



St Leonard's College
An education for life.

Year 11 Course Guide

2025





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Front cover:
Ella Hastings Year 12, 2023
Unit 4 - Art Creative Practice
Acrylic and Pen on Board

Introduction

This booklet is designed to provide information on the courses available at Year 11 and Year 12 in 2025. It should be read in conjunction with the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) Handbooks available on the College website and provides a reference in the process where students make choices for their final two years of secondary education, laying a foundation for future work or study.

There are many choices to be made in developing the most appropriate course of studies for the future. Present Year 10 students firstly have to choose between the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and then plan their program of study for the whole of the two years. In particular, students must ensure that the course selected provides the appropriate prerequisites for any planned tertiary course. Students will receive a great deal of advice and support in helping them to make these choices and they will also have opportunities to revise their path as they proceed through the program. Some of the choices offered may be unfamiliar to parents and students. For further information please contact the Head of Senior School or the Head of Year 10.

This booklet explains the College's academic program. Other aspects of College life are also very important. A balance of the academic, social, sporting, and spiritual elements of life is one of the key elements to success in Years 11 and 12. All students are required to participate in a program of physical activities and/or school sport and there are many other opportunities in areas including outdoor education, music, theatre, and community service. Students are expected to take part in the cocurricular programs offered by the College.

It is our experience that students who become involved in these other aspects of school life enjoy greater success. Students and parents are urged to remain aware of the full potential of the program offered at St Leonard's College.

Overview

Following this introduction, is a section on Course Selection for Year 11 in 2025. This offers some examples of pathways that students may construct for a variety of future directions. It is important that each student constructs the course that best suits them.

A brief overview of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is available including details of each of the subjects offered. The Victorian Certificate of Education is also outlined and each of the studies or subjects in the VCE is listed. There is a range of Units 3 and 4 subjects available for Year 11 students and these are also noted in the VCE overview.

Individual detailed descriptions of the subjects and units on offer are not included in this booklet. These will be included in the [VCE](#) and [IBDP](#) Handbooks, which will be available on the College website early in Term 2. Each course description includes details of the unit or subject, the structure of the course and some information about assessment.

Students need to choose between the VCE or IBDP. Although changing from IBDP to VCE during, or at the end of Year 11 may be possible, students are advised to give careful consideration to the advantages of continuity within their course. Students who have studied a Unit 1/2 VCE subject in Year 10 are not locked into the VCE program in Years 11 and 12. These students can choose either VCE or IBDP.

Final decisions as to whether subjects proceed in 2025 will depend upon numbers and staffing.

Tertiary selection/prerequisites

The official prerequisites for gaining admission to tertiary courses commencing in 2027 will be published by the respective institutions in July 2024. Until then, parents and students are directed to [VTAC's CourseSearch and Prerequisite Explorer](#) and the College's [Pathways Hub](#) for more information about tertiary entry requirements.

It is important to note that in certain VCE Units 1 and 2 courses are listed as prerequisites for Units 3 and 4. Therefore, it is crucial to read the subject information provided in this guide thoroughly to ensure that the course selected in Year 11 leads appropriately into the course planned for Year 12, which in turn will form the basis for tertiary entrance.

Year 11 Subject Selections

Students entering Year 11 in 2025 have access to a variety of information to assist them in choosing their pathway and subjects. This includes:

- Meeting with a course counsellor in Term 2, to review their Morrisby Careers Assessment (MC+), subject strengths, and course prerequisites
- Conversations with their Mentor
- Futures Expo
- VCE/IB Information night
- Booth Night

Once submitted, subject selection forms for students wishing to undertake the IB Diploma Program are reviewed by the IBDP Coordinator and the Head of Year 10 by the end of Term 3. For students wishing to undertake the VCE, subject selection forms are reviewed by the VCE Coordinator and Head of Year 10. Learning Behaviours are also considered alongside academic performance. Where concerns emerge about a student's ability to successfully complete either program, a meeting is convened and the advice from this meeting is communicated with the students in writing.

Students' individual choices for subjects and courses form the basis for our school timetable and changes later in the year may not be able to be accommodated.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the people listed below.

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Key Contacts

VCE

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Useful websites

studyworkgrow.com/education/school/st-leonards-college

vtac.edu.au/before/guides/y10guide

delta.vtac.edu.au/coursesearch

www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

www.ibo.org

Future Directions

Course Selection at Year 10

During Term 2, Year 10 students will receive comprehensive guidance to aid them in selecting their academic subjects for the concluding two years of their secondary education. This will be facilitated by insights gained from the Morrisby Career Assessment (MC+), which aims to deepen students' understanding of their personal interests and strengths. Additionally, a wide array of resources has been made available to support students in this decision-making process. In the forthcoming weeks, we will provide detailed information about the VCE and the IBDP. Each student will also have the opportunity to engage with a course counsellor to strategically plan their Year 11 courses. This carefully structured process is intended to empower students to make well-informed decisions and to ensure they feel confident about their choices.

