

# John Paul College

## Academic Subject and Year level based Acceleration Policy



MELBOURNE  
ARCHDIOCESE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



JOHN PAUL  
COLLEGE  
*with Him is the fulness of life*

Students who consistently achieve high academic results and demonstrate excellent learning skills and work habits may be permitted to accelerate their studies by:

- studying a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Unit 1 and 2 in Year 10
- studying a VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects in Year 11
- studying a University Extension subject in Year 12

Students are required to submit an Expression of Interest and/or Application Form by the due date for their application to be considered. **Students studying a three-year VCE program are expected to study six VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences, completing a maximum of one VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequence in Year 11 and five VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences in Year 12.** This provides opportunity for an additional 10% of the scaled score in the sixth study to be used in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

### Acceleration in Year 10 – studying a VCE Unit 1 and 2

Students who consistently achieve high academic results and demonstrate excellent learning skills and work habits may be permitted to study a VCE Unit 1 and 2 subject in Year 10. Entry requirements, based on Year 9 Semester One results, include:

- an overall result of at least 80% in English
- an average overall result of at least 80% across all subjects (70% for Advanced Maths)
- learning skills and work habits averaging 4 or more across all subjects
- exemplary record of submission of work
- and have no academic infringements (ie plagiarism)

Students who are interested in accelerating are to complete the Expression of Interest form; then they may be invited to complete an Application to Accelerate form, prior to Subject Selections opening. This Application form is to be signed off by the student's subject teachers and House Coordinator and Middle School Learning Coordinator.

### Acceleration in Year 11 - studying a VCE Unit 3 and 4

Students who have studied a VCE Unit 1 and 2 in Year 10 need to fulfill the following requirements to continue their study of the VCE Unit 3 and 4 subject in Year 11:

- an average overall result of at least 75% across all Year 10 subjects (70% for Advanced Maths)
- an overall result of at least 80% in the VCE Unit 1 and 2
- learning skills and work habits averaging 4 or more across all subjects
- exemplary record of submission of work
- and have no academic infringements (ie plagiarism)

Students who wish to continue with the Units 3 and 4 in Year 11 are required to submit the Application to Accelerate form along with meeting the requirements listed above. This Application form is to be signed off by the student's subject teachers and House Coordinator and Senior School Learning Coordinator.

Notes:

- Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be approved to study more than one VCE Unit 1 and 2 subject in Year 10.
- Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be approved to study more than one VCE Unit 3 and 4 subject in Year 11.
- Students who fulfill the following entry requirements may be permitted to study VCE Further Mathematics Units 3 and 4 in Year 11:
  - at least 85% in Advanced Mathematics
  - learning skills and work habits averaging 4 or more across all subjects
  - exemplary record of submission of work
- VCE Religion and Society Units 3 and 4 is available for students who fulfill acceleration requirements in Year 11. Students need to discuss the viability with the Learning Area Leader or subject teacher.
- A small number of high achieving students who demonstrate excellent learning skills and work habits may apply to study other VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences without the study of VCE Units 1 and 2. Students need to discuss the viability of particular subjects with the Learning Area Leader or subject teacher.

## Acceleration in Year 12

High achieving Year 11 students who have already completed one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences may wish to apply to study a University Extension subject. Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be approved to study an extension subject. This will be determined by the Senior Student Learning Coordinator.

## VCAL Requirements

VCAL is a select entry course, and students are accepted only if they meet the specific criteria established by the College. Applicants are interviewed to assess their suitability for the program. Each applicant's readiness for work and vocational training is assessed, as well as their classroom behaviour, effort and attendance.

Students applying for the VCAL program must attend a VCAL selection interview to assess their suitability for VCAL at the end of Term 3. Students who are unsure about VCAL as an option can apply to do VCE but still request a VCAL interview online. Prior to the interview the student is expected to have researched the VET course/s that they are interested in completing to determine their suitability and passion.

Students must select the VCAL option and choose a VET program when completing their online course selection for the following year.

Once accepted into the program the student should begin looking for a placement where they can complete their Structured Workplace Learning (SWL).

Students may be expected to attend the College on the days of their SWL in instances where:

- they are yet to find a placement for their learning to have assistance in finding a placement
- they are behind in completing their Learning Outcomes

If the Learning Outcomes are still outstanding two weeks after the due date, the student is expected to return after classes finish at the end of year to complete any remaining tasks required to complete their VCAL Certificate – this applies to both Intermediate and Senior Programs. Failure of Strands in Intermediate VCAL may restrict the options of continuing into Senior VCAL.

## VET Requirements

The VET programs are nationally recognised vocational certificate programs that allow students to include vocational studies within their Year 10 course, VCE or VCAL Certificate. Students who wish to complete a VET subject in Years 10-12 are required to attend an interview to determine their suitability for the program. Prior to the interview the student is expected to have researched the VET course/s that they are interested in completing to determine their suitability and passion. If a student is applying for VCAL, these interviews will be held in conjunction with each other.

Students who select the VCE program are also eligible to complete a VET course.

VET programs contribute to the VCE and VCAL in one of the following ways:

- **Credit towards the VCE:** selected VCE VET Programs offer scored assessment (study score) for Units 3 and 4 in the same way all VCE studies do and includes an end of year exam and study score.
- **Credit towards the VCE:** through block credit, a contribution of 10% increment towards the ATAR as a fifth or sixth subject
- **Credit towards VCAL:** units contribute towards the industry specific skills strand at VCAL levels. Credit towards the VCAL units contribute towards the industry specific skills strand.

Families are responsible for the additional costs involved for all VET courses.

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Person Responsible: Middle Student Learning Coordinator & Senior Student Learning Coordinator