

VRQA standards for accreditation of senior secondary courses which lead to the award of the VCE, VCAL or the IB Diploma

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is required by the *Education and Training Reform Act (2006)* to accredit senior secondary courses which lead to the award of an accredited senior secondary qualification. In Victoria, the accredited qualifications which mark the completion of schooling are:

- the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
- the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL); and
- the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma).

Senior secondary courses will normally be undertaken, or will be designed to be undertaken, in year 11 or 12 of the school years.

All of the following VRQA Senior Secondary Course Accreditation Standards must be met for accreditation. A course may be accredited for a period of up to five years.

Further information about applying for accreditation for a senior secondary course and an application form can be found on the VRQA website at www.vrqa.vic.gov.au

VRQA standards for accreditation of senior secondary courses

Standard 1 There is a demonstrated need and purpose for the course

The course is based on an established community, educational, or vocational need. Any duplication with an accredited course on the State Register is identified and justified.

The rationale, aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the purpose of the course, and with the qualification(s) the course is designed to contribute towards.

Standard 2 The specific knowledge or skills that must be demonstrated by students are clearly articulated

Student learning outcomes are clearly articulated and the assessment requirements for the course are fair, valid and reliable. The assessment program provides for the collection of sufficient and valid evidence.

Standard 3 The course structure and requirements are clearly specified

The rules for the structure and successful completion of the course are specified as well as any entry requirements and prerequisites. Any limitations to access are made explicit and justified.

Standard 4 **The level of complexity of learning and the volume of learning required are appropriate for a senior secondary course**

The contribution successful completion of the course provides towards an accredited qualification is specified. The Credit Matrix level and points are specified.

Standard 5 **The requirements for delivery of the course are specified**

Delivery modes and any requirements for specialist facilities, teacher qualifications and resources are specified.

Standard 6 **The accreditation period is specified**

The accreditation dates including any arrangements for phased implementation of parts of the course are explicit. Monitoring and evaluation strategies are identified.

Standard 7 **There are educational and vocational pathways from the course**

Information on educational and vocational pathways and employability skills is provided.

The senior secondary course accreditation standards were endorsed by the VRQA Board on 8 October 2008.