Selecting a VCAL program of study

What is VCAL?

Students at senior secondary level have the choice of two certificates:

- VCE - Victorian Certificate of Education

VCAL sits alongside VCE as an accredited senior school completion certificate. It applies the principles of applied (hands on) learning in all areas of the curriculum. It gives students practical work related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. VCAL's flexible curriculum enables students to undertake a study program that suits their interest and learning needs while building on current strengths.

What are the aims of VCAL?

VCAL aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge and attitude to make informed choices about pathways to work and further education.

The principles underpinning VCAL are:

- Accredited pathways for secondary students
- Tailored programs to suit student interests
- Personal development
- Development of work related and industry specific skills.

In VCAL these principles are shown through:

- The development of knowledge and employability skills that help prepare students for work and participation in a broader society - family, community and lifelong learning
- The development of knowledge and skills that assist students to make informed vocational choices and facilitate pathways to further learning and employment.
VCAL Certificate Levels

Foundation
At this level the focus is on knowledge and employability skill development, supported by strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy skills and preparatory learning. 120 - 180 hours of SWL / work experience.

Intermediate
At intermediate level the focus is on knowledge and employability skills development that leads to independent learning, confidence and higher level of transferrable skills. Also enrolled in VET course and complete 120 - 180 hours of SWL / work experience.

Senior
At this level the focus is on knowledge and employability skills that lead to a high level of interpersonal skills and tasks that require decision making and leadership. Demonstrating knowledge and skills which apply to the workplace or further training is also important. All students studying VET courses and complete 120 - 180 hours of SWL / work experience.

Note: Students will be placed in the appropriate level according to their previous studies, literacy skills, interests, goals and leadership capabilities.

VCAL pathway:

Foundation: This level VCAL program is suitable to students who require supported development of literacy, numeracy and communication skills in order to go onto further study, apprenticeships or employment.

Intermediate: This level is suitable for students who require further development of literacy, numeracy and communication skills in order to go onto further study, apprenticeships or employment.

Senior: This level is open to provide opportunities for students to actively engage in education preparedness for higher education or employment.

The focus is more a self-directed learning approach where students engage with industry and look at further education opportunities.

The program:
To satisfactorily meet the requirements of the VCAL program, students must undertake studies in the following areas:

1) Literacy
2) Numeracy
3) Work Related Skills
School based projects focusing on enterprise, teamwork, communication, resume writing, job applications, researching industry areas, OH&S and to gain knowledge of entering into the workforce etc. The unit will also include structured work placement for students to work in their chosen industry.
4) Personal Development Skills
Development of knowledge/skills that leads to the development of self, social responsibility, building community, civic responsibility, improving self confidence and other skills important for life and work.
5) Industry Specific Skills
Each student is required to study the VCAL units of Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills, but then has the opportunity to build an individualised program. Students will make choices about subjects, choosing studies in VET, on and off-site options, and from the College’s Year 10 and VCE program.

A VCAL program includes:

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<th>Religious Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy Requirement (COMPULSORY UNIT)</td>
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<td>Numeracy Requirement (COMPULSORY UNIT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Related Skills (COMPULSORY UNIT)</td>
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<td>Personal Development Skills (COMPULSORY UNIT)</td>
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<td>Industry Specific Skills may include any appropriate VET Certificate course</td>
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The program is completed by selecting an additional VET or other subject from the College’s offerings.

Application process:
1. Collect an application form from careers and pathways office
2. Submit application form
3. Undergo in an interview
If an applicant is identified as not being eligible for the program they will be notified of the reason and will be given referral to more suitable program/s.

Fees:
Fees will vary and some programs might carry additional costs due to clothing and equipment requirements or other materials.

For interpretation of the VCAL program in other languages, please see the following reference:

Be the best you are called to be
Careers Website:
carolinechisholmcatholiccollegecareers.com