



PATTERSON RIVER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

VCAL HANDBOOK

2022

PERSISTENCE · EXCELLENCE · COMMUNITY · RESPECT

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PROGRAM OUTLINE - VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING (VCAL)

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a highly engaging senior secondary qualification. It aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attributes to enable students to make informed choices about employment and educational pathways.

There are three levels of VCAL offered in Victoria including Foundation VCAL (generally Year 10), Intermediate VCAL (generally Year 11) and Senior VCAL (generally Year 12). Patterson River currently offers Intermediate and Senior VCAL which is generally completed over two years.

VCAL is a program that incorporates school, TAFE (VET) and Structured Workplace Learning (SWL).

Students attend Patterson River Secondary College three days per week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On Wednesdays and Fridays students attend a VET course for one day with various external providers and one day of structured work placement.

Satisfactory completion of various VCAL units will give students credits that contribute towards their overall successful completion of their VCAL Certificate.

Each school-based subject has a varying number of outcomes per unit (one unit is roughly a semester long). Students are assessed as competent or not-competent. Students can show competencies in a number of ways and over various tasks.

VCAL PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YEAR 11 - INTERMEDIATE VCAL PROGRAM

Students complete a 3 day program at school (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday) which includes:

- Intermediate Literacy
- Intermediate Numeracy
- Intermediate Personal Development Skills
- Intermediate Work Related Skills
- Health
- Elective Block (choose 1 of the following subjects):
 - Industry and Enterprise Skills (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Food Studies (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Product Design & Technology (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Studio Art (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - VET Sport and Recreation Certificate II

1 day industry related training

- VET Training @ Recognised Training Organisation (as chosen by student)

1 day Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

- Structured Work Placement = Work Related Skills credits

YEAR 12 - SENIOR VCAL PROGRAM

Students complete a 3 day program at school (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday):

- Senior Literacy
- Senior Numeracy
- Senior Personal Development Skills
- Senior Work Related Skills
- Elective Block (choose 1 of the following subjects):
 - Industry and Enterprise Skills (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Food Studies (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Product Design & Technology (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - Studio Art (VCE subject Unit 1 and 2)
 - VET Sport and Recreation Certificate III (this Certificate runs over 2 years and cannot be taken if Certificate II has not already been completed)

1 day industry related training

- VET Training @ Recognised Training Organisation (as chosen by student)

1 day work experience

- Structured Work Placement = Work Related Skills credits

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING (VET)

Students complete a Certificate II or III industry qualification that is completed off-site at a recognised training organisation. Students choose which VET course they want to complete. They will attend this training organisation 1 day each week (usually on a Wednesday or Friday).

Students cannot be officially enrolled into a VET course if:

- Parents/Caregivers have not signed off on the VET Application form
- Payment has not been received
- Student has not registered for a Unique Student Identifier (USI)

Below is a selection of VET subjects that were on offer locally for 2021. Prices ranged from \$250.00 - \$900.00 depending on the subject. Both subjects available and prices are likely to change for 2022:

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|--|---|
| CHISHOLM - FRANKSTON | HOLMESGLEN - MOORABBIN |
| Cert II Automotive Vocational Preparation (Mechanical) | Cert III Allied Health Assist |
| Cert II Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship (Carpentry) *partial completion | Cert II Engineering Studies |
| Cert II Business Administration (Legal) | Cert III Laboratory Skills |
| Cert II Business & Cert III Business *partial completion | |
| Cert II Community Services | ELIZABETH MURDOCH COLLEGE |
| Cert II Computer Assembly and Repair | Cert II Agriculture |
| Cert III Design Fundamentals (Graphic Design or Photography) | Cert II Applied Fashion Design & Technology |
| Cert III Early Childhood Education and Care | Cert II Health Support Services |
| Cert II Electrotechnology (Career Start) | Cert II Public Safety (Firefighting) |
| Cert II Engineering Studies – Dandenong only | CISCO |
| Cert II Furniture Making Pathways | |
| Cert III Health Services Assistance | MT ELIZA SECONDARY COLLEGE |
| Cert II Hospitality (Front of House) | Cert II Animal Studies |
| Cert III Information, Digital Media and Technology (Games or Cyber Security) | Cert II Interior Decoration (Retail Services) |
| Cert II Kitchen Operations | Cert III Music (Performance) |
| Cert II Kitchen Operations (Patisserie) | Cert III Music (Sound Production) |
| Cert II Plumbing Pre-apprenticeship | Cert III Screen and Media (Game Design) |
| Cert II Salon Assistant | |
| Cert III Screen and Media | AGA SOMERVILLE |
| Cert II Sport and Recreation & Cert III Sport and Recreation | Cert II Construction Pathways |
| Cert III Tourism | |
| Cert III Visual Arts | TOORAK COLLEGE |
| | Cert III Equine Studies |
| CHISHOLM - CRANBOURNE | |
| Cert II Horticulture | HILLCREST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE |
| | Cert III Equine Studies (distance education) |

STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING (SWL)

(Otherwise known as a work placement)

Work placement provides some real-world experience in the workplace area of the student's choice. SWL is designed to help students transition into the work environment. In the past, we have had many students who have gained apprenticeships and employment opportunities directly through their work placement. This will be done on the other day to the VET training (i.e. either Wednesday or Friday).