Samples of appropriate subjects for particular tertiary courses

To help students create their individual course, they may refer to the Year 11 and 12 course samples provided below. These samples are intended to serve as a starting point only, and students should ensure that their own courses are based on their strengths, interests, and specific tertiary requirements.



Please note that prerequisites required for university and TAFE entry vary markedly. As such, it is important to review the prerequisites published by different institutions before considering any of the sample courses provided. For more information, please visit delta.vtac.edu.au/coursesearch.

Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

To be admitted to a medical school, students are required to take the UCAT admissions test during their final year of secondary education. Additionally, some universities may require participation in MMI (Multiple Mini Interviews). For the majority of undergraduate programs in medicine and biomedical sciences, proficiency in English (or EAL) and chemistry is essential. It is also common for students with aspirations in Medicine to consider applications to multiple universities across various states.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Chemistry Unit 1	Biology Unit 1	An Individuals and Society subject	Other subject
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Chemistry Unit 2	Biology Unit 2	An Individuals and Society subject	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Chemistry Unit 3	Biology Unit 3	An Individuals and Society subject	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Chemistry Unit 4	Biology Unit 4	An Individuals and Society subject	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Chemistry plus Physics, Biology or SEHS	Mathematics AA SL	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Engineering

To be admitted to most undergraduate engineering programs, a high level of mathematics such as VCE Mathematical Methods, VCE Specialist Mathematics, or IB Mathematics - Analysis and Approaches is required in addition to Physics or Chemistry.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Chemistry Unit 1	Physics Unit 1	General or Specialist Mathematics Unit 1	An Individuals and Societies subject
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Chemistry Unit 2	Physics Unit 2	General or Specialist Mathematics Unit 2	An Individuals and Societies subject
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Chemistry Unit 3	Physics Unit 3	General or Specialist Mathematics Unit 3	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Chemistry Unit 4	Physics Unit 4	General or Specialist Mathematics Unit 4	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Chemistry or Biology	Mathematics	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Arts and Law

The only year 12 prerequisite is English (or EAL)..

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematics Unit 1	Legal Studies Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematics Unit 2	Legal Studies Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Other choice	Legal Studies Unit 3	Other choice	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Other choice	Legal Studies Unit 4	Other choice	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Sciences	Mathematics	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Sciences

Most tertiary undergraduate science courses require students to meet certain prerequisites. These prerequisites may include completion of a lab science course such as IBDP or VCE Biology, Chemistry, or Physics and a high level of proficiency in mathematics. Examples of such mathematics courses include VCE Mathematical Methods, VCE Specialist Mathematics, or IB Mathematics-Analysis and Approaches.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Chemistry Unit 1	Biology Unit 1	An Individuals and Societies subject	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Chemistry Unit 2	Biology Unit 2	An Individuals and Societies subject	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Chemistry Unit 3	Biology Unit 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Chemistry Unit 4	Biology Unit 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Chemistry or Biology	Mathematics	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Commerce

A high level of proficiency in mathematics is necessary to study undergraduate commerce at the University of Melbourne or Monash University. Examples of such mathematics courses include VCE Mathematical Methods, VCE Specialist Mathematics, and IB Mathematics—Analysis and Approaches. This requirement does not apply to other Victorian universities.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Other choice eg: Economics Unit 1	Other choice eg: Business Management Unit 1	An Individuals and Societies subject	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Other choice eg: Economics Unit 2	Other choice eg: Business Management Unit 2	An Individuals and Societies subject	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Other choice eg: Economics Unit 3	Other choice eg: Business Management Unit 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Other choice eg: Economics Unit 4	Other choice eg: Business Management Unit 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies eg: Economics	Sciences	Mathematics AA	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Business

English (or EAL) and, for some courses, General Mathematics are the minimum prerequisites for undergraduate business courses. Please check with the specific institution regarding their mathematics requirements.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice e.g. Business Management 1	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice e.g. Business Management 2	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Other choice	Other choice e.g. Business Management 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Other choice	Other choice e.g. Business Management 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies eg: Economics	Sciences	Mathematics AA	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Architecture, Visual Arts and Design

Some institutions may require a folio submission when applying for design courses, while others may only consider the student's ATAR. To enhance their chances of being selected, it is recommended that students study at least one art folio subject for the VCE/IBDP. Some courses, such as industrial design, may require mathematics, visual communication and design, studio art, or physics in addition to English (or EAL).

