Post-compulsory years 16+

Post-compulsory curriculum

Victorian Certificate of Education
The VCAA supports the delivery of the VCE curriculum through the provision of advice and resources to teachers. This includes access to a wide range of VCAA curriculum materials and resources on the VCAA website. Statewide implementation sessions were conducted to accompany the introduction of revised VCE studies.

The VCE curriculum is subject to rigorous quality assurance processes through annual monitoring activities and cyclical evaluation and reaccreditation. This ensures that the highest quality curriculum is available to all Victorian students.

The VCE covers a broad range of studies. Over 130 options are available at Year 12 level, including 46 LOTE studies, 28 VCE VET programs and 13 school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. The VCAA provides curriculum implementation support for revised VCE studies. VCE VET programs are fully integrated within the VCE and provide students with credit in the VCE and credit for national training credentials issued within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
There are three VCAL levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Senior. Students start and complete the VCAL at the level that matches their needs and abilities. A VCAL student’s learning program must comprise four compulsory curriculum strands. These are:
- literacy and numeracy skills
- work-related skills
- industry-specific skills
- personal development skills.

Some students who have completed the Senior VCAL or the VCE are able to enrol in Senior Extension VCAL, a program operating in three government secondary schools.

Vocational Education and Training in Schools
VET in Schools programs allow students to combine general and vocational studies with senior secondary education. Students are also provided with pathways into training, further education and employment, and direct experience in business and industry.
Students undertaking VET in Schools through either the VCE or the VCAL are able to include nationally recognised vocational education and training in their study program. In Victoria, the term VCE VET has been adopted to clearly describe the formalised arrangements where VET certificates have been incorporated in the VCE. Most students undertaking vocational education and training as part of their VCE or VCAL are enrolled in VCE VET programs.

The VCAA develops VCE VET programs from national training package VET qualifications or nationally recognised curriculum that can form part of a VCE certificate. Students are able to select from a suite of vocational certificates approved by the VCAA for inclusion in the VCE.

Students may enrol in a VET certificate in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship program in a range of industry areas promoted by industry stakeholders. Students undertaking other VET training at Certificate II level or above are eligible for block credit recognition. This provides broader pathways for VCE students because they are given access to a greater range of VET programs and the opportunity to tailor their studies to local employment circumstances. It enables greater student uptake of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships in a wider range of industries.

Through both the industry and the work-related skills strands of the VCAL, students are able to gain credit for vocational education and training undertaken in any industry or training setting.

**VET in Schools enrolments**

In 2009, a total of 44,520 students were enrolled in VET in Schools with 597 providers. This resulted in 60,766 certificate enrolments across a range of industry areas. These enrolments included 5242 certificate enrolments in school-based or part-time apprenticeships and traineeships. The reduction in school-based or part-time apprenticeships can be largely attributed to the significant fall in enrolments in the Certificate II and III Retail, reflecting the overall downturn in employment patterns in the retail industry in 2009.
Achievements

- During 2009, eight VCE studies were reviewed: Agricultural and Horticultural Studies, Food and Technology, Information Technology, Legal Studies, Music, Physical Education, Religion and Society and Psychology Units 3–4. Consequently, teacher implementation programs are being conducted in 2010 and resources have been created for the newly accredited studies during the first half of 2010. The revised VCE Study Designs will be implemented in 2011.
- The review cycle took account of developments in national curriculum and suspended review of those VCE studies that will be replaced by national curriculum.
- During 2010, the following VCE Studies are undergoing review: Accounting, Design and Technology, English Language, Industry and Enterprise, International Politics (International Studies and National Politics), Media, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Sociology and Visual Communication and Design. These revised study designs will be implemented in 2012.
- The following VCE VET programs were redeveloped during 2009 and implemented in 2010: Community Services, Small Business and CISCO. Small enrolment numbers in VCE VET Retail and Plastics saw these certificates revert to Block Credit Recognition.
- The VCAA provided:
  - statewide briefings on new developments in VCE VET programs and the VCAL to approximately 900 VET coordinators, VCAL coordinators, teachers, Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs), Local Community Partnerships (LCPs) and Registered Training Organisations in 13 locations during November and December 2009
  - professional development seminars in partnership with subject associations for VCE VET Information Technology, Sport and Recreation, Business and Hospitality
  - professional development and presentations for teachers of Building, Community Services, Hospitality, Dance and Music
  - advice to Service Skills Victoria and consultations with the Transport and Logistics and Innovation and Business Skills councils
  - support to the ACACA VET group and the Performance Measurement and Reporting Taskforce on the issue of data gathering and reporting of VET activity by students undertaking the VCE or VCAL.
- The VCAA also developed high-quality materials to support the implementation of training packages and scored assessment in VCE VET programs.

