St Mary MacKillop College VCE Acceleration Policy

Students at St Mary MacKillop College are encouraged to accelerate their studies at VCE, conditional upon meeting subject specific prerequisites.

Only in exceptional circumstances will students be permitted to undertake **more** than **one** accelerated subject sequence. In this case the Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning, in conjunction with the Pathways Coordinator shall make the final decision. This decision may also be based on advice given by current subject teachers within the Learning Area of the studies wishing to be accelerated.

Unit 1/2 Subjects

For students wishing to accelerate into VCE Units 1/2 whilst still completing Year 10, are required to apply to the Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning and Pathways Coordinator. This application form is available from the Pathways Centre. Students are required to meet the following criteria to accelerate into a Unit 1/2 sequence:

1. The student must have completed a Unit of Study within that subject area in the year of application.
2. The student must have 'exceeding' (for English, Mathematics, Religious Education or Science) or Very High assessment task results within that study and achieve 'consistently' for learning habits at Year 9.
3. The student must have the endorsement of that subject teacher.

Unit 3/4 Subjects

Students previously accelerated into a Unit 1/2 sequence are not automatically accelerated into a Unit 3/4 sequence. For students wishing to accelerate into VCE Units 3/4 at Year 11 following acceleration into Units 1/2 level at Year 10, must maintain a High – Very High average and gain the endorsement of their Unit 1/2 teacher. Students also need to achieve 'consistently' for learning habits.

Students wishing to accelerate into a Unit 3/4 sequence at Year 11 without having completed the Unit 1/2 sequence must complete an application form outlining the reasons they wish to be accelerated within this subject area, and obtain the endorsement of the subject teacher. Students must also complete a trial Unit 2 Exam to demonstrate their level of understanding (higher than a 70% achievement is usually required).

Interviews

All candidates seeking VCE acceleration into either Units 1/2 or Units 3/4 may be required to attend an interview with the Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning, Pathways Coordinator or both, to supplement their application.

English

Under NO circumstances may students apply for acceleration into higher levels of English.

Scored Unit 3/4 VET subjects

Scored Unit 3/4 VET subjects shall be considered a form of acceleration when an application to accelerate in more than one VCE subject is submitted.

Units 3/4 Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics

For students wishing to undertake Specialist Mathematics at Year 12 level, they must obtain an average of 80% for all tests and assignments throughout the completion of Physics or Mathematical Methods, or completed Specialist Mathematics Units 1/2 at Year 11 level.

An application to accelerate does not mean automatic approval.

A student approved to accelerate needs to maintain their high academic standard in Semester Two, otherwise their application will be reviewed.

Completed application forms are to be returned to the Pathways Centre together with your subject selection sheet.