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematics Unit 1	Art Creative Practice Unit 1	Visual Communication Design Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematics Unit 2	Art Creative Practice Unit 2	Visual Communication Design Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematics Unit 3	Art Creative Practice Unit 3	Visual Communication Design Unit 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematics Unit 4	Art Creative Practice Unit 4	Visual Communication Design Unit 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Sciences	Mathematics AA	Visual Arts

Performing Arts

In addition to English (or EAL), students are selected by audition, ATAR, or a combination of both.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematics Unit 1	Drama or Theatre Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematics Unit 2	Drama or Theatre Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematics Unit 3	Drama or Theatre Unit 3	Other choice	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematics Unit 4	Drama or Theatre Unit 4	Other choice	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Sciences	Mathematics AA	Theatre

Computer Science/Information Technology

English (or EAL) and VCE Mathematical Methods, VCE General Mathematics or IB Mathematics—Analysis and Approaches are prerequisites for most IT or computer courses. VET Creative and Digital Media, Applied Computing or Software Development can also be useful.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 1	VET Creative Digital Media Unit 1	Applied Computing Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 2	VET Creative Digital Media Unit 2	Applied Computing Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 3	VET Creative Digital Media Unit 3	Applied Computing Unit 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	Mathematical Methods Unit 4	VET Creative Digital Media Unit 4	Applied Computing Unit 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies eg: Economics	Sciences	Mathematics AA	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Sports Management/Outdoor Education/Recreation Management/Sports or Exercise Science

There are no stated prerequisites, other than English/EAL. Please check with the specific institution for additional requirements.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Biology Unit 1	Physical Education or VET Community Recreation Unit 1	Psychology or Health and Human Development Unit 1	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Biology Unit 2	Physical Education or VET Community Recreation Unit 2	Psychology or Health and Human Development Unit 2	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Biology Unit 3	Physical Education or VET Community Recreation Unit 3	Psychology or Health and Human Development Unit 3	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Biology Unit 4	Physical Education VET Community Recreation Unit 4	Psychology or Health and Human Development Unit 4	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies eg: Economics	Biology	Mathematics AA	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

Nursing

English (or EAL) and VCE Mathematical Methods, VCE General Mathematics or IB Mathematics—Analysis and Approaches are prerequisites for most IT or computer courses. VET Creative and Digital Media, Applied Computing or Software Development can also be useful.

VCE

Semester 1	An English Unit 1 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 1	Biology Unit 1	Psychology or Health and Human Development or Physical Education Unit 1	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 2	An English Unit 2 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 2	Biology Unit 2	Psychology or Health and Human Development or Physical Education Unit 2	Other choice	Other choice
Semester 3	An English Unit 3 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 3	Biology Unit 3	Psychology or Health and Human Development or Physical Education Unit 3	Other choice	
Semester 4	An English Unit 4 subject	General Mathematics/ Mathematical Methods Unit 4	Biology Unit 4	Psychology or Health and Human Development or Physical Education Unit 4	Other choice	

IBDP

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature	Language Acquisition	Psychology	Biology	Mathematics AA	Arts or an additional subject from Group 2, 3 or 4

It is important to review the prerequisites published by different institutions before considering any of the sample courses provided. For more information, please visit delta.vtac.edu.au/coursesearch.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Background

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme was established in 1968. In 1982 St Leonard's College became the first school in Victoria, and the second in Australia, to introduce the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

The IBDP is a two-year, internationally recognised pre-university course. The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is an international, non-government body that has responsibility for setting the curriculum utilised by all participating schools. The IBDP is an assessed programme for students aged 16 – 19. It is respected by leading universities across the globe which value academic rigour complemented by demonstrated capacity in research and concern for why people think differently as well as participation and leadership in school, community, and service activities.

The IBO highlights a global perspective. On a practical level, IB Diploma holders are accepted for entry into leading universities throughout the world and at all Australian universities. The course also enables students who are internationally mobile to transfer their studies from one IB World School to another. The IBDP is based on sound educational principles, offering students breadth and depth of study at an approachable level of challenge, and is excellent preparation for tertiary study.

The IB Diploma emphasises reflection and developing thinking skills, constructing understanding, international mindedness, independent research, and collaboration. The IBDP reflects the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 21st Century skill including collaborating with teachers on drafting and responding to feedback. The IBDP provides students breadth and depth of study at an approachable level of change.

