



# Vocational Education and Training 2023

St Michael's College offers a variety of options for students wishing to undertake Vocational Education and Training (VET).

VET enables students to obtain a full or partial nationally recognised VET qualification whilst at the same time completing their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). The recognition arrangements help students to build coherent and meaningful pathways in the SACE through VET, and encourage students to complete, or make significant progress towards completing VET qualifications.

## The SACE Board recognises VET that:

- Is listed on the [training.gov.au](https://www.training.gov.au) website
- Is delivered and assessed by, or under the auspices of, registered training organisations (RTOs) which are registered to deliver and/or assess the VET qualification
- Is delivered and assessed in accordance with the VET Quality Framework
- Can be certified on a transcript, statement of attainment, or qualification issued by an RTO.

Each qualification is recognised at either Stage 1 or Stage 2 and for every 70 nominal hours of successfully completed units of competency towards a qualification,

10 credits are granted (similarly, for every 35 hours, 5 credits are granted).

For more information on how specific VET qualifications can earn SACE units at Stage 1 and 2 refer to the SACE website: [www.sace.edu.au/VET](https://www.sace.edu.au/VET)

## Why do a VET course?

There are many benefits for students who undertake VET. These benefits can include:

- Obtaining a nationally recognised qualification
- Gaining SACE credits. Some fully completed VET courses at Certificate III level or above can contribute to an Australian Tertiary Rank (ATAR) which is required for entry into University
- Developing a renewed sense of purpose and motivation for senior schooling
- Gaining skills, knowledge and confidence that enhance employability
- Developing a network and knowledge of possible industry employers
- Discovering whether their vocation is a possible future career pathway
- Determining whether they wish to undertake further VET study.

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## Who can do VET?

VET can be a valuable part of a student's secondary education but is not always the best option for every student. It is important for students and their parents/caregivers to carefully consider the reasons for undertaking a VET course, and the course requirements which can include a compulsory work experience component or online self-paced learning.

Our experience is that students are successful in VET if they have:

- A keen interest in what they will be learning
- A level of maturity and independence that will accommodate an adult learning style of learning and training
- Competent literacy, numeracy and organisation skills as students need to consider the implications of missing up to one day of school week.

Students must be organised and committed to all components of their education - at SMC and their VET. Selection into VET is not automatic and careful consideration is given to a student's motivation for wanting to undertake VET and their personal responsibility for learning.

## VET Pathways

Students can undertake a VET course in Years 10, 11 and 12 - the pathway is flexible and most student requirements can be accommodated.

An example of a typical pathway:

- **Year 10** - Commence in Semester 2
  - Taster or Introductory style short courses
  - Partial or full day
  - No Stage 1 or Stage 2 credits
- **Year 11** - Full Year
  - One full day or evening a week
  - Certificate II or Certificate III qualification
  - SACE Stage 1 or Stage 2 credits
- **Year 12** - Full Year
  - One full day or evening a week
  - Certificate II, partial Certificate III or Certificate III qualification
  - SACE Stage 1 or 2 credits

## Subjects

Students undertaking a VET course at Stage 1 (Year 11) or Stage 2 (Year 12) will have the option of being given a VET Study Line and doing one less school subject. This is organised on consultation with the VET Coordinator and the Director of Curriculum and Assessment.

The SACE VET Recognition Register is a tool that supports students to plan their pathways in the SACE. Students and parents can use the VET Recognition Register to see an indication of how VET can count in the SACE. Exact recognition is dependent on the actual VET training successfully completed by the student, up to the maximum credits listed. The VET Recognition register is available at [www.sace.sa.edu.au/vet/vet-coordinators/vet-recognition-register](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/vet/vet-coordinators/vet-recognition-register)

## What type of VET courses?

There are a myriad of VET courses available for students to choose from. SMC students currently undertake VET in the following areas.