Students must find their own work placement. Ideally, the work placement would be linked to the student's VET course, however this is not a rule, only a guideline.

- It is Important to note that there are a small number of VET courses that require students to complete structured workplace learning in the field of study to satisfy the requirements of the VET certificate.
- SWL hours are required to satisfy the requirements of Work Related Skills Units 1 & 2 in both Intermediate and Senior VCAL certificates.

Patterson River Secondary College Structured Workplace Learning policy

SWL paperwork needs to be completed and signed by both the employer and parent/caregiver before work placement can commence.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF INTERMEDIATE VCAL CERTIFICATE

Credits

You need to earn 10 credits (1 unit over a Semester = 1 credit)

These credits must include:

- 1 Literacy unit
- 1 Numeracy unit
- 1 Personal Development Skills unit
- 1 Work-Related Skills unit
- Complete a minimum of 90 hours of a VET course

VCAL attendance requirements

The required attendance hours for VCAL students are exactly the same as VCE students:

- 90% attendance is the minimum requirement
- Absences require a medical certificate

VCAL Assessment

All VCAL units can be assessed throughout the entire year.

VCAL units are competency based. Students are assessed according to the following scale:

1. Competent (C) – The student has successfully demonstrated the learning outcomes at the required standard on multiple occasions.
2. Not Yet Competent (NYC) – The student is currently working towards demonstrating the learning outcomes to the required standard.
3. Not Competent (NC) - The student has not successfully demonstrated the learning outcomes at the required standard on multiple occasions.
4. Failed to meet the attendance requirements or submit any work (J) – The student did not attend the subject and/or did not submit any work for assessment during their time in the subject.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SENIOR VCAL CERTIFICATE

Credits

You need to earn 10 credits (1 unit over a Semester = 1 credit)

You can carry 4 credits from Intermediate VCAL into Senior VCAL.

To qualify for your Senior certificate your 10 credits must include 6 Senior VCAL credits including:

- Senior Literacy
- Senior Numeracy unit
- Senior Personal Development Skills
- Senior Work-Related Skills units (can only be completed with a work placement)
- Complete a minimum of 90 hours of a VET course

VCAL attendance requirements

The required attendance hours for VCAL students are exactly the same as VCE students:

- 90% attendance is the minimum requirement
- Absences require a medical certificate

VCAL Assessment

All VCAL units can be assessed throughout the entire year.

VCAL units are competency based. Students are assessed according to the following scale:

1. Competent (C) – The student has successfully demonstrated the learning outcomes at the required standard on multiple occasions.
2. Not Yet Competent (NYC) – The student is currently working towards demonstrating the learning outcomes to the required standard.
3. Not Competent (NC) - The student has not successfully demonstrated the learning outcomes at the required standard on multiple occasions.
4. Failed to meet the attendance requirements or submit any work (J) – The student did not attend the subject and/or did not submit any work for assessment during their time in the subject.

VCE/VET SUBJECTS

Students studying VCAL are required to complete an unscored VCE subject or VET subject as part of an elective block. This concept is an opportunity for VCAL students to have a voice in selecting an engaging subject that aligns with their interests and their future career pathway.

VCE Subjects that are on offer include:

- Food Studies
- Product and Design and Technology
- Studio Arts
- Industry and Enterprise

Please note: VCE subjects will be un-scored and will form a slightly different model than traditional VCE subjects. There will be no SACS or EXAMS. These subjects run for 1 year in length. This elective block will be for VCAL students only.

VET Course offered:

- Sport and Recreation (Certificate II & III)

Please note that VET Sport and Recreation runs for two years so will need to be started in Year 11. This subject will be facilitated onsite at Patterson River Secondary College. Students who select this subject will also be able to complete their VET course on a Wednesday or Friday.

