

# Victorian Pathways Certificate Suitability Guidelines

## Introduction to the Victorian Pathways Certificate

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is an inclusive Years 11 and 12 standards-based certificate that meets the needs of a smaller number of students who are not able or ready to complete the VCE. It will provide an enriched curriculum and excellent support for students to develop the skills, capabilities and qualities for success in personal and civic life.

The VPC is an accredited qualification described through recent amendments to the Education Training and Reform Act 2006 as a foundation secondary qualification. It is designed to commence at Level 1 of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

The VPC is designed to engage students through applied learning and provides flexibility to meet individual learning needs. The VPC curriculum develops the skills, knowledge, values and capabilities that enable students to make informed choices about pathways into further education, training and/or employment.

The VPC is designed for students in Years 11 and 12 who would benefit from an individualised program at a more accessible level than a senior secondary certificate. It has a flexible duration depending on a student's individual education plan and the delivery setting. The VPC may be completed in a variable timeframe, with a minimum of 12 months. Students can enter the VPC at a time of year that best suits their learning needs, abilities and interests.

## Purpose of the VPC

The purpose of the VPC is to:

- equip students with the skills, knowledge, values and capabilities to be active and informed citizens, lifelong learners and confident and creative individuals
- empower students to make informed decisions about the next stages of their lives through authentic workplace experiences providing them with the best opportunity to achieve their personal goals and aspirations in a rapidly changing world.

## Enrolment Suitability

When enrolling a student into the VPC the individual needs of the student must be considered. Discussions about the VPC's suitability for a student should be conducted between the school, the student and their family.

The VPC is suitable for students whose previous schooling experience may have been disrupted for a variety of reasons, including academic and/or wellbeing issues.

VPC enrolment would be suitable for a student who:

- has had a highly modified program during their F-10 years
- is re-engaging into the school environment
- would have previously been enrolled in Foundation VCAL
- has had a transient experience with previous school enrolments
- meets the eligibility for the [Program for Students with Disabilities \(PSD\)](#) / [Disability Inclusion Profile](#)
- has a history of school refusal
- has additional wellbeing considerations.

## Applied learning in Year 10

Students who are identified as suitable for the VPC may start the certificate in Year 10 if they require additional time to complete the course, this includes students in specialist schools or flexible learning options, who complete the VPC as a pathway to VCE. It is not recommended for other students to start and complete the VPC in Year 10 as a standalone program.

Support materials on applied learning at Year 10 are available on the [VCAA website](#). These resources include program samples and unit descriptors that support schools to develop an applied learning approach in Year 10, based on the F–10 Victorian Curriculum. This approach may be developed in schools where a large number of students will undertake an applied learning senior secondary pathway beyond Year 10.

## Entry to VPC studies

There are no entry requirements for VPC studies. The VPC has been designed to accommodate flexible entry and exit. Students are able to enter VPC studies at a time that best suits their current lives, learning needs, abilities and interests.

Parameters for entry and exit in schools is determined by school regulations and enrolment guidelines. Flexible entry and exit points of non-school VPC providers are determined by the policies and regulations of that education provider in accordance with their VRQA registration requirements.

The VPC has been designed to be flexible, enabling the individual needs and capabilities of students to be recognised. It is important to note that some students with additional learning needs may require additional resources to enable the successful completion of the learning program and some students may require additional time to achieve learning goals.

## Specific eligibility requirements for VPC studies

There are no eligibility requirements for VPC studies. Should a student also enrol in a VCE study, some have specific eligibility requirements. Refer to the [VCE Administrative Handbook](#) for these requirements.

# Pathways

The VPC is designed to develop and extend pathways for young people, while providing flexibility for different cohorts. On completion of the VPC students will be able to make informed choices about employment or future/further education pathways. Meaningful pathways are created by linking student aspirations and future employment goals to the choice of accredited curriculum, as well as connecting VPC learning programs to work and industry experiences and active participation in the community. Including VET in VPC learning programs, where possible, helps connect students with broader options for work, further education and active community participation.

Possible future pathways for VPC students include:

- completion of the VCE or VCE Vocational Major
- apprenticeships and traineeships
- VET courses
- Employment
- TAFE.