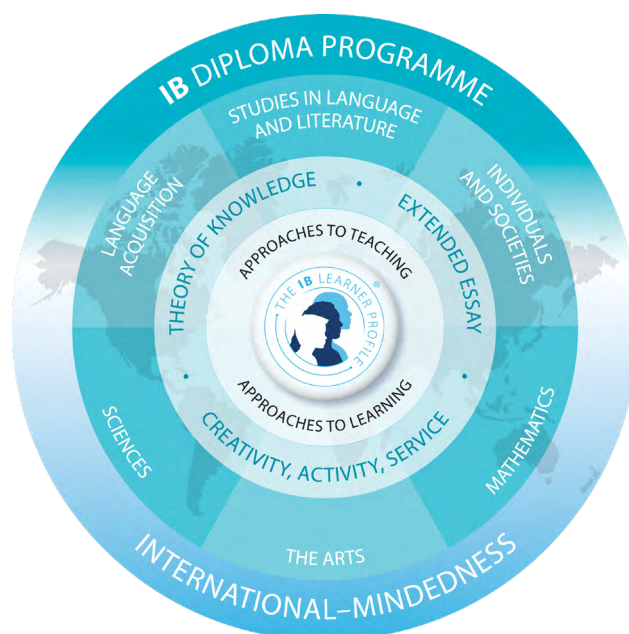
Curriculum

The IBDP is a two-year course. The curriculum structure is based on a framework of subject choices from six designated groups together with three central compulsory core components: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). Three subjects are studied at a higher level (HL) and three at a standard level (SL).

Subject choices

All of the subjects offered by the IBO for study by Diploma students at St Leonard's College are categorised into six groups:

Group 1	Studies in Language and Literature Chinese: Literature English: Literature English: Language and Literature
Group 2	Language Acquisition Language B – Chinese, English, French, Spanish Language ab initio – Spanish
Group 3	Individuals and Societies Business Management, Economics, Geography, History, Psychology
Group 4	Experimental Sciences Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Systems and Societies, Physics, Sport Exercise and Health Science
Group 5	Mathematics Analysis and Approaches
Group 6	Arts Music, Theatre, Visual Arts



Students are required to study six subjects. One subject is chosen from each of Groups 1 to 5. The sixth subject may be chosen from Group 6, or another subject from groups 2, 3 or 4.

If a student chooses to study a subject via an external provider, the associated costs will be at the expense of the parents and would need to be approved by the IBDP Coordinator.

All students elect 6 subjects of which 3 subjects are taken at Higher Level (HL) and 3 at Standard Level (SL). HL subjects include additional content studied in greater depth. HL subjects also have additional assessment components.

The three central core components

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a course about critical thinking, exploring, and analysing the nature of knowledge and the process of knowing. The TOK course embraces the exploration of tensions, limitations and challenges relating to knowledge and knowing. TOK discussions encourage students to appreciate and be inspired by the richness of human knowledge and to consider the positive value of different kinds of knowledge. Consideration should be given to reflecting on knowledge and knowing, its potential to help us think more subtly, to be aware of our assumptions, and to promote intercultural understanding. Assessment includes a 1600 word essay and an Exhibition.

Creativity, Activity, Service

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. It is designed to strengthen and extend students' personal and interpersonal learning through participation and reflection on creative pursuits, physical activities, and service projects. Through CAS, students develop skills, attitudes, and dispositions through a variety of individual and group experiences that provide students with opportunities to explore their interests and express their passions, personalities, and perspectives, responding to seven learning outcomes across two years. CAS complements a challenging academic programme providing opportunities for self-determination, collaboration, accomplishment, and enjoyment. Many students include CAS activities in their tertiary applications and in CVs when applying for jobs to demonstrate interests, leadership, and learning.

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay is a 4000 word research essay which promotes academic research and writing skills. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in personal inquiry into a topic of their own choice, in one of their subjects. Each student is supervised by a teacher who advises on appropriate references, research methodology and essay writing. Emphasis is on quality of research analysis and argument, realising the research and academic writing skills desired by universities. Some students share Extended Essays for scholarship applications and interviews.

Assessment

IBDP assessment includes external examinations at the end of Year 12 as well as internal assessments including oral examinations, essays, portfolios, field work, science practical reports. Students practise these assessments in Year 11.

Teachers moderate all internal assessment. Grades are verified by external examiners. A number of St Leonard's College teachers are IB examiners and workshop leaders.

IBDP Grades

Each of the six subjects is awarded a grade from 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). In addition, up to three bonus points are awarded for the combination of Extended Essay and the Theory of Knowledge grades. The maximum IBDP score is 45. The IB diploma is awarded to candidates who achieve a minimum total of 24 points while satisfying conditions including the satisfactory completion of the Extended Essay, TOK and CAS. Students who do not meet the requirements are awarded a certificate of achievement, however, are ineligible for an ATAR.

All assessments are evaluated against a published criteria applied consistently around the world and from one examination session to the next. Students' results are not influenced by other student grades.

