Overview of Senior School Certificates

What is the difference between VCE and VCAL?

VCE is a valuable pathway to further study at university, TAFE and the world at work. It is possible to complete a school based apprenticeship or traineeship within your VCE. A VCE program will usually consist of 20-24 semester units taken over two years.

VCAL gives practical hands-on experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Like the VCE, it is a recognised qualification. Students who do VCAL are likely to be interested in going on to training at TAFE (Technical and Further Education), doing an apprenticeship/traineeship, or getting a job after completing school, rather than attending university.

> If you start your VCAL and then decide VCE is the right option for you, you can change your mind. In fact, any VCE units you complete as part of VCAL will count towards your VCE, just as most VCAL units will count towards your VCE.

Click on the image below to access the VCAA website for more details:

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

VCE/VCAL Terms used in this Handbook

Term	Description
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (used by tertiary institutions to select students for courses)
SAC	School-assessed coursework
SAT	School-assessed tasks
VCAA	Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (which administers the VCE)
VCAL	Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education
VET	Vocational Education and Training program (of the VCE)
VICTER	Victorian Tertiary Entrance Requirements
VTAC	Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre