



**St Catherine's
Catholic College**

Course Selection Information

Year 11, 2021

St Catherine's Catholic College is a Catholic community that fosters a culture of learning and continuous improvement

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How do I decide which courses to study?

Students should seek out information on the content and nature of courses, so that their Stage 6 studies will represent a step on the path to fulfilment of future ambitions.

Students can structure a combination of courses that best suits the individual and is valued by employers and other training agencies. Many of these, such as TTC or TVET courses, provide accreditation for TAFE, and may represent job training in them. Courses offered will vary from year to year. The Careers Adviser can provide current course offerings.

In making choices, students should talk with as many people as possible: parents, teachers, friends, employers, relatives, the Careers Adviser, and others. All can offer a fresh point of view. Only you can make the final decision. Use the time to think through the options and make realistic choices.

What will influence your choice of course?

- Abilities – choose courses in which you can do well.
- Interests – choose courses which interest you.
- Motivation – choose courses areas which you want to study.
- Career aspirations and needs – be realistic about your career choices and about your course choices.
- Courses recommended by universities as being relevant to a specific university degree which you are interested in. NB: Select your pattern of study carefully as most courses extend over two years.

Questions to discuss with your family, friends and teachers:

- 1) Why do I want a Higher School Certificate?
- 2) What are my expectations?
- 3) What are my parents/caregivers' expectations?
- 4) What do I see myself doing in five years' time?
- 5) What career options have I considered?
- 6) What can I realistically aim to achieve in the HSC?
- 7) What are my options after completing the HSC?
- 8) Are my course options giving me future career flexibility?
- 9) What does TAFE have to offer?
- 10) What opportunities are there for going straight into the work force?
- 11) What opportunities are there with private training organisations?
- 12) Can I realistically expect to get into University?
- 13) Do I want to combine University/TAFE and/or work after the HSC?
- 14) Do I want to combine TAFE/School and/or work while attempting the HSC?
- 15) What courses do I need as preparation for future training?
- 16) Do I need an ATAR?
- 17) Why should I choose a particular course?
- 18) How many of my courses will involve "major works" in Year 12? Can I manage this?

What type of courses are available at St Catherine's?

There are different types of courses that you can select in Years 11 and 12.

Board Developed Courses (BDC)

These courses are developed by the NSW Education Standards Authority. For each course, the following information is available:

- the course objectives, structure, content and outcomes
- specific course requirements
- Assessment requirements
- sample Examination papers and marking guidelines
- the performance scale (except for Vocational Education and Training Courses).

All students entered for the HSC who are studying Board Developed Courses follow these syllabuses. These courses are examined externally at the end of the Year 12 course and can count towards the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Board Endorsed Courses (BEC)

There are two main types of Board Endorsed Courses; Content Endorsed Courses and School Designed Courses.

- Content Endorsed Courses (CECs) have syllabuses endorsed by the NSW Education Standards Authority to cater for areas of special interest not covered in the Board Developed Courses.
- Schools may also design special courses to meet student needs. These courses must be approved by the NSW Education Standards Authority. Once approval is granted, schools offer selected courses to senior students as part of the Higher School Certificate.

Board Endorsed Courses count towards the Higher School Certificate and appear on your Record of School Achievement. Board Endorsed Courses do NOT count in the calculation of the ATAR.

Vocational Education and Training (Vet) Courses Either Board Developed or Board Endorsed:

Vocational Education and Training (VET) **CATEGORY B** courses are offered as part of the Higher School Certificate. They enable students to study courses which are relevant to industry needs and have clear links to post-school destinations. These courses allow students to gain both Higher School Certificate qualifications and accreditation with industry and the workplace as part of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The national framework is recognised across Australia and helps students to move easily between the various education and training sectors and employment.

These Category B courses each have a specific workplace component and a minimum number of hours students spend in the workplace or a simulated workplace at school. Students receive special documentation showing the competencies gained. Some of these courses will be delivered by schools, while others will be delivered by TAFE or other providers.

All VET courses count towards the Higher School Certificate and appear on your Record of School Achievement. ONE Board Developed Category B course can count in the calculation of the ATAR IF the HSC Examination is completed.

All Board Endorsed Courses count towards the Higher School Certificate and appear on your Record of Achievement. Board Endorsed Courses do NOT count in the calculation of the ATAR.

LIFE SKILLS COURSES AS PART OF A SPECIAL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12) Life Skills Courses are available for students who follow a Special Program of Study for the Higher School Certificate.

Students accessing a Special Program of Study in Stage 6 will, in general, need to have completed some Life Skills courses within a Special Program of Study in Stage 5 (years 9 and 10). Further, participation in a Special Program of Study will be based upon an individual transition planning process which will occur for both the Year 11 and Year 12 years.

Life Skills courses will have Board Developed status and can be used in place of other Board Developed Courses to meet requirements for the award of the Higher School Certificate. Each Life Skills course comprises a 2 Unit Year 11 Course and a 2 Unit Year 12 Course.

The Board expects that most students would meet the outcomes for a 2 Unit Year 11 Course and a 2 Unit Year 12 Course over approximately 240 indicative hours in total (that is, 120 indicative hours in each course).

Life Skills courses have eligibility criteria which must be met. Please speak with either the Principal or Assistant Principal if you are considering Life Skills courses.

What courses are on offer?

