

Acceleration Policy

Introduction

At St Francis Catholic College (SFCC), students are encouraged to strive for excellence. For many, this will occur through the process of acceleration. Students at the College as well as students enrolling into the College from other educational institutions may be offered the opportunity to accelerate through one acceleration option.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline a clear set of criteria for current Year 9 and 10 students who may have the opportunity to choose VCE units in the following year.

Scope

This policy applies to all eligible students in St Francis Catholic College who are being considered for acceleration. It is limited to the relevant year level and availability of VCE, VCE VET and VET acceleration subjects.

General Principles

Acceleration is a term used to define a student receiving an opportunity to undertake a Year 11 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE Units 1 and 2) Subject or Victorian Certificate of Education, Vocational Education and Training (VCE VET, Year 1) subject. The overall aim is to allow students to undertake their journey into senior schooling and be best placed to achieve success.

Acceleration allows students to work towards and maintain a level of overall academic rigour for the coming year(s). If a student is selected for acceleration, they will usually be unable to undertake the year 10 elective equivalent. For example, if a student selects VCE VET Sport and Recreation or VCE Physical Education this subject will supersede the sports science elective at Year 10. This may apply to some core subjects and will need to be discussed with the relevant Domain Leader.

Both VCE (Unit 1 and 2) and VCE VET (Year 1) are Year 11 subjects. The predominant cohort within that subject will be Year 11 students and it will be taught at a Year 11 pace with the expectation the Year 10 student can maintain the pace. Students at St Francis Catholic College will be expected to undertake all Assessment Tasks (ATs), School Assessed Coursework (SACs) and School Assessed Taskwork (SATs) and are under the regulation of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as overseen by the Senior School Leader.

The current Year 9 students undertaking a VCE VET or VCE acceleration option will be required to sign the Subject Commitment Agreement (see Appendix).

Criteria

Opportunities will be offered to students based on their academic performance. Academic performance is assessed using an average calculated across all subjects. Failure to maintain the required standard may result in the withdrawal of the opportunity.

	Overall percentage of Year 9 Assessment Tasks	Offering
Standard Year 10 Program	Successful completion of all Year 9 Assessment Tasks	A standard year 10 program
Year 10 Program with a VET Subject, VCE Unit 1/2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies OR Elite Sports academy	An average of 70% or more for all Year 9 Assessment Tasks	A standard Year 10 program with a VCE VET subject (from the prescribed list), Unit 1/2 VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies OR Elite Sports Academy (ESA)** **Please note that ESA has additional requirements, refer to the Subject Selection Handbook for details.
Year 10 Program with a VCE Unit 1/2 Subject	≥85%	A standard year 10 program while undertaking a VCE Unit 1/2 subject from the prescribed list.

Standard Year 10 Program

If a student is offered a standard Year 10 program based on results this will not jeopardise the stream they are choosing for Year 11 and 12. If a student is offered a standard Year 10 program, they may wish to enter an academic contract to accelerate in Semester 2 with the agreement they meet the required academic criteria and work ethic. This offering is conditional and will be calculated from the overall Semester 1 results.

A student may not receive their nominated subject due to factors related to timetabling, class size, teacher availability and class viability. Students are required to select two reserve subjects.

All students in Year 10 complete either VCE Religion & Society Unit 1 or Year 10 Faith in Action-Youth Ministry.

Standard Year 10 Program with a VCE VET or Unit 1 and 2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies or Elite Sports Academy

VCE VET is a 2-year vocational education subject that contributes to a student's overall ATAR at the end of Year 12. VET subjects must be studied over two years to receive the relevant certificate and credit towards VCE. Details of VET subjects available for students to select can be found in the Subject Selection Handbook

Outdoor and Environmental Studies is a VCE subject but, due to the demands on students with day excursions and extended overnight camps, this subject is offered as VCE Unit 1 and 2 to Year 10 students and completed as VCE Unit 3 and 4 in Year 11. This minimises the impact on other VCE subjects, due to absence in a student's final year of schooling (Year 12).

Elite Sports Academy (ESA) is offered at the Melton and Cobblebank Campus to Year 10 students. It requires an extra application process with select criteria. Along with studying VCE VET Sport and Recreation, there is a focus on strength and conditioning (Melton Campus) and cricket (Cobblebank Campus). This is a three-year course due to the extra elements included in the course.

If a student is interested in undertaking ESA, but is unsuccessful with their application, they may be able to study VCE VET Sport and Recreation.

A student may not receive their first choice subject due to factors related to timetabling, class size, teacher availability and class viability. Students are required to select two reserve subjects.

General Year 10 Program with a Unit 1 and 2 VCE Subject

A VCE Subject is conducted over two years with Unit 3 and 4 being completed in Year 11. Students that undertake early commencement of a VCE subject will study 6 Unit 3 and 4 subjects by the completion of Year 12. On successful completion, all six subjects will contribute to the student's ATAR. Once a VCE subject is chosen, it is expected that the student will study the full Unit 1 – 4 sequence. This option is available to both Melton and Cobblebank Campus students.

Where a student requests a change in their chosen VCE subject, they will be required to attend a careers appointment to ensure there is no impact on their future career aspirations. They will be required to explain the circumstances of the change and may be directed to the Domain Leader for further discussion.

Students can choose from a prescribed list of VCE subjects. This list can be found in the Subject Selection Handbook.

A student may not receive their first choice subject due to factors related to timetabling, class size, teacher availability and class viability. Students are required to select two reserve subjects.

Roles and Responsibilities

Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching

The Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching is responsible for:

- Overseeing the policy
- Ensuring that correct implementation occurs
- Communicating with appropriate stakeholders

Director of Learning and Teaching

The Director of Learning and Teaching is responsible for:

- Overseeing the policy for students
- Identifying the students at year 9 suitable for acceleration
- Ensuring correct implementation occurs
- Communicating with appropriate stakeholders
- Conducting acceleration interviews together with the appropriate Domain Leader

Senior Years Leader

The Senior Years Leaders is the point of contact for students interested in taking accelerated options whilst in Year 11.

Pathways Coordinator

The Pathways Coordinator is involved in interviews for accelerated students to identify appropriate pathways.

Document Information

Approved by:	Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching
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Appendix

VCE or VCE VET Subject Commitment Agreement

I, **(insert student's name)** _____, commit to maintaining an overall academic grade during Year 9 of:

- **70% or higher** to be considered for a **VCE VET subject**, or
- **85% or higher** to be considered for a **VCE subject** upon the completion of Semester 2.

I acknowledge that maintaining this level of academic rigour is essential to best prepare myself for the demands of undertaking a Year 11 subject while in Year 10. I also understand that, as subject selections are made at the end of the academic year, there is no guarantee that I will receive my first preference.

Furthermore, I understand that if I do not meet the required academic standard by the end of Semester 2, I will be placed in the standard Year 10 Program.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____