



FIRBANK
GRAMMAR

VCE YEAR 11 AND 12 CURRICULUM HANDBOOK 2026

VCE Year 11 and 12 **Curriculum Handbook** 2026



VCE REQUIREMENTS

The Victorian Certificate of Education is a two-year course. Students normally take 22 units over two years. However, they may undertake a larger or smaller number of units providing that the requirements for the award of the VCE are met, and the School approves. To meet the graduation requirements of the VCE, each student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units.

Each student must satisfactorily complete an approved combination of at least three units from the English group: English/EAL Units 1–4, Literature 1–4 with at least one at Unit 3/4 level. Students must also complete at least three Unit 3/4 studies other than English, which may include any number of English sequences once the English requirement has been met. NOTE: The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) advises that satisfactory completion of both Units 3 & 4 of an English sequence is required for the calculation of a student's ATAR. Each subject offered for the VCE follows a sequence of four units. Units 1 and 2 are normally taken as a sequence at Year 11. Units 3 and 4 are normally taken at Year 12 and must be done as a sequence. While it is possible to enter studies at Units 1, 2 or 3, it is important to be guided by recommendations on the appropriate sequence indicated with the subject description.

EXTENSION STUDIES AT YEAR 12

Extension studies in first-year university subjects from the University of Melbourne and Deakin University are available for Year 12 students. They are undertaken outside the School's program and may be included as a fifth or sixth subject in the ATAR. Extension studies contribute to satisfactory completion for the award of the VCE and satisfactory completion of the university subject may be credited towards a degree course.

TERTIARY SELECTION

It is important to note that completion of VCE does not automatically qualify a student for entry into post-secondary education. The minimum entry requirement is satisfactory completion of the VCE (including satisfactory completion of one Unit 3 & 4 sequence study from the English group). Selection for most courses is based on an ATAR calculated from scaled study scores achieved in the Units 3 & 4 studies undertaken. Additional selection factors may include completion of prerequisite studies, achievement of specified grades, interviews and presentation of folios.

An ATAR will place students on a percentile ranking, with a top rank of 99.95. This is decided after adding the student's study score from the English group, the next three highest-scoring subjects, and 10% of the student's 5th (and possibly 6th) study score. The increment for the fifth or sixth study may be replaced with an increment for satisfactory completion of an approved university study as part of the VCE extension study program.

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) is responsible for student selection into most tertiary courses in Victoria. By investigating subjects that are of interest, students are able to locate the institution offering these subjects as major sequences. Students will then need to consult the booklet, VICTER, (VICTER 2026 for Year 11 and VICTER 2025 for Year 12), to note general entrance requirements, as well as prerequisites and scoring procedures for each course. This will assist them in selecting their VCE courses.

Students should not limit their investigations to the Victorian tertiary institutions covered by VTAC. They should also consider interstate institutions before deciding on courses. Applications to interstate institutions can be made through the state-based admission systems.

Career advice is available from the Careers Counsellor and all relevant publications are available for reference in the Careers Room. At the beginning of Years 11 and 12, students and parents are provided (online) with a VCE Handbook containing specific information on the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority and School regulations.

YEAR 11 ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMPULSORY STUDIES: *English/EAL – Units 1 & 2 or Literature – Units 1 & 2*

At Year 11, students select a program featuring a maximum of six subjects (12 VCE units), including the two units of compulsory studies. It is possible to do a seventh subject out of school hours, e.g. Languages, but consideration must be given to the added workload. Students select their VCE program at Year 11 on the basis of academic ability, interest and intended career direction. Some students may undertake one Unit 3/4 subject in Year 11. To do so, they must have the School's approval. Approval will be based on the student's demonstrated skills, organisation, application and Grade Point Average (GPA) of 8 overall and 7.5 in English at Year 10. In very exceptional circumstances, a student may be permitted to take two Unit 3/4 subjects and four Unit 1/2 subjects. This can only happen in consultation with the relevant Heads of Department and with the Director of Learning's approval.

Students must also achieve an overall GPA of 9.0 and 8.5 In English in Year 10 to be eligible. Unit 3/4 subjects available to Year 11 students Accounting, Art Creative Practice (by invitation only), Biology, Business Management, Dance, Geography, Health & Human Development, Languages – French, German, Chinese First Language, Chinese Second Language, Chinese Second Language, Chinese Second Language Advanced, Legal Studies, Music, Physical Education.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

There are two forms of assessment in each VCE unit.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION

For the satisfactory completion of a unit, a student must demonstrate achievement of each outcome for that unit. This decision will be based on the teacher's judgement of the student's performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit. Each unit of study has between two and four outcomes.

For all studies, judgement about whether a unit has been completed satisfactorily is a school-based responsibility.

GRADES

In Units 1 & 2, students will be assessed by the School on specific areas of work. Grades will be awarded on a scale of A+ to E and will be based on tests, practical reports, essays and assignments as appropriate to the subject.

YEAR 12 ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMPULSORY STUDIES: *English – Units 3 & 4 or English EAL – Units 3 & 4 or Literature – Units 3 & 4*

At Year 12, students normally select a program of five subjects (10 VCE units), including the two units of English.

Students entering Year 12 will have accumulated results in Units 1 and 2 (and possibly Units 3 and 4) from their Year 11 studies. The Year 12 courses selected must meet the requirements for the VCE award. It is also important for students to maximise their career potential and further study opportunities through careful selection of their VCE program.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

There are two forms of assessment in each VCE unit: satisfactory completion of a unit and coursework.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION

For the satisfactory completion of a unit, a student must demonstrate achievement of each outcome for that unit as specified by the Study Design. This decision will be based on the teacher's judgement of the student's performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit. Each unit of study has between two and four outcomes. For all studies, judgement about whether a unit has been completed satisfactorily is a school-based responsibility.

COURSEWORK

Each sequence of Units 3 & 4 includes School Assessed Coursework (SACs) or School Assessed Tasks (SATs). Coursework assesses each student's overall level of achievement on the assessment tasks designated in the study design. Assessment tasks designated for Coursework must be part of the regular teaching and learning program and must be completed mainly in class time. Results of coursework count towards a student's Study Score in each VCE subject and ultimately towards the student's ATAR.

Marks are awarded for coursework as percentages A+ to E. It should be noted that coursework assessments given to students and their total scores given for coursework may change as a result of statistical moderation by the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority. In most studies, at least 50% of the assessment will be based on externally set examinations.

VCE COURSES

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- ACCOUNTING
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- APPLIED COMPUTING
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4 - SOFTWARE
DEVELOPMENT
- ART CREATIVE PRACTICE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- BIOLOGY
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- CHEMISTRY
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- CHINESE FIRST LANGUAGE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- CHINESE SECOND LANGUAGE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- CHINESE SECOND LANGUAGE
ADVANCED
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- DANCE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- ECONOMICS
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- ENGLISH
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL
LANGUAGE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- FRENCH
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- GEOGRAPHY
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- GERMAN
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- HEALTH & HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- HISTORY
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- LEGAL STUDIES
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- LITERATURE
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- MATHEMATICS FOUNDATION
MATH
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- GENERAL MATH
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4

- MATH METHODS
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- SPECIALIST MATH
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- MEDIA
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- MUSIC
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- PHYSICS
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- POLITICS
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- PSYCHOLOGY
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- THEATRE STUDIES
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4
- VISUAL COMMUNICATION
DESIGN
UNIT 1 & 2
UNIT 3 & 4

For comprehensive details on the VCE Study Designs, please visit the [VCAA website](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au).



FIRBANK GRAMMAR

