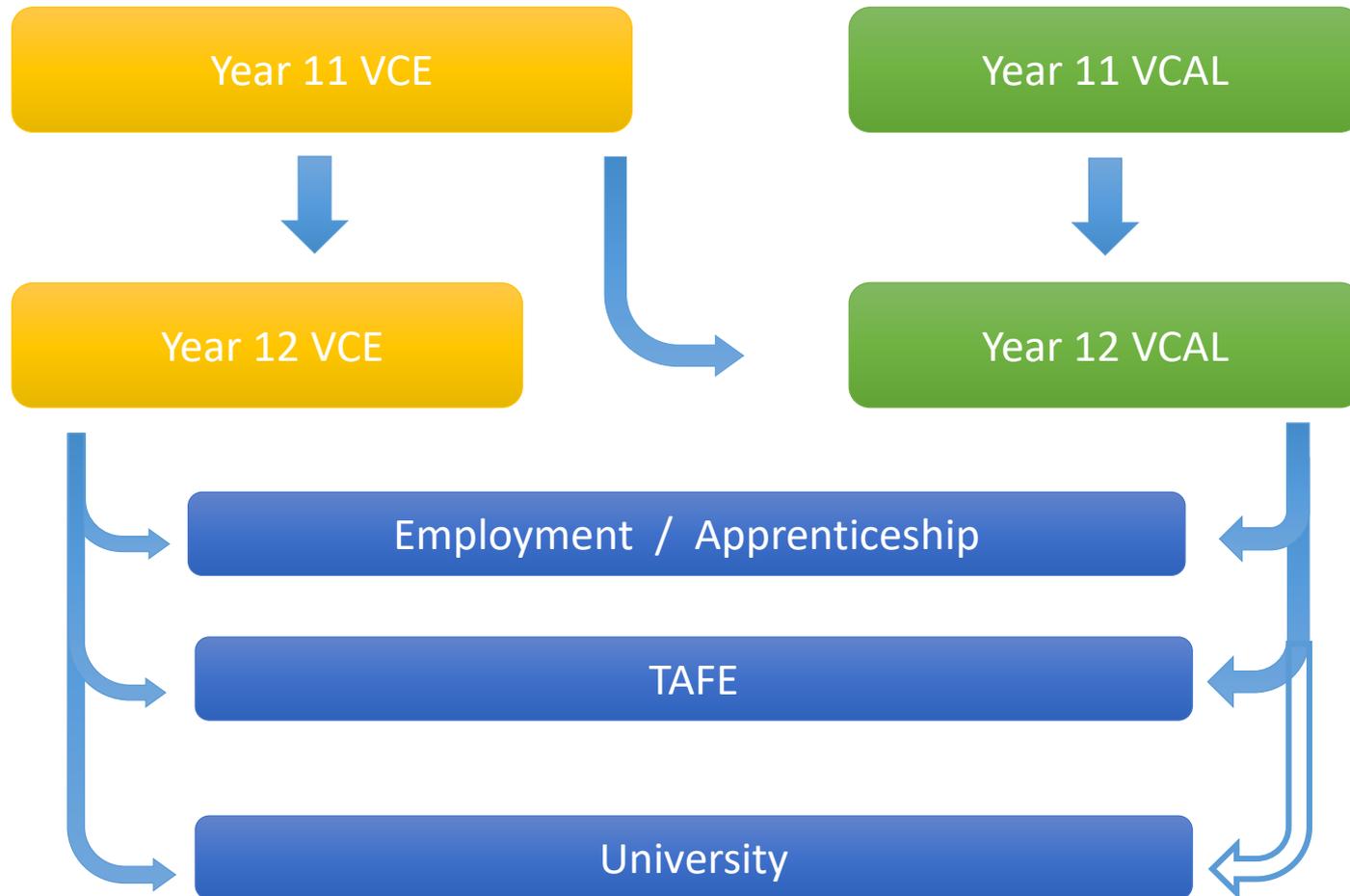
## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of August via Teams

VCE 6:00pm to 6:50pm

VCAL 7:00pm to 7:50pm

- ▶ These sessions are an opportunity for you to ask general questions to the sub-school team.
- ▶ These sessions will be made available to you through Microsoft Teams via Year 10 Cohort group channel “Careers & Pathway Information”.

