



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS & ADMISSIONS POLICY

Date	December 2024	Review Cycle	3 Years	Approved By	Principal
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INTERPRETER SERVICE

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our college on 9741 1822 or werribee.sc@education.vic.gov.au so interpreters may be arranged via VITS or local services.



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COLLEGE MISSION AND VALUES

At Werribee Secondary College we strive for success in all the chosen endeavours of our students. We nurture the values of **respect** and **responsibility**.

We **respect**, and are **responsible** for embracing our identity and that of others; taking care of our local and global communities, and valuing the right to learn.

We respect and are responsible for our:

Learning

I respect my own right to learn and that of others, and I recognise my responsibility to become a lifelong learner.

Identity

I respect the diverse cultures, religions, languages, beliefs, genders, sexual orientation and the specific needs of those around me. I respect my own role within this community and take responsibility to show respect for both myself and others.

Community

I respect the local and global communities within which I live. I understand my responsibility in protecting these communities to ensure a safe and sustainable future in which everyone feels they belong.

PURPOSE

This policy ensures Werribee Secondary College provides a broad range of programs for students in the later years as well as specifying admissions requirements to the general community.

PROGRAMS:

The College offers our students a choice of three senior certificates:

1. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

Students at Werribee Secondary College have the opportunity to study the IB Diploma Program as an alternative to the VCE. The IB Diploma Program provides a cohesive and comprehensive program for independent learners. It equips students with the skills to effectively participate in a rapidly evolving global society, and to become active and compassionate lifelong learners. The IB Diploma Program is highly regarded by both Australian and International universities and an excellent tertiary preparation course.

2. Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major (VCE-VM)

The Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major (VCE-VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. The VCE VM will give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

3. Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is undertaken by students in Years 11 and 12 but can be started in Year 10, if the student meets the selection criteria. It provides a range of subjects to meet the needs of students and provides pathways to further study at university, TAFE or employment.

* Vocational Education and Training (VET)

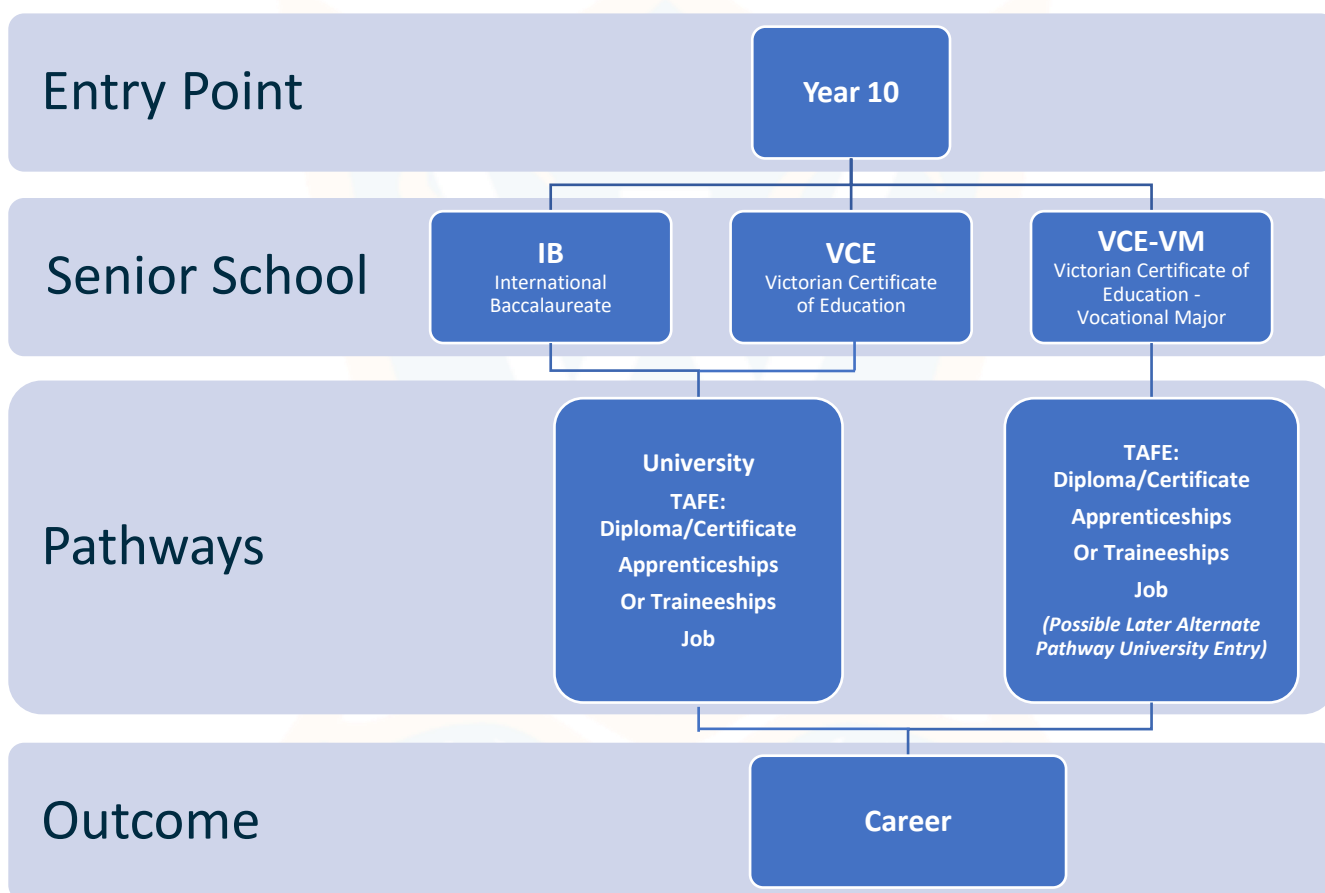
Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools is a vocationally oriented program that is **part of either VCE-VM or VCE**. It provides credit towards these certificates as well as the opportunity to undertake a nationally recognised VET qualification within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Families are encouraged to discuss with the school the pathway that is best for their child and consider the following when making pathway decisions:

