



YEAR 7
SELECT ENTRY
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

2026
HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACED PROGRAM

ACED stands for **Acceleration, Challenge, Enrichment, and Discovery** – the core values that underpin Mount Ridley P-12 College's Select Entry Academic Program.

This program offers places to a limited number of highly capable and dedicated students who demonstrate the ability to meet its academic rigours. The program's vision recognises that every student is unique, with a learning style that reflects their individuality. Through inquiry, questioning, curiosity, and collaboration, students are accelerated through their coursework, engaging in a learning environment that is both rigorous and rewarding. The enrichment component of the program promotes the exploration of complex and abstract concepts, with a strong emphasis on higher-order thinking skills. Students are offered a range of opportunities, including participation in academic competitions, excursions, and collaborative projects.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACED STUDENTS

PROGRAM BENEFITS

ACED students benefit from a range of academic and personal development opportunities, including:

- Working independently and collaboratively with like-minded, highly motivated peers
- Access to specialised coaching and a challenging learning environment
- The promotion of high levels of maturity, creativity, and academic aptitude
- Involvement in a wide range of enrichment and extension activities
- A strong emphasis on higher-order thinking, research, and learning skills
- Opportunities to study areas of personal interest in greater depth
- Accelerated learning pathways, including early access to VCE and tertiary studies
- Participation in student advocacy and community-based projects

ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION

- Differentiated classroom programs designed for extension
- Study of complex and abstract concepts
- Emphasis on higher-order thinking and inquiry-based learning
- Opportunities to undertake independent inquiry and personal development projects
- Involvement in subject-specific competitions (e.g., Mathematics, Science, English, Humanities)
- Tailored excursions and incursions to deepen classroom learning

STUDENT LED LEARNING

- Personal achievement goals developed by students with mentor support
- Emphasis on reflective learning practices
- Encouragement of investigation, problem solving, and creativity
- Development of skills essential for independent learning and future academic success

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The Years 7–9 ACED curriculum mirrors the structure of the mainstream program at Mount Ridley P-12 College, which offers a variety of immersive subjects to expose students to a broad range of learning areas. These programs are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, ensuring comprehensive coverage across all key learning domains.

While the curriculum structure is consistent with the mainstream program, the ACED program is differentiated to meet the unique needs of its students. A team of dedicated teachers delivers a tailored learning experience that allows for deeper exploration of content, encourages critical thinking, and challenges students to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9	
SUBJECT	SESSIONS PER WEEK	SUBJECT	SESSIONS PER WEEK	SUBJECT	SESSIONS PER WEEK
English	5	English	5	English	5
Mathematics	5	Mathematics	5	Mathematics	5
Humanities	3	Humanities	3	Humanities	3
Science	3	Science	3	Science	3
Health & Physical Education	4	Health & Physical Education	4	Health & Physical Education	4
Language Studies Japanese or Italian	2	Language Studies Japanese or Italian	2	Language Studies Japanese or Italian	2
Specialist subject (semester based) Performing Arts and STEM	3	Specialist subject (semester based) Art and STEM	3	Specialist subject (semester based) Media and Food Tech	3

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

PATHWAYS TO SENIOR STUDIES YEAR 10 ACCELERATION

In Year 10, ACED students are encouraged to begin their VCE Program by selecting a VCE Unit 1 and 2 subject. This early access supports academic extension and provides valuable preparation for senior studies.

Each student will receive personalised guidance from their ACED Mentor Teacher and College Learning Specialists to determine their eligibility and suitability for acceleration into VCE. This process ensures students are both academically and emotionally ready to undertake the challenges of higher-level study.

YEAR 10									
CORE SUBJECTS					ELECTIVE SUBJECTS				
ACED English	Mathematics	ACED Science (Year long)	ACED Humanities (Semester long)	Mentor	VCE Unit 1 & 2	Languages	Health & PE	Technology	Art

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

PATHWAYS TO SENIOR STUDIES

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (VCE)

At the VCE level, ACED students will have the opportunity to access a combination of appropriately selected VCE subjects and Early Access university subjects. These options are finalised during individual Course Counselling sessions and are tailored to align with students' strengths, interests, and post-secondary goals.

YEAR 11

Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Mentor
Choice of: ACED English English Literature	VCE Unit 3 & 4 subject	Course Counsellor into 'best fit' VCE Units 1 and 2 subjects for student skills and pathways				ACED students mentor class with tailored program.

YEAR 12

Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Mentor
Choice of: ACED English English Literature	VCE Units 3 & 4 subjects				Study Session	ACED students mentor class with tailored program.

SUPPORT

The ACED Program is supported by a collaborative and dedicated team of educators committed to nurturing both academic and personal development. At the heart of this support is a carefully selected team of ACED Mentor Teachers who guide students from entry into the program through to the completion of Year 12.