# Possible Year 11 & 12 Pathways



# Victorian Certificate of Education

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is a two-year certificate and is one of the main requirements for entry into tertiary courses, and some employers require it for selection purposes.

Most students study Unit 1 & 2 subjects in Year 11 and Unit 3 & 4 subjects in Year 12.

The curriculum, assessment and rules of administration of the VCE are determined by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)

# VCE: A Two Year Program

## Year 11

In Year 11, students undertake 6 VCE subjects (12 Units) at the College including compulsory units in English and/or Literature.

In addition to subjects studied at school, we strongly encourage students to study languages outside of school. Further information about this option can be found through the [Victorian School of Languages](#)

## Year 12

In Year 12, students undertake 5 VCE subjects (10 Units) at the College including compulsory units in English and/or Literature.

Students study 5 VCE subjects even if they accelerated in a subject(s) the previous year or are studying a VCE subject externally.

# Example of a VCE Program

Year 11 Student	Year 12 Student
6 Subjects	5 subjects
English Unit 1 & 2 →	English Unit 3 & 4
Biology Unit 1 & 2 →	Biology Unit 3 & 4
VCD Unit 1 & 2 →	VCD Unit 3 & 4
Methods Unit 1 & 2 →	Methods Unit 3 & 4
Legal Studies Unit 1 & 2 →	Legal Studies Unit 3 & 4
Psychology Unit 1 & 2	

Students generally choose Year 12 subjects that follow on from Unit 1 & 2 subjects studied in the previous year.

# Satisfactory Completion of VCE

Most students will have a program like that shown in the previous slides. These students will complete 22 units over the course of Year 11 and 12.

For satisfactory completion of VCE, a student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 Units, including;

- ▶ At least 3 units of English/EAL or Literature ie. at minimum one year 11 unit and 2 units at year 12.
- ▶ Units 3 and 4 in three subjects other than English.

It is important to note that Units 3 & 4, of all subjects must be taken as a sequence. That is, students cannot enrol in Unit 4 unless they have also enrolled in Unit 3 of that subject.

# Considerations when choosing subjects

**When making subject choices students should consider the following:**

- ▶ That VCE is a two year program Years 11 and 12
- ▶ English/EAL/Literature requirements
- ▶ Student's strengths: Choose subjects that you are “good” at and “enjoy”
- ▶ Post-VCE (University or TAFE) entrance requirements.

**Students are also encouraged to:**

- ▶ Speak with teachers of the subjects that interest them to find out more.
- ▶ Check the course requirements for courses that they may be interested in.
- ▶ Meet with the Careers Team for more specialised advice and guidance.

Students should research possible careers with assistance and feedback from the College Careers Team. Appointments to speak with the careers team are available during at recess, lunch or after school.

# VCE - Assessment

Year 11	Year 12
Overall S (Satisfactory) or N (Not satisfactory)	Overall S (Satisfactory) or N (Not satisfactory)
School-based Assessment (SACs)	School-based Assessment (SACs)
School Assessed Tasks (SATs) - aka portfolio	School Assessed Tasks (SATs) - aka portfolio
Grades given at school level for each assessment task	External exams, set by VCAA
	Study score (rank) for each subject _/50
	ATAR (overall ranking) of Victorian Students

# Folio Subjects

All units of study have a theoretical component. Some VCE subjects have large-scale practical components - these subjects are known as folio subjects.

Folio subjects require students to invest significant amounts of time over an extended period to complete the practical component of the subject. Often multiple folio subjects have similar timelines and tasks due at the same time.

Due to the nature of folio subjects and the significant time needed to complete the practical components, students are allowed to take a maximum of 2 Folio subjects.

Students should consider the points above when choosing any of the following subjects:

- Studio Arts (Art)
- Computing
- Media
- Studio Arts (Photography)
- Product Design & Technology
- Systems Engineering
- Visual Communication & Design (VCD)

# Accelerating in VCE

Year 10 and 11 students may select one, or in limited circumstances more than one, accelerated subject depending on their grades and subject availability.

