

VTAC in Year 12 (VCE & VCAL)

VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) provides a link between students and University, Tafe and independent Tertiary Colleges. VTAC administers and distributes student course preferences, course offers and calculates the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank).

95% of tertiary courses at University, Tafe and independent Tertiary Colleges can only be applied for through VTAC, so it is imperative that your VTAC application is completed within the specified time frames.

Key dates for VTAC are available from the Career Centre and are usually advertised in the media. Dates and times indicated are strictly adhered to by VTAC, so 5 minutes late means you miss out!!

VTAC application process for Current Year 12s

To lodge your VTAC application you need to log onto www.vtac.edu.au. You are a CY12 and VTAC uses the VCAA student number as the application number. You are required to have a PIN which you should not share with anyone else.

VTAC Course codes

The last number of the Course Code in the VTAC Guide indicates whether the course is HECS, full fee paying or for international students.

- 1 CSP or Tafe fees**
- 2 Full fee
- 3 International students

CSP – You pay a portion of the University course cost which can range from \$4 355 to \$9 080 per annum, it is wise to find out the relevant course fees when you are researching courses. You can choose to pay the fees in advance and receive a significant discount or defer your fees until you have an income above the threshold of approximately \$44 911pa, then pay installments.

Tafe fees – Fees for Tafe are approximately \$2,500 per year. The cost can be paid upon enrolment or Fee Help can be accessed and the loan repaid when the student earns over a particular amount. Consideration may be given to students who have a valid Health Care Card.

Other costs – You may need to also buy books, stationary, equipment or special clothing depending on the course. Accommodation and transport costs can often be substantial so that should also be considered.

Pre-requisites and Extra Requirements

Most courses will have Pre-requisites or Extra Requirements, these are stipulated against the individual courses in the VTAC Guide. A course choice will be void if you do not adhere to the Pre-requisites or Extra Requirements for that particular course.

Open days

A list of Open Days and University/Tafe handbooks will be available in July. Attending the Open Days is the best way to determine what course is right for you whilst speaking to Tertiary staff and current students. There will be unlimited information there about fees, prerequisites, extra requirements and other relevant information. Even if you plan to get employment after Year 12, you will need to investigate the courses available in your chosen field.

Accommodation

Many institutions have accommodation available for their students. Preference is usually given to early applications, for this reason it is advisable to apply for accommodation when you lodge your VTAC application at the end of Term 3.

Career pathways

It is essential for all students to explore the pathways into their desired courses, often you will not receive an offer for your first choice. The staff and students at the Tertiary Open Days will have all the information about various pathways that can be used to ensure a successful transition into the course. Pathways vary for each Tertiary institution, so

ensure you ask each one individually and don't assume that they are all the same.

You can select up to twelve (12) courses through VTAC. Your course selection should be in the order of your course preference, first being the course you want the most. At least six (6) course preferences should be pathways into your most wanted courses. Please remember that some courses, which can be used as a pathway, have extra requirements that need to be completed in September, Change of Preference is December may be too late to apply for some courses.

- There is a fee payable for lodging a VTAC application.

Change of preference for current Year 12's

After you have lodged your VTAC application you may wish to change the order of your course preferences, add a new course or remove a course that you are not interested in anymore. After you have received your ATAR in December, Change of Preference is open for a very short time, this is the time to refine your preferences in anticipation for offers in January.

Enrolling/Deferring or Rejecting an offer

You will receive an Offer Letter if you have been successful which will outline the procedure for enrolling, deferring or rejecting an offer. You must –

- contact VTAC and the Tertiary Institution
 - attend enrolment in person
 - only enrol in one (1) course
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- A Tax File Number is essential to enroll in Tertiary Education. Application forms are available from the Career Centre.