University accreditation

The IB diploma is recognised by all Australian and international universities. Students completing the IBDP in 2026 in any Australian State or Territory will receive a Notional ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) like VCE students. This ATAR is based on a conversion table published by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) based the overall result in the IB Diploma, the students score out of 45. ATAR conversions for IBDP students are reviewed annually.

Why choose the IBDP?

The International Baccalaureate offers:

- **Breadth:** the course structure dictates a selection of English, additional Language, Individuals and Societies, Sciences and Mathematics subjects
- **Depth:** students pursue 3 subjects at Higher Level. TOK and the Extended Essay also emphasise sustained research and writing.
- **International mindedness:** the IBDP curriculum values contributions to knowledge from a range of cultural traditions and develops empathy and critical exploration of divergent perspectives.
- **Currency:** each course within the IB Diploma Programme is reviewed every seven years, and all schools are involved in the process
- **Personal growth:** the course requires personal reflection and allows students to develop an awareness of the world-wide community of thinkers and learners through all subjects and the CAS program.

Learning does not stop at the completion of Year 12. A vast majority of St Leonard's College students go on to tertiary studies as the IB Diploma Programme offers an excellent preparation for the demands of life at university.

The academic rigour of the Higher Level subjects, the depth of research in the Extended Essay, the reflective nature of the Theory of Knowledge course and the service component of the CAS program forge an independence that holds students in good stead for whatever studies they pursue in the future. Success of IBDP graduates at universities is reflected in the 2024 ACER report: Australian university outcomes: A national study comparing IBDP and non-IBDP students.

Additional charges for IBDP students

Annual subscription charges for IBDP students are paid to the International Baccalaureate Organisation. The additional tuition fee, levied in both Years 11 and 12, covers student registration and associated costs for the IBDP exams, as well as the four-day Theory of Knowledge camp in Year 11. In Year 12, IBDP students are charged to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). Details of the levy can be found in the Information Handbook available on the College website and STL Link.

For more information regarding the IBDP please contact Craig Rodgers, IBDP Coordinator at 9909 9515 or craig.rodgers@stleonards.vic.edu.au.

In addition, it is worthwhile speaking to current IBDP students at St Leonard's College.

Victorian Certificate of Education

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is responsible for the development, accreditation, and evaluation of courses as well as the assessment and certification of student performance in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

Students embarking on their VCE in 2025 will be joining over 130,000 students throughout Australia and Internationally for their final two years of secondary education.

The VCE is a flexible program that allows students to select any combination of subjects with a compulsory “English” subject. Students may choose to specialize or focus their studies or choose a broad range of subjects across a number of disciplines.

Your VCE program at St Leonard's College

A VCE student program will normally be made up of 22 units completed over two years. St Leonard's College students will normally take 12 units (six subjects) in Year 11 and 10 units (five subjects) in Year 12.

There are a number Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects available, most of which are delivered by a variety of providers and one by St Leonard's College (Creative and Digital Media), dependent upon numbers. Students may choose up to two VET subjects as part of their VCE program.

VET Selection and Application Process

VET Delivered Direct to School classes are highly competitive, especially for a Wednesday afternoon and although the school will do everything in its power to have students allocated to classes, this is dependent on the TAFE organisations availability.

A specific [VET brochure](#) and an [application form](#) is available, outlining the courses available at each of the main institutions which needs to be submitted with your subject selection form.

The cost to participate in a VET course is determined by the VET provider and the College will on-charge at cost. Prices may range from \$1,600 to approximately \$3,000 per subject per year. Withdrawal during the year will incur partial fees.

Satisfactory completion

To successfully complete the VCE you must satisfactorily complete at least 16 units, which must include:

- Three units of English
- A sequence of Units 3 and 4 in three studies additional to the English requirement

At St Leonard's College, a minimum of 80% attendance is expected for students to be able to demonstrate the requisite skills and knowledge for satisfactory completion. Students will be required to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes prescribed for each subject and met the minimum standards of achievement for all four Units.

Assessment

Assessments in Units 1 and 2 are school based. The forms of assessment will be similar to those undertaken in Units 3 and 4. Some information is given in the VCE Handbook available on the College website, and more specific details for each unit will be given as students begin their courses during transition and next year.

For Units 3 and 4, the VCE contains three types of assessment:

- School-assessed coursework (SACs) in all studies except Art Creative Practice
- School-assessed tasks (SATs) for Computing, Systems Engineering, Media, Art Creative Practice and Visual Communication Design
- External Examinations

School-based assessments will be completed mainly in class or during specifically nominated after-school times or study periods and completed within a limited timeframe. Each item of coursework will be based on learning outcomes, which define what the student should know and be able to demonstrate as a result of their study.