**Eligible students may study a:**

- ▶ Unit 1&2 subject in Year 10
- ▶ Unit 3&4 subject in Year 11

**To be eligible to accelerate as a Year 10 student they must have a:**

- ▶ Demonstrated high academic capacity and work ethic.

**To be eligible to accelerate as a Year 11 student they must have:**

- ▶ already demonstrated a commitment and ability to meet the demands of a subject at Unit 1 & 2
- ▶ a demonstrated high academic capacity and work ethic in all Year 10 subjects
- ▶ a demonstrated high academic capacity and work ethic in their Year 11 subject

# Which subjects are available for acceleration?

**At Gladstone Park Secondary College we offer a wide range of subjects for acceleration:**

*Accounting, Applied Computing, Biology, Business Management, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Food Studies, Foundation Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Geography, Global Politics, Health & Human Development, History, Legal Studies, Media Unit, Music Performance, Physical Education, Product Design and Technology - Textiles OR Product Design and Technology - Wood, Psychology, Studio Art - Art Unit OR Studio Art - Photography, Systems Engineering, VET Business Administration, VET Creative and Digital Media VET Sport and Recreation, VCD Visual Communication and Design.*

# Why are some subjects not available for acceleration?

Student success in some VCE subjects is best supported by students completing their year 10 counterpart, as these year 10 subjects provide the basic foundations and knowledge that students need to be successful in that subject area at VCE.

We know that for some subjects, students need a level of experience and maturity to perform well.

For the above reasons the following subjects are not available for acceleration: Chemistry, English, Italian, Physics, Mathematical Methods & Specialist Mathematics

# Can students accelerate in 2 subjects?

We do not recommend that students accelerate in 2 subjects because:

- ▶ the ATAR is calculated from the total scores of the top four unit 3&4 subjects plus one tenth of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> subjects
- ▶ if a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> subject is studied, it will not count towards the ATAR.

Our school policy is that all year 12 students study 5 subjects which means accelerating in 2 subjects will mean students have a 7<sup>th</sup> subject that will not count.

From experience the workload of two VCE subjects in year 10 and 11 is very heavy and often creates problems in other subjects and the benefit is lost.

# Does accelerating now mean that students will have a lighter load in year 12?

All year 12 students are expected to study 5 subjects in year 12 regardless of the acceleration of a subject in year 11 or studying a language outside of school.

It is important to note that accelerating in a subject does not mean students will necessarily reduce their year 12 subject load. It is rare and subject to approval by the Senior School Principal, that we offer a reduced course load for year 12 students.

Therefore, if students are considering acceleration, it must be considered with the view that it is an extra subject in addition to the 5 subjects studied by all year 12 students at GPSC.

# Why does the school have to approve acceleration?

We encourage students who meet the criteria to take on this challenge. It is an opportunity to develop an understanding of the demands and the processes and procedures involved in a VCE subject and can also be a mechanism to maximise a student's ATAR.

Acceleration is not good for all students and it depends on a range of factors as to whether a student will be able to benefit from this program.

Senior School and Middle school work together to approve any accelerated program. Middle School knows the student and Senior School knows the subject and the academic rigour involved.

All decisions are made with the student's best outcome in mind.

# Mathematics -

## Can students choose any maths?

The VCE math level students take is recommended by their year 10 maths teacher.

