Academic Acceleration Policy

At John Paul College we value academic excellence and recognize the potential of students who consistently achieve high academic results while demonstrating exceptional learning skills and work habits. Our Academic Acceleration Policy aims to provide eligible students with the opportunity to accelerate their studies, enabling them to undertake advanced coursework beyond their grade level. The policy sets forth guidelines and criteria for acceleration in different academic years.

Acceleration Options

Students who meet the criteria outlined in this policy may be permitted to accelerate their studies by:

- Studying Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Unit 1 and 2 in Year 10.
- Studying VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects in Year 11.
- Studying a University Extension subject in Year 12.

Application Process

Students interested in acceleration must submit an application form by the specified due date. For students pursuing a three-year VCE program, the expectation is to study six VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences. This includes a maximum two Unit 3 and 4 sequence in Year 11 and five VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences in Year 12. This opportunity allows for an additional 10% of the scaled score in the sixth study to be considered in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

Criteria for Acceleration in Year 10 - Studying VCE Units 1 and 2

The final decision regarding Year 10 acceleration will be made by the Head of Senior School Learning and the Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching). While the following criteria serve as a guide, each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis:

- Achievement in the top 20% of the cohort in English
- Achievement in the top 20% of the cohort in a related subject.
- Demonstrate a strong record of work submission.
- Maintain a high standard of work habits and attendance.
- Have no academic infringements, such as plagiarism.

Subjects available for academic acceleration are published annually in the College Learning and Teaching Curriculum Guide.

Available acceleration subjects are reviewed and determined each year by the Teaching and Learning Committee, taking into consideration curriculum, staffing and operational requirements.

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Acceleration in Year 12

Continuation of study is assumed unless the student fails to achieve satisfactory results in Units 1 and 2, or other serious concerns with behaviour, work habits and/or attendance.

High achieving Year 11 students who have already completed one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences may wish to apply to study a University Extension subject. Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be approved to study an extension subject. This will be determined by the Senior Student Learning Coordinator.

Further Considerations

- In some exceptional circumstances a student may be approved to study more than one VCE Unit 1 and 2 subject in Year 10.
- In some exceptional circumstances a student may be approved to study more than one VCE Unit 3 and 4 subject in Year 11.
- A small number of high achieving students who demonstrate excellent learning skills and work habits may apply to study other VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences without the study of VCE Units 1 and 2. Students need to discuss the viability of particular subjects with the Learning Area Leader and subject teacher.
- Students applying for acceleration are encouraged to see the Head of Careers to discuss their overall pathway.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Requirements

VET programs are a nationally recognised vocational certificate that allow students to include vocational studies within their Year 10 course, VCE or VM Certificate. All VM students will undertake a VET course and will discuss options as part of their VM interview. VCE students can choose available VET courses that are offered by John Paul College.

VET programs contribute to the VCE and VM in one of the following ways:

- Credit towards the VCE: selected VCE VET Programs offer scored assessment (study score) for Units 3 and 4 in the same way all VCE studies do and includes an end of year exam and study score. A small number of shorter qualifications can provide credit for VCE Units 1 and 2 only.
- Credit towards VM: units contribute towards the industry specific skills strand at VM levels. Credit towards the VM units contribute towards the industry specific skills strand.

Families are responsible for the additional costs involved for all VET courses.

Policy Owner	Teaching and Learning Committee
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