Most studies will have three graded assessments in each Unit 3 and 4 sequence, including at least one examination.

Unit 3 and 4 subjects

Students may take certain Unit 3 and 4 subjects without prior completion of a Unit 1 and 2. This gives the student the opportunity to gain some results towards tertiary entry in their studies as well as providing experience with Year 12 subjects before tackling Year 12. Subjects commonly taken are Business Management, Geography, Politics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Health and Human Development, Legal Studies, Physical Education and Psychology. Other Unit 3 and 4 subjects may be taken under special circumstances. Students must gain approval to study Units 3 and subjects prior to Year 12 and selection is based on their Year 10 progress, performance, and study habits.

Your VCE program may look like this:

- **Option 1**
 - Year 11 - six Unit 1 and 2 subjects
 - Year 12 - five Unit 3 and 4 subjects
- **Option 2**
 - Year 11 - five Unit 1 and 2 subjects and one Unit 3 and 4 subject
 - Year 12 - six Unit 3 and 4 subjects

Subjects to make up your program are contained on the following pages.

University studies with your VCE

During the second year of your VCE course (Year 12), a range of first-year university subjects are available through enhancement or extension studies programs offered by some universities. In any one year, fewer than 2% of VCE students are eligible for such programs. These studies are taken as part of a full VCE program. To be eligible you must have achieved a very strong study score in a “preparatory study” (Unit 3/4 study in Year 11) and your academic performance and approaches to learning in all subjects must be well above average. Please speak with the VCE Coordinator or Head of Futures if you are interested in these programs. In order to undertake these programs students may attend classes at University or at another school.

VCE Studies

Accounting

Unit 1: Role of accounting in business	Unit 2: Accounting and decision making for a trading business	Unit 3: Financial accounting for trading business	Unit 4: Recording, reporting, budgeting and decision-making
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Applied Computing

Unit 1: Applied Computing	Unit 2: Applied Computing	Unit 3 Software Development - Programming practice, analysis, and design	Unit 4 Software Development - software solutions, interactions, and impact
		Unit 3: Data Analytics - including analysis and design	Unit 4: Data Analytics - including development and evaluation and Cyber security

Art: Creative Practice

Unit 1: Artworks, experience and meaning	Unit 2: Artworks and contemporary culture	Unit 3: Artworks, ideas and values	Unit 4: Artworks, ideas, and viewpoints
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Biology

Unit 1: How do organisms regulate their functions?	Unit 2: How does inheritance impact on diversity?	Unit 3: How do cells maintain life?	Unit 4: How does life change and respond to challenges over time?
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Business Management

Unit 1: Planning a business	Unit 2: Establishing a business	Unit 3: Managing a business	Unit 4: Transforming a business
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Chemistry

Unit 1: How can the diversity of materials be explained?	Unit 2: How do chemical reactions shape the natural world?	Unit 3: How can design and innovation help to optimise chemical processes	Unit 4: How are carbon-based compounds designed for purpose?
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Chinese Language, Culture and Society

Unit 1: Confucianism and social harmony in Chinese speaking harmony	Unit 2: Major Chinese philosophies and Chinese myths and legends	Unit 3: Chinese philosophies and their impact on Chinese society	Unit 4: Social and economic development of contemporary China
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Chinese First Language

Unit 1: Self and others	Unit 2: Traditions and change in Chinese speaking communities	Unit 3: The world around us; tradition and change in Chinese speaking communities	Unit 4: Tradition and change in Chinese speaking communities
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Chinese Second Language Advanced

Unit 1: The individual and the world around us	Unit 2: Chinese speaking communities and the world around us	Unit 3: The individual and the world around us	Unit 4: Chinese speaking communities
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Classical Studies

Unit 1: Mythical worlds	Unit 2: Classical Worlds	Unit 3: Classical works	Unit 3: Classical works
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Drama

Unit 1: Introducing performance styles	Unit 2: Australian identity	Unit 3: Drama Devised Ensemble Performance	Unit 4: Drama Devised Solo Performance
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Economics

Unit 1: Economic decision making	Unit 2: Economic issues and living standards	Unit 3: Australia's living standards	Unit 4: Managing the economy
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English/English as Additional Language (EAL)

Unit 1: Reading and creating texts; analysing and presenting argument	Unit 2: Reading and comparing texts; analysing and presenting argument	Unit 3: Reading and creating texts; creating texts	Unit 4: Reading and comparing texts; analysing argument
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English Language

Unit 1: Language and communication	Unit 2: Language change	Unit 3: Language variation and social purpose	Unit 4: Language variation and identity
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Food Studies

Unit 1: Food origins	Unit 2: Food makers	Unit 3: Food in daily life	Unit 4: Food issues, challenges, and futures
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French