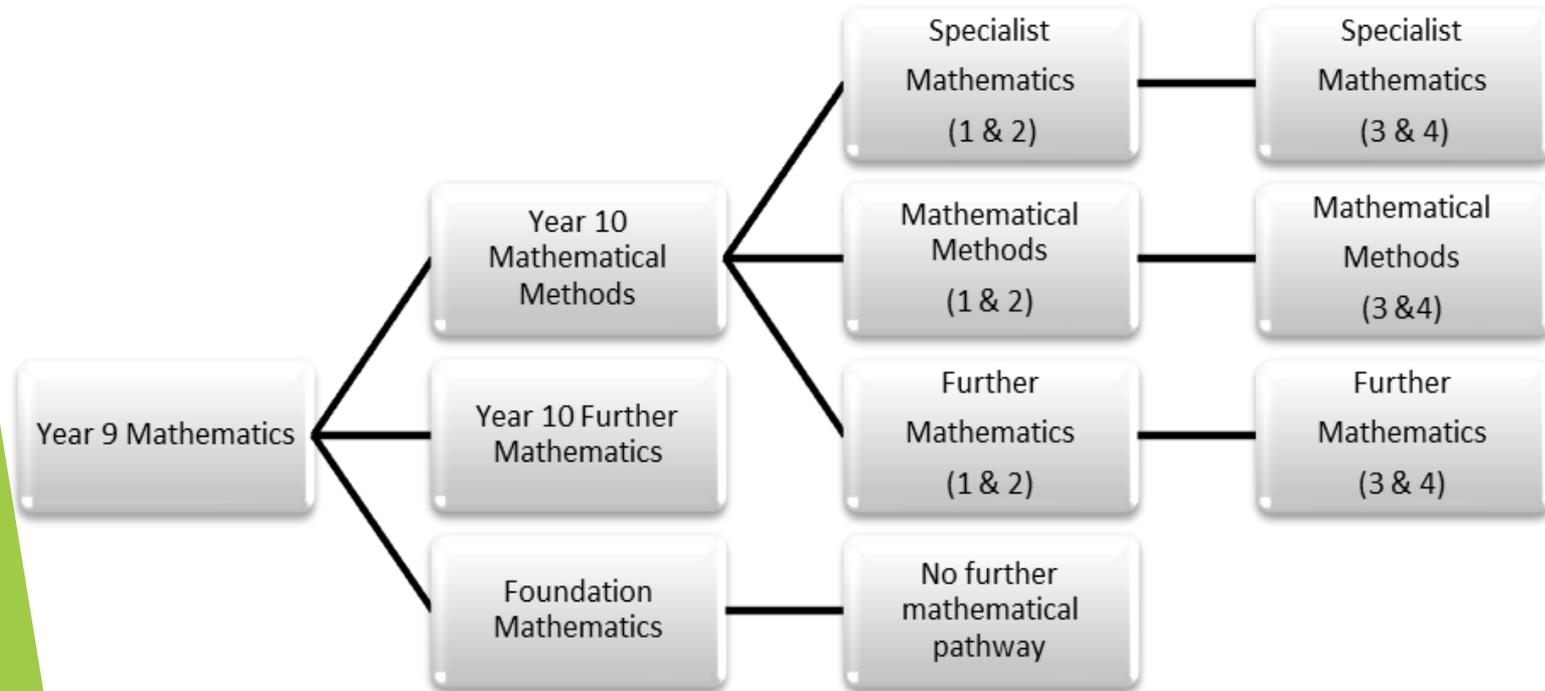
Whilst it is important for students to push themselves, it is also very important that the math level students choose is within their capability. The stress caused by attempting a math that is very hard can have a negative impact on other subjects and a student's overall VCE.

There is no guarantee that a student can change to a lower maths level, if their selection turns out to be too difficult. There may not be enough spaces in the lower level classes. Even if there were space, a consequence of change is that it may disrupt their timetable and other subjects.

Students must take time to research the maths most suited to them and their future pathways. Students can do this by checking with their maths teacher and the Careers Team.

# Maths Pathways

The possible pathways are shown in the diagram below.



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

# Can students study 3 math subjects?

- ▶ It is not school policy to allow any student to study 3 VCE maths since VCAA will only include the top two maths in the top four of the ATAR calculation and the third maths subject will only count 10% as a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> regardless of the result.

# Do students have to take maths?

- ▶ VCE math is not compulsory, however we strongly recommend you discuss potential prerequisites with the Careers Team.

# Will my child get all the subjects they choose?

The school is proud of the large range of subjects offered at VCE. Student preference is a high priority in deciding which subjects run.

The school endeavours to accommodate student subject choices where possible, generally resulting in students getting most of their preferences most of the time.

