

VCE

Frequently asked questions



What is the VCE?

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is the senior secondary qualification in Victoria. VCE is your academic pathway to further study at university and TAFE. Many employers see the VCE as a prerequisite for employment.

How long does it take to get my VCE?

If you are under 18, you can complete your VCE (year 11 and 12) in two years full time. If you are over 18, and have been out of school for at least 1 year, you can complete your VCE (year 12) in one year full time. You can also choose to complete your VCE as a part time student, over a number of years.

How is VCE at The Gordon the same as a school?

The VCE program at The Gordon follows the same guidelines as schools (these are set by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority – the VCAA).

This includes:

- Covering the same topics
- Carrying out assessment in the same manner
- Students sitting externally set exams in year 12
- Students attending at least 80% of classes.

How is VCE at The Gordon different to a school?

You will find VCE at The Gordon different to a school. There are no uniforms, and no bells. You don't have to be at school from 9-3.30 every day – just when you have rostered classes. It is a very supportive and inclusive environment. Teachers are approachable and want to help you succeed.

What subjects can I do?

In year 11 we currently offer:

- Biology
- English
- Further Maths
- Legal Studies
- Health and Human Development
- Outdoor Education
- Psychology.

In year 12 we currently offer:

- Biology
- English
- Further Maths
- Legal Studies
- Health and Human Development
- Outdoor Education
- Psychology.

How do I know I am ready to study at The Gordon?

The VCE is a demanding and busy course.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I organised and reliable?
- Am I self motivated and ready to take responsibility for my own learning?
- Am I ready to prioritise my study? – this may mean making some sacrifices
eg. not going out with friends, because you have to study for an assessment.
- Am I committed to attending all classes and completing homework?
- Do I have a clear goal and reason for completing my VCE?

If you can honestly answer 'yes' to these questions then you are probably ready to apply. Through our selection process we will assess if you have the reading and writing skills required for VCE.

What are the hours at The Gordon?

The VCE course begins at the start of February and finishes after exams in mid November. Holidays are the same as other schools. A full time student will have between 18-22 hours of class time each week. A part time student will have between 4-14 hours per week. Students will need to commit to between 8-20 hours of homework per week. Timetables will be available at enrolment, prior to the course beginning.

How am I selected for a place at The Gordon?

Before we can offer you a place in VCE, you must meet course requirements.

- Step 1:** Visit The Gordon [website](#) and apply for the VCE course you wish to study or contact Customer Service on 5225 0800 for a printed copy of course information.
- Step 2:** Complete the short language and literacy quiz we'll send you.
- Step 3:** Attend an Information Session (details will be sent via mail to your home address). At the Information Session you will receive further information about the course and individual subjects, meet teachers and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Can I do a VET subject at the same time as doing my VCE?

Yes, you can. In year 11, VET subjects contribute to completion of VCE Units 1 & 2. In year 12, some VET subjects contribute to completion of VCE Units 3 & 4. Some VET subjects can contribute to your study score (ATAR), or allow for a study score increment. For further information about VET courses contact Customer Service on (03) 5225 0800.

I've already completed some VCE subjects. Do they count?

For year 11, it is usually possible to count VCE subjects completed in previous years. For year 12, it is usually possible to count VCE subjects from previous years - as long as both Units 3 & 4 were completed in the same year. It is best to talk to the VCE principal or admin team to find out more.

What about if I haven't studied for a period of time?

Many of our students have had a gap in their education, and still successfully complete their VCE. Teachers understand that students may have not studied for a while, and will offer guidance. Support programs and assistance are also available to assist students with their study skills. Students are most successful when they are organised, have clear goals and prioritise study. It is a demanding and busy year and students should be ready to make a commitment.

What makes The Gordon VCE program special?

The Gordon is Geelong's only alternative setting for VCE. We offer VCE in an adult learning environment. No bells. No uniforms. We offer a supportive and inclusive environment with approachable teachers who are there to help you succeed.

How do I get to The Gordon?

The Gordon is located on the corner of Fenwick St and Gordon Avenue Geelong. A map can be viewed by clicking [here](#). It is directly opposite the Geelong train station (many buses stop here too). It is a short walk into the centre of Geelong.

I need to work to support myself. Can I still do my VCE?

Yes, many of our students have casual or part time work. As long as work doesn't stop you from coming to classes or completing homework, it is fine. If you need to work more hours, you can complete your VCE part time over 2 or more years.

What are the fees? How are they paid?

In 2024, you can find fees for a Government subsidised place in [VCE](#) or [VCE Vocation Major](#) on The Gordon website.

These fees are indicative only, and subject to change depending on your circumstances at enrolment. To be eligible for a concession, you must submit a valid Health Care card, Pensioner Concession card or Veteran Gold card before you start your course.

Further information

To find out more about the VCE please contact Customer Service on (03) 5225 0800.