Unit 1: The Individual	Unit 2: The French speaking communities	Unit 3: The world around us	Unit 4: Exploring the written and oral language
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Geography

Unit 1: Hazards and disasters	Unit 2: Tourism, issues, and challenges	Unit 3: Changing the land	Unit 4: Human population - trends and issues
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Health and Human Development

Unit 1: Understanding health and wellbeing	Unit 2: Managing health and development	Unit 3: Australia's health in a globalised world	Unit 4: Health and human development in a global context
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History

Unit 1: Modern History Change and conflict	Unit 2: Modern History The changing world order	Unit 3: Revolutions - French or Chinese Revolution	Unit 4: Revolutions - American or Russian Revolution
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Legal Studies

Unit 1: Guilt and liability	Unit 2: Sanctions, remedies, and rights	Unit 3: Rights and justice	Unit 4: The people and the law
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Literature

Unit 1: Reading practices Exploration of literary Movements and genres	Unit 2: Voices of country; The text in its context
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Unit 3: Adaptations and transformations; Developing interpretations	Unit 4: Creative response to texts; close analysis of texts
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Mathematics

Unit 1: Foundation Mathematics	Unit 2: Foundation Mathematics
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Unit 3: Foundation Mathematics	Unit 4: Foundation Mathematics
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Unit 1: General Mathematics	Unit 2: General Mathematics
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Unit 3: General Mathematics	Unit 4: General Mathematics
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Unit 1: Mathematical Methods	Unit 2: Mathematical Methods
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Unit 3: Mathematical Methods	Unit 4: Mathematical Methods
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Unit 1: Specialist Mathematics	Unit 2: Specialist Mathematics
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Unit 3: Specialist Mathematics	Unit 4: Specialist Mathematics
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Media

Unit 1: Media forms, representations, and Australian stories	Unit 2: Narrative across media forms
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Unit 3: Media narratives and pre-production	Unit 4: Media production and issues in the media
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Music

Unit 1: Organisation in Music	Unit 2: Effect in Music
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Music Inquiry

Unit 3: Music Inquiry	Unit 4: Music Inquiry
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Music Repertoire Performance

Unit 3: Music Repertoire Performance	Unit 4: Music Repertoire Performance
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Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Unit 1: Exploring outdoor experiences	Unit 2: Discovering outdoor environments
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Unit 3: Relationships with outdoor environments	Unit 4: Sustainable outdoor relationships
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Physical Education

Unit 1: The human body in motion	Unit 2: Physical activity, sport, and society
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Unit 3: Movement skills and energy for physical activity	Unit 4: Training to improve performance
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Physics

Unit 1: How is energy useful to society?	Unit 2: How does physics help us to understand the world?
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Unit 3: How do fields explain motions and electricity?	Unit 4: How have creative ideas and investigations revolutionised thinking in physics?
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Politics

Unit 1: Ideas actors and power	Unit 2: Global connections	Unit 3: Global actors	Unit 4: Global challenges
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Spanish

Unit 1: The individual	Unit 2: The Spanish speaking communities	Unit 3: The individual: The Spanish speaking communities	Unit 4: The world around us
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Systems Engineering

Unit 1: Mechanical Systems	Unit 2: Electrotechnological Systems	Unit 3: Integrated and controlled systems	Unit 4: Systems control
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Theatre Studies

Unit 1: Pre-modern theatre styles and conventions	Unit 2: Modern theatre styles and conventions	Unit 3: Devised ensemble performance	Unit 4: Devised solo performance
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Visual Communication Design

Unit 1: Introduction to visual communication design	Unit 2: Application of visual communication design	Unit 3: Visual communication design practices	Unit 4: Visual communication design development, evaluation, and presentation
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VCE/VET Studies

These subjects will be scored if they have a written exam at the end of Year 12, or unscored if they do not have a written exam. Both scored and unscored VET subjects contribute to a student's ATAR. VET courses are covered in more detail in both the VCE Course Guide and the VET brochure. These are two year courses and must be done in a sequence and credit towards the ATAR requires completion of the course. In order to enroll in a VET subject other than VET Creative and Digital Media students need to complete a VET application form available from the VCE office or [click here](#).

Creative and Digital Media Certificate III

Certificate II in Creative Industries	Certificate III in Screen and Media
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Note: Unit availability is subject to adequate student numbers and staffing.