The considerations in finalising subjects for students is complex and includes:

- staffing - both the number of staff and the availability of staff with particular specialist qualifications
- access to specialist rooms - many programs require the use of specialist rooms. Students can only achieve desired outcomes if they have access to this equipment
- numbers of students choosing the subject
- (on rare occasions) timetable clashes.

In light of these factors it is important that students choose their second and third preferences carefully.

If a student is unable to access their first preference the sub-school will discuss subject options with the student before making any changes.

# Once students select subjects, can they change them?

Student subjects for the following year will be confirmed on Course Confirmation day in Term 4.

There is an opportunity for students to change their subjects, **however** once classes are set, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible, and if possible such changes may have an impact on the rest of a student's subjects and timetable.

We strongly recommend that students consider their choices carefully now and commit to studying these subjects into year 12.

# Successful Completion of VCE is a Team Effort!

- ▶ Sub-school
- ▶ Subject Teachers
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Parents and Caregivers



# Student Commitment

To be successful in VCE and to adapt to the rigours of the program, students must show a commitment to their studies with a greater reliance on independent study and personal motivation. VCE students are expected to be active learners, communicating with their teachers and peers - asking questions, seeking clarification, and taking on advice.

Organisational skills and excellent attendance is crucial in VCE.

Students will find that the amount of homework expected of them will increase considerably. It is a student's responsibility to complete all assessment tasks, manage workload and meet deadlines to enable the successful completion of their VCE.

We understand that students have commitments outside of school, we encourage these endeavours and trust that our students can find the balance between extra-curricular activities, part-time work and school.

# Senior Supports for Students

The Senior School and its extended team is comprised of dedicated professionals committed to supporting students on their VCE journey.

There are many facets of a student's schooling life that the team provides direct support for, in particular student:

- ▶ Leadership opportunities - Leadership Team, SRC
- ▶ Extra-curricular programs - Performing Arts & Sports
- ▶ Wellbeing - Student Services Team
- ▶ Careers & Pathways Counselling - Careers Team
- ▶ Academic Performance - see next slide

# Academic Supports

The school supports students to succeed in their VCE. Some of the support we offer are:

- ▶ assistance to manage increased workload and subject difficulty
- ▶ after school tutorial groups
- ▶ regular monitoring of students' academic progress
- ▶ parent meetings & pathway planning
- ▶ targeted VCE study support through the Elevate Program
- ▶ identifying and encouraging high achievers
- ▶ exam skills training including preparation for the GAT
- ▶ formal trial exam week for Yr. 12 subjects in the second week of the October holidays.

# FINDING COURSE INFORMATION

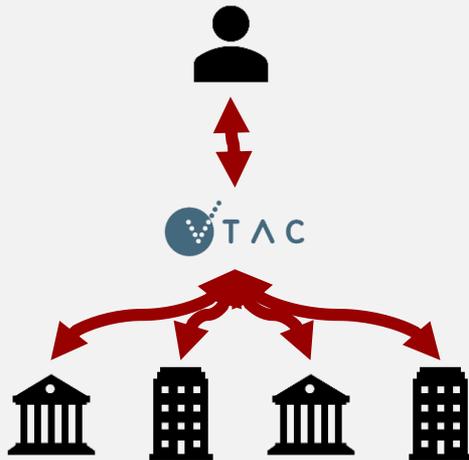
Using VTAC and VTAC CourseSearch

[WWW.GPSCCAREERS.COM](http://WWW.GPSCCAREERS.COM)

