

	<h1>ACCELERATION POLICY & PROCESS</h1>		File location: U:\Public\Policies & Procedures\Approved Policies
			Authorised by: Principal Consultation: School Council and School Community Approved by School Council: 17.06.26
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Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Horsham College on 5381 7100, or email horsham.co@education.vic.gov.au .

RATIONALE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide explicit information to Horsham College students, families and broader community about the eligibility and retention requirements of undertaking a VCE subject outside of their nominal year level of study.

OBJECTIVE:

The policy 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. Furthermore, to ensure students are selecting appropriate subjects for acceleration, and students and families understand the commitment expected of students in accelerated subjects, and that participation is subject to ongoing review.

SCOPE:

Acceleration into a VCE Unit 1-2 sequence

Year 8 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 9 excluding Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 10

Acceleration into a VCE Unit 3-4 sequence

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 10

Year 10 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 11

Subjects

Subjects may include Psychology, Health & Human Development, Food Technology, Art Creative Practice. All VCE subject offerings are be found in the Subject Selection Book.

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 AND POLICIES:

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

PROCESS OVERVIEW:

Students who wish to accelerate a VCE subject will be required to apply 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. Students can only accelerate in a maximum of one VCE subject (Unit 1-2 only) in Year 9, and a maximum of two VCE subjects (Unit 1-2 and Unit 3-4) in Year 10. The approval process will be undertaken by the sub-committee designated by the Principal.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Year 8 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 9

Students will need to apply prior to the deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. The most recent Interim Report shows *an overall Behaviour Point Average of 4.0+*.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 80% or above in
 - a. the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject, and
 - b. English.
4. Understand that not all VCE subjects block against the Year 9 Program and may not therefore be available (where possible, consider backup preferences).
5. Undertake to complete a minimum of two hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
6. Commit to maintain grades of a minimum 70% or above the average in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.
7. Agree to attend the study centre during their timetabled Year 11 class on Year 11 study days.
8. Understand that there is no entitlement to study periods.
9. Understand that their participation will be reviewed throughout the year by the sub-committee.
10. Understand that a VCE sequence takes the place of two Year 9 electives and may therefore reduce the availability of elective subjects, particularly for SEALP students, for whom a language is compulsory in Year 9.

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 10

Students will need to apply prior to the deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. The most recent Interim Report shows *an overall Behaviour Point Average of 4.0+*.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 80% or above in
 - a. Units 1 and 2 of the accelerated subject, and
 - b. English
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 two hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
6. Commit to maintaining grades of a minimum 70% or above the class average in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.
7. Understand that their participation will be reviewed throughout the year by the sub-committee.
8. 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 accelerated students.
9. Commit to attending the VCE class on Year 10 study days in line with normal attendance expectations (90%), unless studying a VET Certificate on Wednesdays.

Year 9 students applying to study a VCE 1-2 sequence in Year 10

Students will need to apply prior to the deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. The most recent Interim Report shows *an overall Behaviour Point Average of 4.0+*
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 75% or above in
 - a. the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject (90% if applying for Math Methods), and
 - b. English.
4. Undertake to complete a minimum of two hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
5. Commit to maintain grades of a minimum 70% or above the class average in the VCE subject in order to maintain their place in the program.
6. Understand that their participation will be reviewed throughout the year by the sub-committee.
7. Understand that there is no entitlement to study periods.
8. 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 changes to timetable blockings to accommodate accelerated students.
9. Commit to attending the VCE class on Year 10 study days in line with normal attendance expectations (90%), unless studying a VET Certificate on Wednesdays.
10. To be eligible to accelerate in VCE Maths, students must have completed Year 9 SEALP Maths.

Year 10 students applying to study a VCE 3-4 sequence in Year 11

Students will need to apply prior to the deadline and meet the following requirements:

1. The most recent Interim Report shows *an overall Behaviour Point Average of 4.0+*.
2. Attendance of 90% in the previous 18 months.
3. Consistent results of 75% or above in
 - a. the subject most relevant to the desired accelerated subject, and
 - b. English.
4. Undertake to complete two hours of study per week for their VCE subject.
5. Commit to maintain grades of a minimum 70% or above the class average 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. Commit to attending the VCE class on Year 11 study days in line with normal attendance expectations (90%), unless studying a VET Certificate on Wednesdays.
8. Understand that their participation will be reviewed throughout the year by the sub-committee.

Sub-Committee:

Participation in the VCE class will be closely monitored by the sub-committee for students not meeting expectations (attendance including study days, interim report data, behaviour, academic performance and academic concerns) when concerns are raised by the classroom teacher.

- Year Level Assistant Principal
- Senior School Assistant Principal
- Teaching and Learning Assistant Principal
- Principal

Summary of Eligibility Criteria:

Current Year Level	Year 8	Year 9	Year 9	Year 10
Applying to study in 2026	VCE 1/2 in Year 9	VCE Unit 3/4 in Year 10	VCE Unit 1/2 in Year 10	VCE Unit 3/4 in Year 11
Requirements	24 month acceleration		12 month acceleration	
Interim report (Values) average - all subjects	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Attendance	90%	90%	90%	90%
English Average Results (CAT)	80%	80%	75%	75%
Subject Specific Results (CAT)	80%	80%	75%	75%
Agree to undertake study (hours)	Required - 2 hours per VCE unit			
Reapply for acceleration each year	Required			
Other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to attending VCE class on study days • Understand that progress will be reviewed 			

Removal from VCE Class:

Prior to a student being removed from the class the following must take place:

- Communication to parent regarding the concerns of the classroom teacher and the supports staff can provide students to improve results. Supports could include:
 - Academic Counsellor Referral
 - Lunch/After School Help Classes
 - Adjusted resources to support learning
- Concerns recorded on SEQTA by the classroom teacher.

Whilst teachers will support students to meet the expectations of their accelerated class and to improve results, it is important to note that it is the student's responsibility to meet the expectations outlined in this policy.

If a student consistently fails to meet the expectations outlined in this Policy, the sub-committee will meet to make the recommendation to withdraw the student from their VCE subject(s). The relevant Assistant Principal will then communicate the outcome to the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and support the student in selecting a replacement subject.

Appeals process:

Appeals must be lodged in writing to the Principal and Senior School Assistant Principal via Direct Message on SEQTA. The appeal will be reviewed by a sub-committee appointed by the Principal. The Principal reserves the right to be the arbiter of any appeal.

COMMUNICATION:

This Policy – including eligibility criteria, and application processes and timelines for acceleration - will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on our school's website
- included in staff induction processes and staff training
- reminders in our school newsletter
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

REVIEW CYCLE:

This Policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Policy\Procedure Review Schedule.