Students remain in the same mentor class throughout their time in ACED, which fosters a sense of stability, belonging, and strong peer connections within a cohort of like-minded, high-achieving students.

PURPOSE-BUILT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (YEARS 7–10)

Students in Years 7 to 10 are based in the dedicated ACED Building, a purpose-designed space that supports the specific needs of academically capable learners. The building provides:

- A focused environment that promotes concentration and wellbeing
- Close proximity to ACED staff and leadership, enabling consistent support and supervision
- Modern, flexible learning spaces equipped with up-to-date technology
- Shared areas for collaboration, discussion, and independent study
- An enhanced sense of community and continuity, allowing students to develop strong relationships with peers and staff in a familiar, supportive environment during their foundational years in the program.

A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

In addition to their teachers, ACED students are supported by a leadership team that includes:

- **Director of Specialised Programs - ACED**
- **Deputy Principal - Curriculum**

Students benefit from daily contact with their mentor teacher and peers, which reinforces a strong culture of encouragement, responsibility, and mutual respect. The close physical proximity of support staff within the ACED Building ensures that students have ready access to both academic and wellbeing support whenever needed.

This ensures each student is known, valued, and challenged — laying the foundation for success throughout secondary school and beyond.

EXPECTATIONS

As participants in a specialised academic program, ACED students are expected to uphold high standards of learning behaviour, academic effort, and personal responsibility. Students in the program are seen as ambassadors for academic excellence and are expected to actively contribute to building a positive academic culture at Mount Ridley P-12 College.

Students are provided with a Consistent Consequence Guideline, which outlines the clear and fair processes that apply when expected learning behaviours are not met.

CORE EXPECTATIONS INCLUDE:

- Participation in at least two or more extracurricular activities each year
- Maintaining a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.75
- Achieving above 85% school attendance
- Actively representing the ACED Program values and broader College values, both in and outside of school
- Submission of all home study and assessment tasks by the due date
- Demonstrating an ongoing commitment to academic excellence through strong results and learning behaviours

By meeting these expectations, students ensure they are making the most of the opportunities provided and contributing to the collective success of the ACED cohort.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The ACED Program is a select-entry academic program designed to provide students with a wide range of enrichment and extension opportunities. To support the provision of these experiences, an annual financial contribution of \$250 (Year 7-10) and \$175 (VCE) is required for each student enrolled in the program.

Please note: Failure to make payment by the due date may result in your child being withdrawn from the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Year 7 2026

The application process for ACED is designed to identify students for whom this type of program is appropriate. All of the information gathered is used to help select the students who will be best equipped to cope with the rigours of an enrichment learning program.

STEP 1

Students enrolling at Year 7 for the following academic year (2026) at Mount Ridley College are invited to complete an online application form for the ACED program.

The form will open Thursday 3rd July.

A link to the form can be found on the College website;

www.mountridleycollege.vic.edu.au

STEP 2

Students must **also** register with Edutest for an academic selection test. Families will be notified via email to register their child for testing. A non-refundable payment of \$90 applies to cover external testing and assessment charges. This payment is due at the time of the online Edutest registration.

Registration opens Thursday 3rd July.

A link to the registration website can be found on the College website;

www.mountridleycollege.vic.edu.au

**The form (from step 1) will close Friday 1st August 4PM
Edutest registration will close Thursday 31st July 4PM**

STEP 3

Information is collected from the student's primary school.

STEP 4

Once test scores, reports, and all assessments have been reviewed, shortlisted students will be invited to attend an interview alongside their parents. In this interview, students will be asked to respond to a range of questions and bring a work sample.

STEP 5

Upon consideration of all products of the application process, all applicants will be notified via email correspondence of the outcome of their application following the confirmation of enrolment at the College. The decision by the College is final.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Year 7 Mid-Year Entry and Years 8–11 Entry

Opportunities for students to join the ACED Program after the initial Year 7 intake may arise at mid-year or end-of-year, depending on class availability. These opportunities are contingent upon vacancies within existing ACED classes.

Should positions become available, relevant information will be communicated to families via Compass and shared with all currently enrolled students.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR YEARS 8–11

Entry into the ACED Program in Years 8 to 11 involves a rigorous selection process. Students who wish to apply must:

- Complete a formal application form
- Provide permission for the College to confidentially collect feedback from their Mentor, English, and Mathematics teachers

Applicants who meet initial criteria are invited to attend an interview with the Director of Specialised Programs.

Final decisions are made based on a combination of:

- Learning task results and other academic data sets
- Application content
- Teacher references
- GPA progress

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email correspondence once the selection process has been completed.



Bronwyn Hill

Director of Specialised Programs – ACED

bronwyn.hill@education.vic.gov.au

Mount Ridley College

2-30 Hampton Street, Craigieburn, VIC 3064

Tel: (03) 8338 3600

Fax: (03) 8338 3699

www.mountridleycollege.vic.edu.au

Email: mount.ridley.p12@education.vic.gov.au