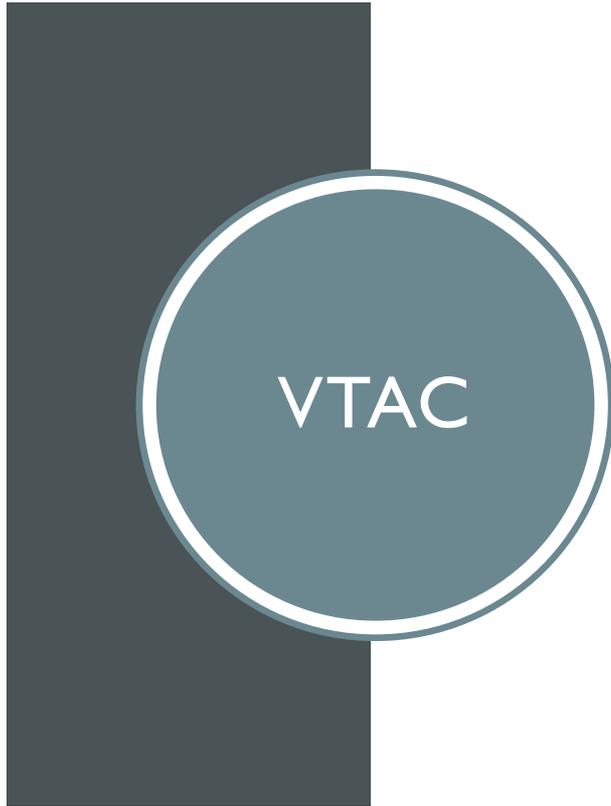
- The school's new dedicated careers website
- Has valuable information for students
- Contains links to VTAC, tertiary institutions etc
- Information for parents

The screenshot shows the homepage of the GPSC Careers website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Sitemap', 'Gladstone Park', 'IMPORTANT INFO', 'SENIOR SCHOOL', 'POST SCHOOL OPTIONS', and 'WORKPLACE LEARNING'. Below the navigation is a large video player featuring Ashton Kutcher speaking, with the caption 'Ashton Kutcher Gives Great Advice'. To the right of the video, the text reads 'GPSC Careers' and 'Our aim is to provide you with information that will help you make decisions about your life beyond school. You can use this site to search for a type of course across Australia, VCE, search for job vacancies, or drop into the Careers Office.' At the bottom, there are three promotional tiles: 'QUOTE OF THE WEEK' with a person icon, 'CAREER TARGETS (2020 Edition)' with a target icon, and 'NEW' with a person icon.

# WHAT IS VTAC?



- The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) is the central point for applications to Victorian universities, TAFEs, and Independent Tertiary Colleges.
- VTAC also calculates the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) for Victorian Year 12 students.
- Connect with VTAC today to receive updates, tips, and timely reminders:
  - Facebook: [facebook.com/vtacguide](https://www.facebook.com/vtacguide)
  - Twitter: [@vtacguide](https://twitter.com/vtacguide)



- Available through links on the school careers website or at <https://www.vtac.edu.au/>
- Contains information on planning and CourseSearch
- Guide for Year 10 further study



# VTAC YEAR 10 GUIDE

[HTTP://WWW.VTAC.EDU.AU/Y10GUIDE.HTML](http://www.vtac.edu.au/y10guide.html)

VTAC

Prerequisite and Course Explorer



YEAR 10  
COURSE  
RESEARCH  
ESSENTIALS

- In Year 10 students will be asked to choose the Year 12 qualification they want to complete and their study plan for Year 11 and 12. To make good decisions, students will need to research tertiary courses.

In particular, they need to know

- what type of tertiary courses their chosen Year 12 qualification can lead to, and
- the entrance requirements, including prerequisite studies, that are required for courses they might consider.

# RESEARCH TOOLS

## VTAC Research Tools

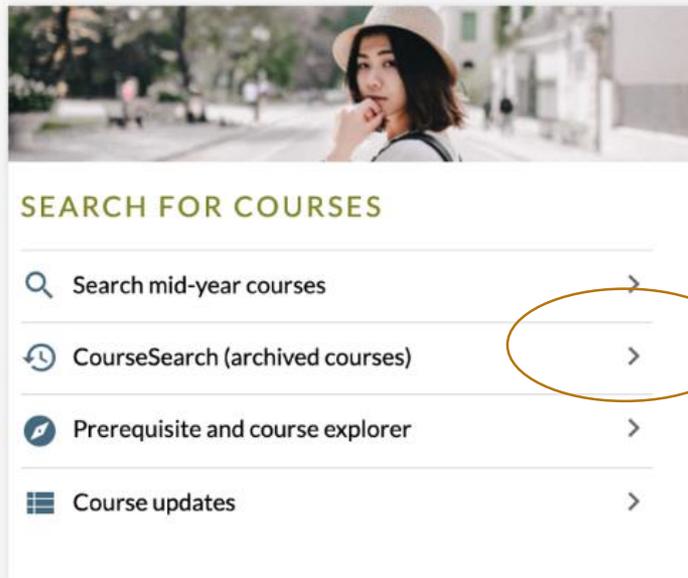
VTAC has a range of tools and information to support you.