- Animal Studies
- Automotive Servicing
- Aviation (Scientific Studies)
- Business
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Dance
- Digital Media Technology
- Disability Support
- Early Childhood Education and Care
- Electrotechnology
- Entrepreneurship & New Business
- Fashion Design
- Fitness
- Food Processing
- Game Art: Screen Media Game Development
- Hairdressing
- Horticulture
- Hospitality: Back and Front of House
- Makeup
- Metal Engineering
- Music: Songwriting
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Public Safety: Search and Rescue
- Real Estate
- Sport and Recreation
- Sports Coaching

## How does VET work?

In most instances students:

- Attend a VET course, usually one full day a week at a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) outside of the College. RTO's include TAFE SA and private training providers. Locations of the courses and the day of training depends upon the RTO running the course.
- Participate in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) Work Experience at a workplace of their choice. This is in addition to attending their course and is organised by the student.

## SWL/Work Experience

SWL or Work Experience is often a compulsory part of many VET courses and the amount of SWL/ Work Experience hours a student must undertake varies for each course. SWL/Work Experience is in addition to a student's VET course and takes place during school holidays and/or out of school hours. It must be completed by the end of the Term 3 school holidays.

Students, parents/caregivers and the host supervisor will be required to complete Structured Workplace Agreement Forms prior to the student undertaking their placement for insurance purposes. Students are also required to complete an online WorkPro module before commencing their placement. Students participate in a SWL or Work Experience seminar at the start of the school year to learn about the process.

## Costs

The cost of VET courses varies greatly. The College provides financial support for these courses by covering 30-50% of the tuition costs.

It is important to note that the St Michael's College subsidy extends to training costs only. Incidental expenses such as material costs (eg: uniforms, make-up kits, PPE, licence fees) must be met by parents/caregivers.

Should a student withdraw from a VET course, fails to complete the requirements of the course within the prescribed timeframe or terminates enrolment at the College, and where the College has already covered course costs, the student will be required to reimburse all costs expended by the College. This does not apply if a VET student commences an apprenticeship or if there are extenuating circumstances.

If the costs of a course prohibits a student from participating, families are encouraged to contact the College Business Manager to discuss.

## VET Subsidy

The South Australian Government subsidises the cost of VET courses if the course is aligned to one of 26 industry areas linked to strong future employment opportunities in South Australia. This list is advertised via a published subsidised training list.

To be eligible for access to a subsidised training place in an approved course, a school student must meet the following criteria.

They must be:

- An Australian citizen or,
- A permanent Australian resident or, an eligible visa holder
- Reside in South Australia and are,
- Enrolled in Year 10, 11 or 12 and employed in a Training Contract that combines VET and school-based curriculum including or are, enrolled in Year 11 or 12 and are 16 years of age or turning 16 years of age in the current year of that enrolment, and are undertaking SACE or equivalent and
- Have completed a preparatory VET pathway.

Students must also meet a minimum literacy and numeracy requirement (undertaken via an online assessment).

Training providers must sight evidence to demonstrate the eligibility criteria has been met.

Students can check their eligibility here: <https://providers.skills.sa.gov.au/Deliver/Student-eligibility-for-subsidised-training>

## School Based Apprenticeship

Students in Years 10-12 can commence an apprenticeship or traineeship while at school (SBAT), as a contribution to their SACE. A traineeship or apprenticeship is a structured learning program in which a trainee or apprentice undertake paid employment in a vocation or trade to achieve a recognised qualification. The employer will provide training and work that is relevant to their trade or declared vocation. Training providers deliver the off-job training and issue the relevant qualification.

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A SBAT must first be negotiated with the VET Coordinator to ensure that it can be accommodated with the SACE prior to committing to an arrangement through other parties. Students engaged in a SBAT undertake training and work for a maximum of two days per week.

A SBAT Training Contract approval requires the School Principal's endorsement of the SBAT on the Training Plan, as being integral to the school program. The student (and, if under 18 years of age, their parent/ caregiver) signs a legally-binding Training Contract with the Employer.

SBAT's are intended to be converted to full-time and completed once the student leaves school at the end of Year 12.

Further information about Traineeships and Apprenticeships in South Australia are available at <https://providers.skills.sa.gov.au/>

## Further Information

Should you have any further questions or wish to find out more about studying VET at St Michael's College, please contact:

**Mrs Leanne De Young, VET Coordinator**

E: [vet@smc.sa.edu.au](mailto:vet@smc.sa.edu.au)

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or visit the VET page on the College website

[www.smc.sa.edu.au/teaching-learning/secondary/vet/](http://www.smc.sa.edu.au/teaching-learning/secondary/vet/)



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