- What your child enjoys
- What they would like to do in the future
- What their strengths are
- Specific learning needs
- University pre-requisites

The first decision that needs to be made is which Certificate is the most suitable for the student to follow. This decision is made after consulting with guidance, offered by the Career’s team. The student profile and ultimate plans for their future will guide this decision.

The diagram below clearly shows these three options:



ADMISSIONS TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1. International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Werribee Secondary College supports the inclusion of all students in education. The IBO Diploma Program offers additional choice to our Senior Students completing their final years of secondary education. The information outlined here applies to all Year 10 students applying to access the IBO Diploma Program at Werribee Secondary College. Students must meet the requirements set out in the Promotion Policy so that they have the greatest chance of success in their adopted pathway of study.

Admission for existing Werribee Secondary College Year 10 IB Link and IB Stream Students:

In addition to the criteria set in the College's Promotion Policy, students seeking admission to the IB Diploma Program are required to:

- Receive Course Counselling to determine suitability for the program. This will be decided by the IBDP Coordinator, working in conjunction with Senior School Staff.
- The students' previous school reports are reviewed to determine eligibility for the IBDP, which includes whether the student is meeting age-appropriate learning outcomes and has above-average work ethic skills (ie. completion of work, meeting deadlines, participation in class etc.)

Admission for new students:

(Students who have not yet completed a semester's study at Werribee Secondary College, or who have completed some of that semester as students from another school).

- Where students have a current report from a Victorian Secondary School, their most recent results will be used to determine admission: a student must have received teacher judgments that indicate that the student is at or above the expected standard in at least 5 subjects, which must include English and Mathematics.
- Where students do not have a current report from a Victorian Secondary School, assessment evidence available may be submitted, and will be considered by the Senior School Assistant Principal and the IBDP Coordinator. In these cases, the evidence must show that a student has an equivalent skill level to existing students to enter the program. Where evidence is insufficient, the school reserves the right to call for the student to sit further assessments to determine their suitability.

General conditions for all IB DP admissions:

Where there are not enough places for applicants, admission to the DP program will be decided based on an interview process with the DP Coordinator.

Students and Parents must be aware of the features of the IB Diploma characterised by its:

- Academic breadth, depth and rigour which are recognised by universities world-wide
- Emphasis on the promotion of international awareness among students
- Attention to developing socially responsible citizens of the world with an awareness of global perspectives.

The unique features of the IB include:

- the Extended Essay; the Theory of Knowledge (ToK); Creativity, Activity and Service program (CAS);
- It embraces the culture and ethos of Werribee Secondary College's Live Worthily motto and values of respect and responsibility.



The **Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Program** develops the role of service to the community, a sense of global humanity and tolerance.

The **Extended Essay (EE)** and **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** are both highly academic and can be seen as providing a pathway from the senior secondary years to university study.

The IB Curriculum model represents six academic subject areas surrounding the core. Subjects are studied concurrently for two years. Subject scores are criterion marked and overall results are not ranked. Diploma candidates are required to select one subject from each of the six subject areas, with:

- At least three, and not more than four, taken at Higher Level (HL); and
- The remaining subjects taken at Standard Level (SL).

Students are able to explore some subjects in depth and others more broadly; which represents academic breadth over early specialisation.

Subject choice requirements ensure that the science-orientated student is challenged to learn a foreign language and the natural linguist becomes familiar with the scientific processes. While balance is maintained, flexibility is catered for with the student choosing their Higher Level subjects to pursue areas of personal interest and to meet special requirements for university entrance.