- [CourseSearch](#) is an online database for researching tertiary courses
- [Prerequisite and Course Explorer](#) helps you create and change VCE programs while identifying prerequisite studies needed for entry into tertiary courses

The comprehensive [VTAC Guide to Researching Tertiary Education](#) covers:

- Types of tertiary courses
- Researching campus life
- The cost to study
- Research questions to ask
- How to use VTAC's research tools
- Planning pathways

# VTAC.EDU.AU



A screenshot of the VTAC website's search interface. At the top, there is a banner image of a young woman wearing a hat. Below the banner, the heading "SEARCH FOR COURSES" is displayed in green. Underneath, there is a list of four search options, each with an icon and a right-pointing chevron:

- Search mid-year courses
- CourseSearch (archived courses)
- Prerequisite and course explorer
- Course updates

The "CourseSearch (archived courses)" option is circled in orange.



An advertisement for Federation University. The top part features the university's logo and name on a blue background. Below that is a photograph of a building with the text "Virt Open" and "AUGUST 16" overlaid. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for CRICOS 001030 and the word "Advertiser".

This can be found on the main VTAC home page

# PREREQUISITE AND COURSE EXPLORER



**I want to use my whole VCE study program to see which courses I am eligible for**



**I want to enter a single VCE subject to see which courses require it**

- Enter a VCE study program and see which courses these meet the prerequisites for.
- Refine the search by area of interest, institution, qualification level, and more.
- Year 10 students can compare different potential VCE programs to see the impact of different subject choices.

# SUBJECT ADJUSTMENTS

- Most University courses only require English as a prerequisite
- There are still some courses that have specific prerequisites but that is dependent on the course and university for example University of Melbourne requires science and maths based subjects for entry into the Bachelor Of Science but Latrobe University only requires English for entry into Biomedicine.
- This leads to subject adjustments.....

# SUBJECT ADJUSTMENTS

- Subject adjustments are essentially ‘bonus points’
- These ‘bonus points’ are added to the ATAR which then becomes a selection rank for university courses;

Latrobe University Biomedicine Subject Adjustments look like this:

## **Selection rank adjustments**

### **Subject adjustments**

VCE: A study score of 25 in Biology, Chemistry, Maths: Mathematical Methods, Maths: Specialist Mathematics or Physics equals 4 aggregate points per study. A study score of 20 in any LOTE equals 4 aggregate points per study. Overall maximum of 12 points.

- BUT every course is DIFFERENT – it is important to have a look at course requirements!

# TERTIARY OPEN DAYS 2020

Due to COVID-19  
TAFE and Tertiary  
institutions are  
not be operating  
in the usual way

ALL OPEN days  
are now virtual  
online  
presentations

There are also  
course specific  
information  
sessions and  
webinars

The GPSC  
careers website  
has a live calendar  
of events that is  
constantly being  
updated with  
information  
regarding the  
above events

Please encourage  
students to look at  
the Calendar and  
book into events  
that interest them -  
these are all free  
events but you must  
register

Students are to  
please contact the  
Careers office if  
you require any  
further  
information

# Key Dates

- ▶ Live Parent Q&A Sessions **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of August** via Teams  
VCE 6:00pm to 6:50pm & VCAL 7:00pm to 7:50pm
- ▶ Students must enter their subject selections through WebChoices by **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of August**
- ▶ Year 10 Course Counselling sessions begin **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of August**
- ▶ Subject confirmation in November
- ▶ VCE Orientation in December (compulsory for all students)

# Contacts

*Senior School Principal*

*Senior School Program Manager*

*Middle School Principal*

*Middle School Program Manager*

*VCAL Coordinator*

*Careers Advisors*

Veronica Hoy

Elizabeth Dickin

Roger Centofanti

Renata Ditchburn

Will Sayers

Bronwyn Aitken & Jan Moody