Enrolments in VET in the VCE or VCAL continued to be popular as a result of greater flexibility in the choice of VET certificates. Increased retention as a consequence of the increase in the school-leaving age, increased awareness of the employment opportunities in areas of skill shortage and increased promotion of VET to students all contributed to more enrolments.
Post-compulsory assessment

The VCAA has responsibility for both the VCE and the VCAL. The VCAA develops high-quality curriculum and assessments, teacher support materials and related professional development activities to support the delivery of the two certificates.

The VCAA also develops programs that lead to VET qualifications, a popular choice within both senior secondary qualifications.

Victorian Certificate of Education

During the November 2009 examination period, 114 written examinations – including those provided by CCAF – were conducted over 16 days.

All student examinations were processed and assessed, and examination scores finalised, over a period of 42 days.

VCE graded assessments and study scores 2009

Graded assessment comprises school-assessed coursework and/or school-assessed tasks and external examinations. In 2009, there was a total of 783,625 graded assessments. The median grade awarded was B and 57.8 per cent of grades were B or higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of study scores</td>
<td>263,009</td>
<td>255,024</td>
<td>256,297</td>
<td>251,366</td>
<td>259,687</td>
<td>258,184</td>
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<td>Students with at least one study score</td>
<td>76,050</td>
<td>74,781</td>
<td>74,406</td>
<td>74,509</td>
<td>75,541</td>
<td>76,208</td>
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<td>Students with at least one study score of 40+</td>
<td>14,435</td>
<td>14,567</td>
<td>14,458</td>
<td>14,317</td>
<td>14,597</td>
<td>14,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with at least one study score of 50</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of study scores of 50</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VCE VET programs

In 2009–10, 14 VCE VET programs provided students with the option of undertaking scored assessment of designated Units 3 and 4 sequences.

Scored assessment is available in the following VCE VET programs: Business Administration, Community Services, Dance, Electrotechnology, Engineering Studies, Equine Industry, Financial Services, Furnishing, Hospitality (Operations), Information Technology, Laboratory Skills, Multimedia, Music Industry, and Sport and Recreation.

The study score for a VCE VET program is calculated through assessments on a set of coursework tasks and an examination at the end of the year. The score allows students to use their VCE VET programs for direct contribution to their ENTER.
Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

The VCAL is available for students in Years 11 and 12. It provides a statewide credential through which participating students can receive recognition for their achievements in programs that have traditionally not provided credit within a formal qualification. This can include recognition of learning that occurs in structured workplace settings, locally developed programs, community projects and youth development programs.

In 2009, a total of 430 providers, comprising government schools, Catholic and independent schools, TAFE institutes and adult and community education organisations, had 17,699 certificate enrolments.

The On-Track destination data for the 2009 Intermediate and Senior VCAL students indicated that 26 per cent continued with further education or training and 60 per cent commenced an apprenticeship, traineeship or employment. This means that 86 per cent of VCAL students had a pathway to further education, training or work.

Achievements

During the reporting period the VCAA:

- recorded:
  - 48,654 VCE completions
  - 8918 VCAL certificate completions
- delivered to students' homes:
  - 78,936 VCE statements of results
  - 77,257 GAT statements
  - 3552 VCAL statements of results
  - 14,435 VET statements of results
- recorded 577 successful completions of at least one university extension study
- delivered to students through their school:
  - 63,729 VCE statements of results
  - 12,618 VCAL statements of results
  - 26,982 VET statements of results
- delivered:
  - 523 GAT statements to overseas students (Crawford Schools)
  - 245 certificates and 321 statements of results to overseas VCE providers
- provided the VCAA and the VTAC joint information service for students, through which:
  - 1729 students accessed their results by telephone
  - 20,418 students accessed their results by SMS
  - 55,818 unique students accessed their results via the web and 1078 students accessed the web via their mobile phones.