Glossary of Common Terms

ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank. This is calculated by VTAC for each student as a percentile indication of the student's overall level of achievement, based on the student's scaled study scores. Put simply, it is a measure (as a percentage) of how well the student performed compared to other students undertaking the VCE in that year. It is used by universities and TAFE institutes to select students for their courses.
CAS	Creativity, Activity and Service – a compulsory component of the IBDP.
Higher Education Studies (HES)	A university subject completed by a Year 12 student. This subject can contribute towards the ATAR. For more information, please contact the Head of Futures or the Director of Academic Development.
GAT	General Achievement Test - completed by all VCE students doing a Unit 3 and 4 sequence and IB students in their final year. It is used as part of statistical moderation of coursework in the VCE and to assist in developing a notional ATAR for IB students.
IBDP	International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Visit www.ibo.org for more information.
Notional ATAR	The percentile ranking developed from an IB student's Diploma score and converted to an equivalent ATAR for tertiary entry.
Outcomes	What the student must know, or be able to do, by the time they have finished a VCE unit.
Prerequisite	A specifically required VCE unit or IB subject that needs to be successfully completed for selection into a tertiary course.
Satisfactory completion	This means the student has achieved the outcomes for the VCE unit, hence obtaining an "S" for the unit. If the unit is not satisfactorily completed then an "N" is awarded for the unit.
School-assessed coursework (SAC)	School based assessment for VCE Units 3 and 4 consisting of a set of assessment tasks (ATs) assessing the student's achievement of Units 3 and 4 outcomes.
School-assessed task (SAT)	A task done in school in some studies to assess how the student is performing in VCE Units 3 and 4. They are set and marked by teachers according to VCAA specifications.
Studies	The subjects available in the VCE.
Study score	A score from zero to 50 represents how the student has performed in a study, relative to all other students doing that same study. It is based on results of school assessments and external examinations.
TOK	Theory of Knowledge - a compulsory component of the IB Diploma Programme.
Units	The semester length components of a VCE study. There are usually four units in a study, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4.
VCAA	The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. www.vcaa.vic.edu.au .
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education.
VTAC	The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre, responsible for the selection system for Victorian Universities and TAFE Colleges. It sorts students into rank order and supplies lists to course selection authorities within universities/TAFE colleges. Selection authorities then notify VTAC about who has been selected for particular courses. www.vtac.edu.au .

Year 11 Course Guide

Contacts

Commerce

George Katris, Head of Learning
George.Katris@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Accounting
Business Management
Economics
Legal Studies

IBDP Subjects

Economics
Business Management

Digital Technologies

Vaughan Anderson, Head of Learning - DigiSTEM
Vaughan.Anderson@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Applied Computing
Data Analytics (Units 3 & 4)
Software Development (Units 3 & 4)
Systems Engineering

IBDP Subject

Computer Science

Drama

Brendan Carroll, Head of Learning
Brendan.Carroll@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Drama (Units 3 & 4)
Theatre Studies (Units 1 & 2)

IBDP Subject

Theatre

English

Maggie Walsh, Head of Learning
Maggie.Walsh@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

English as an Additional Language
English
English Language
Literature

IBDP Subjects

Language and Literature
Literature
English B

Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences

Jason Kam, Head of Learning
Jason.Kam@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Food Studies
Health and Human Development
Physical Education

IBDP Subject

Sport, Exercise and Health Science

Humanities

Renata Machado, Acting Head of Learning
Renata.Machado@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Classical Studies
Geography
Global Politics (Units 3 & 4)
History Revolutions (Units 3 & 4)
Modern History (Units 1 & 2)
Outdoor and Environmental Studies
Politics (Units 1 & 2)

IBDP Subjects

History
Geography
Environmental Systems and Societies

Languages

Elvira Caballero, Head of Learning
Elvira.caballero@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Chinese First Language
Chinese Second Language Advanced
Chinese Language Culture and Society (Units 1 & 2)
French
Spanish

IBDP Subjects

Spanish ab initio
Chinese A
Chinese B
French B
Spanish B

Mathematics

Sara Woolley, Head of Learning
Sara.Woolley@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Foundation Mathematics (Units 3 & 4)
General Mathematics
Mathematics Methods
Specialist Mathematics

IBDP Subjects

Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (SL/HL)
(SL/HL) (Year 11 and Year 12)

Music

Nicole Hutchinson, Head of Learning
nicole.hutchinson@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Music (Units 1 & 2)
Music Inquiry (Units 3 & 4)
Music Repertoire Performance (Units 3 & 4)

IBDP Subject

Music

Science

Chris Hyde, Acting Head of Learning
Chris.Hyde@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Psychology

IBDP Subjects

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Psychology

Visual Art

Margot Anwar, Head of Learning
Margot.Anwar@stleonards.vic.edu.au

VCE Subjects

Art Creative Practice
Media
VET Creative and Digital Media (Units 1 & 2)
Visual Communication Design

IBDP Subject

Visual Arts

VCE Subjects

Mary Grande – VET Coordinator
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