

VCE – Vocational Major (VM) at Seymour College Frequently Asked Questions:

Who should study the VM?

The Vocational Major is the new certificate that began in 2023. It is the applied learning approach for students not requiring a direct pathway to university via an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). It is also for students who would benefit from the flexibility to combine SWL (Structured Workplace Learning) or a SBAT (School Based Apprenticeship) in their senior school program. It is designed for students who are interested in apprenticeships, traineeships, VET (Vocational Education and Training) or work.

The Vocational Major incorporates the teaching of skills and knowledge in the context of ‘real life’ experiences. It allows students to discover how to apply what they have learned by doing, experiencing and relating acquired skills to the real world. Students must be prepared to work independently and projects are student led, not teacher directed.

What does a typical week look like for a VM student at Seymour College?

2025 Year 11 students will attend Seymour College 4 days a week and have 1 day at external VET (most likely a Wednesday). Students will also participate in Structured workplace learning in week long placements throughout the terms.

What subjects do we do in the VM?

Below are a few examples of what applied learning units might look like in practice.

Unit	Learning outcome	Skills and knowledge	Applied learning assessment
Literacy	Writing for practical purposes: ‘write an instructional text’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What the features of an instructional text are How to structure an instructional text 	Students who are interested in studying automotive could demonstrate their learning by writing an instructional manual on how to service a car.
Numeracy	Financial literacy: make decisions and perform monetary calculations involving money in unfamiliar contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to construct a budget How to perform monetary addition and subtraction calculations 	Students who are interested in building and construction could demonstrate their learning by creating a budget for the materials, fixtures and fittings of a newly built home.
Personal Development	Plan and organise an event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to write a plan for an event 	Students who are interested in community services could organise and coordinate a community event, including venue booking, invitations, and agendas.
Work Related Skills	Identify workplace safety hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The definition of a hazard How to conduct a risk assessment 	Students who are interested in hair and beauty could identify workplace safety hazards for a hairdressing salon.

Subject options for VM at Seymour College

VM allows for much more flexibility as they will choose a VCE subject. Students also may choose a different Maths or Literacy (unscored) unit from the VCE subject list if they choose.

- ▶ Attend Seymour College 4 days per week in 2025
- ▶ 1 day at their external VET.
- ▶ Complete the 4 VM subjects (Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development Skills, Work related skills)
- ▶ Complete 1 VCE subject
- ▶ Complete SWL (Structured Workplace Learning) in block placement.

How are VM students assessed?

VM students are assessed by completing Learning Outcomes. Students do not complete exams and students in VM need to show and prove they are competent in completing the assessments. Year 12 students also sit part A of the GAT(General Achievement Test), which gives them a Literacy and Numeracy assessment.

Should I apply for VM at Seymour College?

VM is	VM is NOT
Based on the old VCAL, which replaced technical schools.	The easy option
A valuable option for students seeking a high-quality vocational pathway	Always for disengaged students
For students who know their pathway and want to get started on it.	Always 'hands on' or kinesthetic
Connecting theory to application, providing real life learning experiences in and outside the classroom	Meeting the immediate entry requirements for many University courses, and does not provide an ATAR ranking
The development of employability skills	For people who do not want to do work outside the classroom with the community – Essential in Personal Development for practising our employability skills.
Giving students more independence with their learning	For students who are not committed. Students in VM must successfully pass each subject in order to achieve their VM
Students who are wanting to do VET and work placement which are both compulsory.	For students who don't like leaving the school – we go on a number of excursions that are compulsory.

What to do if you want to apply for VM at Seymour College?

- ▶ Complete as much work placement in Year 10 as you can in a different areas (You must have completed work placement to apply for VM)
- ▶ Research VET courses and apply for VET by the 26th of August (See the Careers office ASAP about this)
- ▶ Participate in the training interviews in term 4
- ▶ Attend subject selection day (12th August)
- ▶ Sit VM interview

Your positive school engagement and your attendance in Year 10 will be a factor when determining applications.

How is a VM student supported at Seymour College?

We have a Year 11 Co-ordinator (Ms Leanne Hayek), a Year 12 Co-ordinator (Mrs Lisa Macheras), and Careers Practitioners (Felicity Wilmot and Carol Fisher). Student wellbeing is further supported by Mr. Lloyd Taylor, Student Counsellor, Mrs Kelly Quigg, Defence Transition Mentor, Mr Christy Rilen, Assistant Principal for Wellbeing, Mrs Kirsty Hare, School Nurse and Mr Derek Rimes, Secondary Assistant Principal.