

# Senior Years



## Curriculum Overview

### Year 10

Year 10 is the beginning of the Senior Years at Mount Ridley College and is a critical time in a students' educational journey.

Year 10 provides access to many innovative and engaging units, which is preparation for the rigours demands of VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education), VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) as well as workplace and further training options.

#### **Some key features of the program include:**

All subjects will have the same amount of time allocated to them in the timetable (8 hours a fortnight), to allow for flexible blocking and access for year 10 students to the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) or VET (Vocational Education and Training). Mathematics and English are compulsory for all students for the entire year. You must pick one semester of each of the following subjects: Science, and Humanities/Civics.

#### **The Year 10 core subjects are compulsory for all students and are yearlong.**

##### **They comprise of:**

- English, English Literature or English as an Additional Language (EAL).
- Applied Mathematics or VCE Foundation Maths.
- Mentor.

The Year 10 elective subjects are selected by the students and enable them to explore individual areas of interest beyond the scope of core work and to further enhance their skills and understanding. Electives also provide an opportunity for students to build on their strengths. Students must select one semester subject from each of Science, Humanities and HPE learning areas. The remainder of their program is made up of semester-based electives from across the curriculum areas.

## Year 10 Foundation VCAL

This course is modelled on the teaching and learning in the areas of the VCAL curriculum, centered on the Personal Development and Work-Related areas. Students will be required to undertake a school-based VET and each semester complete a work experience placement. The course is designed to support students to make sound choices about their future in the vocational arena. Students will be engaged in Community based projects each term and as such will work on and develop their skills in the following areas; communication, teamwork, planning, time management and project management.

Students will also learn about the Employability skills and get exposure to interview tips and techniques. The fields of Occupational Health and Safety, workplace relations, consumer affairs, rights, responsibilities and entitlements will also form a focus of this program. Lastly, students will gain a deeper understanding of the work in the areas of; resilience, making sound and sustaining choices for life, positive behaviours, values education and planning for post-compulsory options beyond the secondary school setting. The Foundation VCAL program is a select entry program tailored for students as an introduction to the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

### **Foundation VCAL is for:**

- Students who want to pursue a vocational pathway;
- Students who would benefit from an applied learning approach to the integrated curriculum;
- Students whose literacy and numeracy levels would benefit from a non-traditional approach to the teaching of English and Mathematics; and
- Students who prefer a small learning environment.

## VCE

Mount Ridley P-12 College offers a comprehensive Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Program, as well as a Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

**Below is the list of all VCE and VET studies currently available:**

- English
- English Literature
- EAL English
- Further Mathematics
- Mathematics Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Psychology
- Accounting
- Business Management
- History Revolutions
- Legal Studies
- Health and Human Development
- Physical Education
- Computing
- Food Studies
- Informatics
- Product Design and Technology: Woodwork
- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Media
- Studio Arts
- Visual Communication and Design
- Japanese
- VET Sport and Recreation
- VET Music Industry

## Vocational Education Training (VET)

The VET in school's program combines general VCE studies with vocational training and experience in the workforce. VET programs have become fully integrated into the VCE. This means that they have been developed as independent studies at Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 levels. All VET programs have full VCE study status. VET provides additional breadth to the VCE and gives students a nationally recognised training credential endorsed by industry and an ability to contribute towards further education and training courses.

### **There are two options available as to where VET courses can be completed:**

- On-site at Mount Ridley College, for limited units.
- Off-site at either a TAFE, Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or alternative Secondary College on a Wednesday.

### **VET is suited towards students who are:**

- Are thinking of obtaining an apprenticeship or traineeship after school;
- Are already skilled in an industry area and can gain excellent study scores for university entry;
- Are interested in developing a practical skills base for diploma and degree level courses;
- Would like to gain an industry qualification, as well as their VCE or VCAL;
- Enjoy practical based learning environments;
- Want to keep their options open after completing Year 12; and
- Want to obtain part-time work in an industry.

## VCAL

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) provides students with an opportunity to study a combination of VCAL, VET and VCE units. VCAL gives students practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Like the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), the VCAL is a recognised senior secondary qualification.

Students who do the VCAL are likely to be interested in going on to training at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institute, starting an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing school. Through a VCAL learning program students have an opportunity to build a flexible pathway to the workforce, further vocational training, apprenticeships or traineeships.

The VCAL has three certificate levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Senior. The three certificate levels cater for a range of students with different abilities and interests. They also provide a progression in the development of skills, knowledge and attributes. At Mount Ridley P-12 College we offer a transition from Year 10 into a Foundation or Intermediate Program. It usually takes one year to complete a VCAL level.

Mount Ridley College offers VCAL school-based classes over three days (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday).

### **The three school-based days included:**

- Numeracy.
- Literacy.
- Work-Related Skills.
- Personal Development Skills.
- Project-Based Learning.

On the other two days of the week, students are required to complete their chosen TAFE course (Wednesday) and find a work placement for each Friday.

To be considered for selection in the VCAL program, students are required to submit an expression of interest, nominating and justifying 3 VET courses they wish to take. Students are also required to have a teacher support their application for entering the VCAL program. Students will be interviewed by the Director of Vocational and Applied Learning. A parent or guardian will need to be in attendance at the interview as well.