

For Students Going into Year 12 in 2019

<http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/life-damascus-learning-teaching-year11-and-12>

Introduction

At this stage, you are half way through a programme of study which will result in you achieving one of two School Leaving Certificates: either the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) or the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Some of you may be planning to continue with the studies you commenced in 2018, but for others you may be considering a change. Information on the two certificates is provided below.

VCAL

As part of the VCAL programme, you must undertake the following strands:

- **VCAL Personal Development**
- **VCAL Numeracy**
- **VCAL Literacy**
- **VCAL Work-related Skills**
- **A VET Course**

To apply for a VCAL programme you must enter the on-line selection process and fill in the application form. You will need to submit this to Mr Inverarity who will then arrange an interview time with you.

VCAL Personal Development

What's it about?

- Understanding individual and group responsibility
- Self-confidence and resilience
- Values of integrity, enterprise and excellence
- Empowerment for active citizenship
- Teamwork
- Social and community awareness

Activities students may engage in:

- Planning
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Public speaking
- Operating a business
- Personal journal
- Working in teams to produce creative pieces

VCAL Numeracy

What's it about?

- Numeracy for practical purposes - design and measurement
- Numeracy for personal organisation - location
- Numeracy for interpreting society - data and numerical information
- Numeracy for knowledge - formulae and problem solving

Activities students may engage in:

- Calculating using different number forms, averages, etc
- Estimating and measuring
- Interpreting maps, graphs, diagrams, charts and tables
- Drawing diagrams, graphs, etc
- School-based excursions
- Practical activities focused on; operating a business, living away from home, purchasing a car, credit cards

VCAL Literacy

What's it about?

- **Development of literacy skills and knowledge that allow effective participation and functioning in Australian society including; family and social life, workplace and institutional settings, education and training contexts, community and civic life**

Activities students may engage in:

- **Oral presentations**
- **Writing activities**
- **Public debating**
- **Reading tasks**

VCAL Work-related Skills

What's it about?

- **Developing life skills**
- **Developing OH&S awareness**
- **Learning about work skills and how to apply them in practical situations**
- **Learning employability skills to assist in the working world, e.g. communication, teamwork, problem-solving, etc.**

Activities students may engage in:

- **OH&S training**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Teamwork**
- **Personal journal**
- **Work experience**

VCE

You are currently working towards:

- Unit 1 and 2 English;
- Unit 1 Religion in Society;
- Unit 1 and 2 in five other subjects, which may include VET studies.

So, all together you will obtain 13 units of study in Year 11. To successfully complete the VCE you will need to obtain 16 units of study, including four Unit 3/4 sequences (year 12 subjects) one of which must be an English study (English/Literature). At Damascus College students are encouraged to attempt a minimum of 5 Unit 3/4 sequences.

For further information on the VCE programme and how the ATAR is calculated, please visit the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website.

VCE Subjects

When making your subject selections, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I enjoy this subject?
- Am I capable of doing this subject?
- Do I need this subject as a prerequisite or a recommended subject for a particular higher education course or career pathway?
- Have I read carefully the notes which follow the subjects list to check the specific requirements of certain subjects?

It is vital that you check the pre-requisites for the university courses in which you are interested and for the year in which you will be going to university (no earlier than 2018).

For example, some courses will insist that you have passed Mathematical Methods, even when you might not think there is a direct link to that subject.

The subjects you may choose from are:

- [English Language](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [Art](#)
- [Drama](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Music Performance](#)
- [Studio Arts \(General\)](#)
- [Studio Arts \(Photography\)](#)
- [Visual Communication Design](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Accounting](#)

- [Business Management](#)
- [History \(Australian\)](#)
- [History \(Revolutions\)](#)
- [History \(Ancient\)](#)
- [Industry and Enterprise](#)
- [Legal Studies](#)
- [French](#)
- [Indonesian Second Language](#)
- [Foundation Mathematics](#)
- [Further Mathematics](#)
- [Specialist Mathematics](#)
- [Mathematical Methods \(CAS\)](#)
- [Health and Human Development](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [Computing](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Product Design and Technology \(Metal or Wood\)](#)
- [Food and Technology](#)
- [Systems Engineering](#)

Notes:

- You are strongly advised only to study Literature if you took the subject in Year 11. If you studied Literature/Language in Year 11, you may again choose Literature/Language in addition to English, or instead of English.
- French and Indonesian Second Language are only available to students who have studied those subjects in Year 11.
- You may not take both Studio Arts (General) and Studio Arts (Photography) as they are regarded by the VCAA as the same subject.
- Religion and Society is a scored subject and contributes to the ATAR, whereas the Certificate in Religious Education is assessed solely within school. If you choose to study Religion and Society as a VCE subject, you are not required to work towards the Certificate in Religious Education.
- Music Performance requires that you play an instrument or sing. It is strongly recommended that you consider this subject only if you studied it in Year 11.
- If you studied General Mathematics Units 1 and 2 in Year 11, you should consider Further Mathematics Units 3 and 4 in year 12.
- If you studied Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 in Year 11, you should consider Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 in Year 12.

- Should you wish to follow a different Mathematics pathway from the one suggested above, you must discuss this with your teacher as soon as possible so that an individual plan can be formulated for you.
- Specialist Mathematics can only be chosen if you also study Mathematical Methods.
- For Product Design and Technology, you must choose either Metal or Wood as your major medium.
- Art, Studio Arts (General), Studio Arts (Photography), Product Design and Technology, Food and Technology, Visual Communication Design and Media involve the production of a folio of work. Be aware that taking more than one of these subjects can create a substantial workload.
- It is strongly recommended that you consider Chemistry, Physics and/or Mathematical Methods only if you completed these subjects in Year 11.
- One subject may be replaced by a VET subject.

Further Help

There are many people with the experience and expertise to help you to make good choices at subject selection time. The following people are willing and able to help you if you contact them to discuss your subject choices further:

- Your TA
- Your subject teachers
- Ms Lawrence (for questions about careers and further study), St Martin's Resource Centre, j.lawrence@damascus.vic.edu.au
- Mr Inverarity (for questions about VCAL and VET), Building 2, t.inverarity@damascus.vic.edu.au
- Mr Hallowell (for questions about VCE), Building 2, m.hallowell@damascus.vic.edu.au
- The Career Hub at the Ballarat Learning Exchange, Camp Street, Ballarat – if you haven't had the opportunity to complete Career Voyage at school, or if you would like to update your profile, contact The Career Hub on 5336 5003 and make an appointment to complete it with them.

There are also several useful websites you should familiarise yourself with:

- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au
- Victorian Tertiary Entrance Requirements (VICTER) at www.vtac.edu.au
- My Future at www.myfuture.edu.au where you can complete a series of questions which will result in a selection of career paths which might be of interest to you