



ACCELERATION PROCESS

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Authorised by: **Principal**

Approved by School Council:
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Rationale:

The Purpose of this process is to provide explicit information to Horsham College students, families and broader community about the eligibility and retention requirements of undertaking a VCE Unit 1-2 sequence in a year prior to the student's nominal Year 11 Year and/or a VCE Unit 3-4 sequence in a year prior to the student's nominal Year 12 year.

Objective:

The process seeks to clarify and streamline the processes surrounding students applying to accelerate their study program and ensure that students are personally and academically suited to accelerated study, that they are selecting appropriate subjects for acceleration, that students and families understand the commitment expected of accelerating a VCE sequence, and that participation is subject to ongoing review.

Scope:

Year 8 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 9
Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 10
Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 10
Year 10 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 11

Definitions:

VCE Sequence: a subject that is studied in both Semester 1 and 2.

VCE 1-2 Sequence: A subject that is normally taken in the first year of the VCE (Year 11)

VCE 3-4 Sequence: A subject that is normally taken in the second year of the VCE (Year 12) and may be used in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

Related Processes/Documents/Policies:

- Horsham College Subject Selection Process
- Transition processes
- Interim and End of Semester Reporting Policy
- Academic Expectations Policy

Process Overview:

Students who wish to accelerate a VCE subject will be required to submit an application to Horsham College. They will need to demonstrate or provide evidence of their previous attitude, behaviour and academic standard, their commitment to maintaining a high academic standard in their accelerated study, and their acceptance of other curriculum requirements specific at each year level that may impact on the availability of subjects, including electives. The approval process will be undertaken by the Sub-committee designated by the Principal.

Eligibility Criteria:

TWO-YEAR ACCELERATION

Year 8 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 9 will need to submit an application prior to the Term 3 deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.5 for the most recent Interim Report.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 80% or above in the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject and English and endorsement of teachers of both of these subjects.
4. Commit to continuing in a LOTE in Year 9 (SEALP students only).
5. Understand that not all VCE subjects block against the Year 9 Program and may not therefore be available (where possible, consider backup preferences).
6. Undertake to complete a minimum of four hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
7. Commit to maintain grades of 75% or above in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.
8. Agree to attend their normal Year 9 classes on Year 11 Study Days.
9. Understand that there is no entitlement to study periods.
10. Understand that their participation may be reviewed at any time. This may be triggered by any attendance, behaviour or academic concerns.
11. Agree that the application will be reviewed by a sub-committee comprising a member of the Careers Team, a Year Level Coordinator, a Classroom Teacher or Teaching and Learning representative.
12. Understand that a VCE sequence takes the place of two out of five Year 9 electives and may therefore reduce the availability of elective subjects, particularly for SEALP students, for whom a Language is compulsory for the entirety of Year 9.

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 11 will need to submit an application prior to the Term 3 deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.5 for the most recent Interim Report.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 75% or above in the 1-2 sequence of that that subject in the previous year and endorsement from the teacher of that subject.
4. Agree that they will undertake a full study program, and that they are not eligible for study periods.
5. Undertake to complete a minimum of four hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
6. Commit to maintaining grades of 75% or above in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.

7. Understand that their participation may be reviewed at any time. This may be triggered by attendance, behaviour or academic concerns.
8. Agree that the application must be approved by the Year Level Coordinator and relevant subject teacher.
9. Agree that a VCE subject might clash with Year 10 subjects and that the student will have to make a choice. Horsham College will not undertake to change timetable blockings to accommodate acceleration students.

ONE-YEAR ACCELERATION

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 10 will need to submit an application prior to the Term 3 Deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.5 for the most recent Interim Report.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 75% or above in both the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject and English, and the endorsement of the teachers for both of these subjects.
4. Undertake to complete a minimum of four hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
5. Commit to maintain grades of 75% or above in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.
6. Understand that their participation may be reviewed at any time. This may be triggered by attendance, behaviour or academic concerns.
7. Understand that there is no entitlement to study periods.
8. Agree that the application must be approved by both the Year Level Coordinator and relevant subject teacher.
9. Agree that a VCE subject might clash with Year 10 subjects and that the student will have to make a choice. Horsham College will not undertake to change timetable blockings to accommodate acceleration students.

Year 10 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 11 will need to submit an application prior to the Term 3 deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.5 for the most recent Interim Report.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 75% or above in the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject and endorsement from their subject teacher.
4. Undertake to complete four hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
5. Commit to maintain grades of 75% or above in the VCE 3-4 sequence in order to maintain their place in the program.
6. Understand that there is no entitlement to study periods.
7. Understand that their participation may be reviewed at any time. This may be triggered by attendance, behaviour or academic concerns.
8. Agree that the application must be approved by both the Year Level Coordinator and relevant subject teacher.

Appeals process:

Appeals must be lodged in writing to the Principal. They will be reviewed by a sub-committee comprising their Sub-School Assistant Principal, their Sub-School Leading Teacher and the Leading Teacher: Transitions and Pathways. The Principal reserves the right to be the arbiter of any appeal.

Communication of Process:

The eligibility, application processes and timeline will be communicated to the school community via the school's social media channels and newsletter.

2019 Consultation and Implementation Timeline:

February	Process to be drafted and reviewed by Acceleration Sub-committee and sent to Teaching and Learning, Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Leadership for consultation
March	Whole-school consultation prior to presentation at Accountability & Improvement Sub-committee of School Council
March	Presentation to School Council
April	Information provided to students and families for 2019 Subject Selection Cycle
May-June	Applications for 2020 Subject Selection Cycle
July	Approval process
August	Subject Selection Process