# The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

Learn about the VPC and what it helps students do

A text-only Easy Read version

How to use this guide

The Victorian Department of Education wrote this guide.

When you read the word ‘we’, it means the Victorian Department of Education.

We wrote this information in an easy to read way.

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **9**.

This is an Easy Read summary of another guide.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other guide on our website.

[www.vic.gov.au/about-the-victorian-pathways-certificate](http://www.vic.gov.au/about-the-victorian-pathways-certificate)

You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

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## About the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

The **Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)** is a certificate students can study during Year 11 and 12 in Victoria.

Students can do the VPC if their school thinks it’s the right course for them.

Students might study for the VPC:

* before Year 11
* for more than 2 years.

When something is **accessible**, it is easier to:

* find and use
* understand.

The VCP is a more accessible way for students to do their high school studies than the **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)**.

The VCE is a certificate students can get if they:

* go to high school in Victoria

and

* finish Year 11 and 12.

Students can work with their school to plan what is best for them.

Students can choose what subjects they study to get their VPC.

This includes subjects like maths or English.

Each subject is split into 4 parts.

We call these parts ‘units’.

Teachers will check a student’s work as part of their VPC classes.

## What students can do with the VPC

Students can use the VPC to:

* start work after they finish school
* get a traineeship or apprenticeship.

A traineeship or apprenticeship is when students learn how to do a job while they are at work.

For example, a student might have an apprenticeship to learn and work as a builder.

Students can use the VPC to help them start a **vocational education and training (VET)** course

VET is skills training students can do for certain types of job.

Students can do a VET course as part of Year 11 and 12.

You can find a list of VET courses students can take part in on our website.

[www.vic.gov.au/how-vocational-education-training-fits-into-year-11-12](http://www.vic.gov.au/how-vocational-education-training-fits-into-year-11-12)

The VET course could take place at **TAFE**.

TAFE is a training organisation where people can learn how to do different jobs.

Students can also use the VPC to help them start the VCE later on.

This includes the **VCE Vocational Major**.

Students can learn in the VCE Vocational Major program for 2 years.

It gives students the skills and experience they might need after they finish Year 12 to:

* get work
* keep studying.

## What subjects students need to study

To get a VPC, students must complete 12 units.

Students must complete 2 units of:

* an English subject
* a maths subject.

For English and maths subjects, students can choose from:

* VPC units
* VCE units, including VCE Vocational Major units.

Students must also complete:

* 2 VPC units of a subject about building their life skills
* 2 VPC units of a subject about building their work skills.

For their last 4 units, they can choose:

* units from other VPC subjects
* units from other VCE or VCE Vocational Major subjects
* a Certificate I (1) or higher of a VET course.

Students can also choose to spend time learning skills in a place where they work.

Students can speak to their school’s **careers counsellor** to find out more about the subjects they must do.

A careers counsellor is someone who gives students advice about:

* their future jobs
* the skills they will need.

## What students get when they finish their studies

When a student finishes their studies, they will get:

* their VPC
* a document with their results.

If a student studied any VET courses, they will also get:

* a document that lists the units they finished
* their VET qualification.

If a person has a qualification, they have:

* studied or trained
* shown that they can do something the right way.

If a student doesn’t finish the VPC, they will get a document that lists the parts they did finish.

## Example story

Brandon enjoys:

* being creative
* learning skills by using his hands to feel how things work.

He wanted to start an apprenticeship in hairdressing when he finished school.

### Why he chose the VPC

Brandon liked that the VPC included:

* working on community projects
* working in a team.

He also needed something that would work with his medical condition.

Brandon talked to:

* his family
* his teachers
* a careers counsellor at his school.

Brandon decided he liked what the VPC offered.

### What he studied

Brandon started his VPC studies in Year 10.

He studied Unit 1 of:

* the VPC English subject
* the VPC maths subject.

In year 11, Brandon studied Unit 2 of:

* the VPC English subject
* the VPC maths subject.

He also studied Unit 1 of:

* a subject about building his life skills
* a subject about building his work skills.

He also studied Units 1 and 2 of a VET course that supports him to work towards a Certificate II (2).

This VET course will help him work towards a qualification in business.

In Year 12, Brandon studied Unit 2 of:

* a subject about building his life skills
* a subject about building his work skills.

He also studied Unit 3 of an English subject.

He also studied:

* Unit 1 of a VET course that supports him to learn in a place where he works
* Units 1 and 2 of a VET course that supports him to work towards another Certificate II (2).

This VET course will help him work towards a qualification in hairdressing.

When Brandon finished his VPC studies, he had the skills and experience to apply for an apprenticeship as a hairdresser.

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.

Accessible

When something is accessible, it is easier to:

* find and use
* understand.

****Careers counsellor****

A careers counsellor is someone who gives students advice about:

* their future jobs
* the skills they will need.

Qualification

If person has a qualification, they have:

* studied or trained
* shown that they can do something the right way.

TAFE

TAFE is a training organisation where people can learn how to do different jobs.

Traineeship or apprenticeship

A traineeship or apprenticeship is when students learn how to do a job while they are at work.

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

The VCE is a certificate students can get if they:

* go to high school in Victoria

and

* finish Year 11 and 12.

VCE Vocational Major

Students can learn in the VCE Vocational Major program for 2 years.

It gives students the skills and experience they might need after they finish year 12 to:

* get work
* keep studying.

Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

The VPC is a certificate students can study during Year 11 and 12 in Victoria.

Students can do the VPC if their school thinks it’s the right course for them.

Vocational education training (VET)

VET is skills training students can do for certain types of job.

Students can do a VET course as part of Year 11 and 12.

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