ELECTIVE SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Industry and Enterprise

VCE Industry and Enterprise investigates work and its place in work settings, industries and society. The study explores the vocational, economic, social and cultural aspects of work and incorporates theoretical and practical investigations of these functions. Students examine trends and patterns in Australian workplaces and industries as well as significant issues affecting Australian industries and analyse industry responses to these issues. The range of personal, community and work settings that students experience supports the development of work-related skills, which are integral to the study and seen as essential for entry-level employees and for life in general.

Product Design and Technology

Designers play an important part in our daily lives. In this study students transform drawings and plans into the creation of useful products. They take into account the sustainability of resources and develop skills in critically analysing existing products.

Unit 1: Product re-design and sustainability. In this unit students will re-design a product with the aim of improving its aesthetics, functionality and/or quality. They will use a range of materials, tools, equipment and processes to compare their product or prototype to their original drawings.

Unit 2: Collaborative design. Students will work individually and in a team to develop a response to a design brief based on a common theme. They will design and produce a product that meets the needs outlined in the brief.

Unit 3: Applying the product design process. Students use the product design process to work as a designer with a client. They develop a design brief and produce a folio that documents all stages of the process.

Unit 4: Product development and evaluation. In this unit students produce the product designed in Unit 3 and evaluate the outcome of the designing, planning and production activities. Students also undertake a comparison between their product and similar commercial items. Levels of achievement for satisfactory completion

There is an elective charge of \$175.00 for both Intermediate and Senior VCAL Product Design and Technology.

Studio Art

In this study, students' research focuses on critical, reflective and creative thinking, the visual analysis of artworks and seek inspiration and influences in their art making. They study how artists have developed styles and explored their cultural identity in their artwork. Students use this knowledge to inform their own studio practice and to support art making.

Unit 1: Studio Inspiration and techniques. In this unit students focus on developing their understanding of studio practice and explore, develop, refine, resolve and present artworks. Students research and analyse the ways in which artists have developed their studio practice to interpret and express ideas and apply materials and techniques in artworks.

Unit 2: Studio exploration and concepts. In this unit students establish and use studio practices to produce artworks. Students explore and develop ideas, creating aesthetic qualities and recording the development of the work. Through the study of art movements and styles, students begin to understand the use of other artists' work in their own work.

Unit 3: Studio practices and processes. In this unit students focus on the implementation of an individual studio process leading to the production of potential directions. Students develop and use an exploration proposal to define an area of creative exploration. The study of artists and their work practices may provide inspiration for students' own art.

There is an elective charge of \$150.00 for both Intermediate and Senior VCAL Studio Arts.

Food Studies

This study takes an interdisciplinary approach to the exploration of food, with an emphasis on extending food knowledge and skills. Students build individual pathways to health and wellbeing through the application of practical food skills.

Unit 1: Food origins. This unit focuses on food from historical and cultural perspectives. Students investigate the origins and roles of food through time and across the world - examining the hunter-gatherer system to today's urban living. Students also study Australian indigenous food prior to European settlement and the influence of migration on Australian cuisine.

Unit 2: Food makers. Students investigate food systems in contemporary Australia. They compare commercial food production industries with food produced in small-scale domestic settings. They investigate the capacity of industry to provide safe, high quality food.

Unit 3: Food in daily life. This unit explores the science of food. Students investigate the physiology of eating and microbiology of digesting and the absorption and utilisation of macronutrients. They apply food science terminology relating to chemical changes that occur during food preparation and cooking.

Unit 4: Food challenges, issues and futures. Students examine debates about global and Australian food systems - issues such as the environment, ethics, farming practices, use of technologies and the challenges of food security. They also develop responses to food information and misinformation and how to empower consumers to make discerning food choices

There is an elective charge of \$205.00 for both Intermediate and Senior VCAL Food Studies.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Certificate II in Sport and Recreation

This certificate will be completed in Year 11. This course develops basic functional knowledge and skills for working in customer contact positions in the sport or community recreation industry. It also teaches a range of administrative activities and functions, both within a team and as an individual working under supervision.

It prepares participants for working in settings such as sport and recreation centres or facilities, and leisure and aquatic centres, assisting with the conduct of recreation activities, and basic facility maintenance and operations.

There is an approximate elective charge of \$250.00 for Certificate II in Sport and Recreation.

Certificate III in Sport and Recreation

This certificate will be completed in Year 12. This composition and structure of this qualification reflects the multi-skilled role of individuals in operational and customer support positions in the sport or community recreation industry.

Successful attainment of this qualification prepares participants to work in settings such as fitness centres, sporting grounds or complexes, leisure and aquatic centres and community recreation centres.

This subject cannot be chosen in Senior VCAL if Certificate II in Sport and Recreation was not completed in Intermediate VCAL.

There is an approximate elective charge of \$250.00 for Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.