Information on how IB Results are converted to ATAR can be found on this link:
<https://ibaustoralasia.org/university-entrance/#section-1>

2. The VCE Study Program

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is undertaken by students in Years 11 and 12 but can be started in Year 10, if the student meets the selection criteria. It provides a range of subjects to meet the needs of students and provides pathways to further study at university, TAFE or employment. Students seeking to undertake the VCE Program must successfully complete all requirements for promotion to year 11 at Werribee Secondary College.

At Werribee Secondary College students who choose the VCE are enrolling into an academic certificate with the aim of obtaining an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) and future tertiary study. The VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) is awarded to students who successfully complete accredited studies in Years 11 & 12.

Choosing subjects for the VCE:

Prior to choosing their VCE Subjects, Year 9 and 10 students receive Course Counselling as well as attend a Careers Expo Day and Information Sessions. Students choose subjects that are prerequisites for university study. They are also highly encouraged to choose subjects that they are good at and that they enjoy. Student choice and available resources decide which subjects run. Placement in classes for year 11 are decided using year 10 academic results. Students who are assessed as capable of undertaking a VCE subject in Year 10 are offered VCE unit 1 subjects in Year 10.

Choosing a VCE Course:

In order to successfully complete their VCE studies, students are required to include at least 4 units of English across year 11 and year 12.

Most students study 22 Units over two years in their VCE programs:

- 6 units in each semester of Year 11, a total of 12 units.
- 5 units in each semester of Year 12, a total of 10 units.

Successful Completion of the VCE and eligibility for an ATAR:

To be eligible for promotion to year 12, year 11 students must satisfactorily complete 8 units, including one unit of English. To be eligible for the award of the VCE and an ATAR, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum 16 units.

These must include:

- A minimum of THREE units of English.
- A minimum of FOUR Unit 3/4 sequences (including English).

Information on how ATAR calculations: <https://vtac.edu.au/guides/atar-scaling-guide-2024.html>

3. Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major (VCE-VM)

This is an accredited Senior Secondary school qualification. Upon completion of the Year 10 requirements at Werribee Secondary College, students may choose this as their Senior Secondary pathway.

To be eligible to receive the VCE-VM, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units, including:

- 3 VCE-VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- 2 VCE-VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units
- 2 VCE-VM Work Related Skills units
- 2 VCE-VM Personal Development Skills units
- 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours)

*VCE-VM may **not** be the best option for students considering going to University straight from school, but it is still possible to pathway into University courses by undertaking VCE-VM and VET programs.*

4. Information About Vocational Education and Training In Schools (VET)

Vocational Education and Training refers to enhanced senior school studies, which enable a secondary student to combine their VCE or VCE-VM studies with vocational training. VET is **usually** a two-year program combining general VCE or VCE-VM studies with accredited vocational education and training. It enables students to complete a nationally recognised vocational qualification (e.g. Certificate III in Business). It provides the opportunity to trial a career and helps students explore possible areas of interest which promote further study and work choices. VET allows students to go directly into employment or receive credit towards further TAFE study. VET matches student interest and career directions consolidating the career pathway. Important industry specific skills and workplace skills are learnt through the VET program. Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded a nationally accredited vocational training certificate.

A VET in Schools program is usually made up of VCE and/or VCE-VM VET units that are delivered at the student's school, another school within the Wyndham VET Cluster or at TAFE.

VET Contribution to the VCE AND ATAR:

VET is fully incorporated into the VCE.

Key features include:

- VET programs usually have a 1 – 4 Units structure. Of the 16 units that make up the VCE, an unlimited number can be VET units.
- VET programs contribute directly to the ATAR with a study score derived from scored assessment OR as a 10% increment as a 5th or 6th subject. However, in some instances there is nil contribution towards ATAR when Units are at Year 11, 1 and 2 level only.
- All School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT) courses contribute as a unit 3 & 4 sequence with no score, but contributes a 10% increment as a 5th or 6th subject for your score.
- For more information, access the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) [website](#).

VET Contribution to VCE-VM:

- A VET subject contributes to the satisfactory completion of VCE-VM as Industry Specific Skills
- 90 hours of VET gains one VCE-VM credit. This usually represents one semester of classes.
- As **Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)**: Students undertake work with an employer that enables the student to demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge in an industry setting. During the Structured Workplace Learning, a student will have specific tasks to undertake in order to demonstrate competence. Students will be regularly monitored and may be assessed on the job.

ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

Families are able to access this information through the following:

- College Website (werribeesc.vic.edu.au)
- Senior School Handbook
- Compass

Additional information regarding Senior School Programs offered at Werribee Secondary College can be accessed through the following links:

- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.ibo.org/>