

What is VCAL?

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is an accredited Senior Secondary Certificate and provides an opportunity for applied learning in a specialism and the personalisation of learning for students in Years 11 and 12.

The VCAL allows you (the student) to pursue rigorous study toward *your* future goals. Whether you want to work in community services or be a chef, with the VCAL you do not need 24 other students to be studying the same subjects as you because you connect into education and industry networks outside the school to match your learning needs.

The Northcote High VCAL engages students in real, work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills (typically undertaken through VCE units in English and Maths) and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. The VCAL is an *Applied Learning* program for students who are interested in taking up a traineeship, apprenticeship, TAFE studies or employment in their area of specialisation after Year 12.

In most cases the VCAL will be completed over two years (year 11 and 12). In some cases, for exception students and/or those who have commenced VET or VCE studies in Year 10, it may be possible to complete the Senior VCAL within 18 months, but this will be uncommon.

Aims of the Qualification

The VCAL program pursues the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that help prepare students for employment, post-secondary education or training and for participation in the broader community.

The program is personalised for each student so that they are able to make informed vocational choices within the specific industry sector of their choice and / or to facilitate pathways to further learning.

Assessment

The VCAL curriculum is competency based and therefore can focus on the individual and their work (there are no state-wide exams). The form of assessment will depend on the subject and the focus of the student. Competencies are assessed in terms of the learner being 'competent', 'beginning' or 'not evident'.

Why would a student choose to the VCAL instead of the VCE?

The VCAL is an accredited Senior Secondary school qualification undertaken in Years 11 and 12, just like the VCE. The VCE is a good option for students who would like to go on to further education options that require an ATAR score. However, a student wishing to pursue a pathway to study that does not require an ATAR or a pathway to employment in an industry of their choosing might find the VCAL to be the more attractive option.

Students choosing the VCAL program will gain practical experience, will work in real workplaces and will gain the skills they need to go onto further training at TAFE at Diploma or Advanced Diploma level or to begin employment.

Example Intermediate VCAL Course Outline

STRAND	LITERACY & ORACY (VCE ENGLISH)	NUMERACY (VCE FOUNDATION or FURTHER MATHS)	VCE or VET Unit (Eg: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT)	WORK RELATED SKILLS	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILL	INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SKILLS (VET)	CREDIT
	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 1	VET	6
	Unit 2	Unit 2	Unit 2	Unit 2	Unit 2	VET	6



Informal Expression of Interest for VCAL 2017.

My Name: _____

Yes – I am interested.

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I need more information.

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Return to Mr Sullivan (GCC/Middle School office)

or Mr Gemmola (Senior School office)