

Appendix 1:

A Guide to Senior School Acronyms & Terms

VCE: Victorian Certificate of Education

The Victorian Certificate of Education is a full time course designed for students interested in entering tertiary education upon completion of secondary school. Students undertaking the VCE attend RSC for all subjects and can also undertake a VET subject as part of their studies, which can count towards their ATAR. Students are required to complete a minimum of 16 units, which must include a minimum of 3 units of English.

ATAR: Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking

The ATAR is a rank that allows students who have completed different combinations of Year 12 courses to be compared. It is calculated for tertiary institutions to rank and select school leavers for admission to courses. Other selection criteria may be used together with the ATAR.

Study Score (VCE)

A study score shows how well a student has performed in a study at Unit 3 and 4 level, compared to everybody else in Victoria who took that study. The maximum study score is 50. Each year, and for every study, the mean study score is set at 30. A score of between 23 and 37 shows that a student is in the middle range of students; a score of 38 or more indicates that they are in the top 15% of students in that study/subject.

Block credit - Students who have completed or are completing training in nationally recognised VET qualification can apply for credit towards their VCE.

Primary Four Subject – Students 4 highest scoring subjects which are used to calculate your ATAR.

Mullum VET Cluster – Group of forty plus secondary schools who work together to offer over 30 VET subjects.

ATAR Study Score – the ATAR is developed from an aggregate produced by adding:

- VTAC scaled study score in one of English, English Language, Literature or English as an Additional Language
- (EAL) English as an Additional Language – eligibility rules apply * refer to Dean.

The next best three VTAC scaled study scores permissible; and 10% of the fifth and sixth permissible scores that are available.

Clearly In - The minimum score which will guarantee a student placement in a course. The clearly-in scores for all courses are subject to annual change due to the nature and number of applicants for the respective courses.

Extra Requirements - These are the requirements set for a course, in addition to the VCE that a student must satisfy to be considered for selection into a post-secondary course eg folio, audition etc.

RTO - Registered Training Organisation. This is the organisation that is approved and registered to deliver Vocational Education and Training courses of study. They include private organisations, TAFEs and Rowville Secondary College.

Scaling - A VCE study score provides an indication of a student's relative performance in a particular study. Scaling adjusts for differences in abilities of students undertaking different studies, so that the scaled scores are comparable across different studies. It ensures that students are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged on the basis of the studies they choose

VCAL: Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning is a hands-on course designed for students interested in doing a trade who are eager to enter the workforce upon completion of secondary school or undertake tertiary study at TAFE. Students undertaking the VCAL go off site to work in their chosen industry and attend TAFE and school as part of their studies. 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.

VET: Vocational Education & Training

VET subjects are vocational training programs approved by the VCAA which offer students the opportunity to gain a nationally portable VET qualification. VET subjects can be taken as part of a VCE or VCAL program. Selected VCE VET subjects offer scored assessment for Units 3 and 4. When undertaken within a school setting they are sometimes referred to as **VETIS** (Vocational Education & Training In School) subjects.

SBAT: School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship

This program offers students the opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship whilst enrolled in a senior secondary program (VCAL), with at least one day per week timetabled to be spent on the job or in training during the normal school week.

VCAA: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

The statutory authority responsible for the conduct of the VCE, VCAL and VET programs in Victorian schools. Oversees all matters pertaining to the delivery and conduct of these programs.

VTAC: The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

VTAC is the authority or body that administers the application processes for places in tertiary courses, scholarships and special entry access schemes at university, TAFE and independent tertiary colleges in Victoria. VTAC is also responsible for the calculation and issuing of the ATAR for VCE students and for co-ordinating sittings for Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) and Australian Law Schools Entrance Test (ALSET).

atEAST

A consortium of 10 schools who work together to employ staff to manage the SBAT program for those schools, including Rowville Secondary College.