The following **Category A** courses are being offered as potential courses in 2021:

Studies of Religion 1	Chemistry	Legal Studies
Studies of Religion 2	Community and Family Studies	Mathematics Advanced
Studies in Catholic Thought 1 (Non-ATAR)	Dance (Diocesan Course)	Mathematics Extension 1
Studies in Catholic Thought 2 (Non-ATAR)	Design and Technology	Mathematics Standard
English Advanced	Drama	Modern History
English Extension 1	Earth and Environmental Science	Music1 PDHPE
English Standard	Economics	Photography/Digital Media
Aboriginal Studies	Engineering Studies	Physics
	Exploring Early Childhood	Society and Culture
	Food Technology	
Agriculture	Geography	Software Design and Development
Ancient History	Industrial Technology Timber	Sports, Lifestyle and Recreation
Biology	Investigating Science	Textiles and Design
Business Studies	Japanese Beginners/Continuers	Visual Arts

There are also several Category A courses available for study as Distance Education subjects.

The following **Category B** courses are being offered as potential courses in 2021:

Automotive	Hospitality	Primary Industries
Construction	EVET	SBAT
Electrotechnology	English Studies	

NESA Requirements to be Eligible for the HSC

To be eligible for the award of the HSC, students must:

- have gained the Record of School Achievement or other such qualifications as NESA considers satisfactory.
- have attended a government school, an accredited non-government school, a school outside New South Wales recognised by NESA or a college of TAFE.
- have completed HSC: All My Own Work (or its equivalent).
- have satisfactorily completed courses that comprise the pattern of study required by NESA for the award of the HSC.
- sit for and make a serious attempt at the requisite HSC examinations.

Source: <http://ace.bostes.nsw.edu.au/ace-8004>

In addition to these five eligibility requirements, a student's 'Pattern of Study' must comply with the following directives from NESA.

What are units?

All courses offered for the Higher School Certificate have a unit value. Courses may have a value of 1 unit or 2 units. Most courses are 2 units.

2-unit course = 9 × 51-minute periods per fortnight (approximately 240 hours per course – 120 hours in Year 11 and 120 hours in Year 12)
= 100 marks in Year 12

The following is a guideline to help you understand the pattern of courses.

2-UNIT COURSE

This is the basic structure for all courses. It has a value of 100 marks.

EXTENSION COURSES

- Extension study is available in a number of courses.
- Extension courses are 1-unit courses which build on the content of the 2-unit course.
- 1-unit equals approximately 4 x 51-minute periods per fortnight or 60 hours.
- 1-unit courses have a value of 50 marks.
- Extension courses require students to work beyond the standard of the 2-unit course, and are available in English, Mathematics, History and VET.
- English and Mathematics Extension Courses are available at Year 11 and Year 12 levels. Students must study the Year 11 extension course in these subjects before proceeding to the two Year 12 extension courses (Extension 1 and Extension 2). The Extension 2 course requires students to work beyond the standard of the Extension 1 course.
- Year 12 Extension courses in subjects other than English and Mathematics are offered, and examined, in Year 12 only.

1 UNIT COURSE

- 1 unit equals approximately 4 x 51-minute periods per fortnight or 60 hours per year
- There are several 1-unit Board Endorsed Courses (BEC). These courses do NOT count in the ATAR.

Requirements for the award of the Higher School Certificate

1. You must study a minimum of 12 units in the Year 11 course and a minimum of 10 units in the Year 12 course. Both the Year 11 course and the Year 12 course must include the following:
 - students will complete either Studies in Catholic Thought I or II, or Studies of Religion I or II
 - at least 6 units from Board Developed Courses including at least 2 units of a Board Developed Course in English
 - at least three courses of 2 units value or greater
 - at least four subject areas.
 - At most, 6 units of Science can contribute to Higher School Certificate eligibility.
2. You must complete the practical, oral or project works required for specific courses and the Assessment requirements for each course.
3. You must have sat for and made a serious attempt at the required Higher School Certificate Examinations.

Additional Information:

- The NSW Education Standards Authority website publishes Rules for Students Studying for the New South Wales Higher School Certificate – see <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/students/student-guide>
- To receive the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), you must study a minimum of 10 Board Developed units in the Year 12 Course.
- If you do not wish to receive an ATAR, the rest of your courses may be made up from Board Endorsed Courses once you have studied six units from Board Developed Courses.
- At St Catherine's Catholic College, students are required to choose a course in Religious Studies— either Studies in Catholic Thought 1 Unit or 2 Unit, or Studies of Religion 1 Unit or 2 Unit. Students who study a 2 Unit Course in Year 11 may change to a 1 Unit Course in Year 12 provided that they have a total of 10 units of study.

Vocational Education & Training – VET

The NSW Education Standards Authority has developed Industry Curriculum Frameworks (ICF) that are available for Year 12 study for Year 11 students. The frameworks are:

- Automotive
- Animal Studies
- Business Services (Administration)
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Primary Industries
- Retail
- Tourism, Travel & Events

Each framework course is based upon a nationally endorsed training package and is consistent with the requirements of the AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) and the ARF (Australian Recognition Framework). Students are offered a range of entry-level qualifications at AQF Certificate I, II and III levels. These certificate levels are accommodated within the new Year 12 frameworks through the delivery of 120-, 180- and 240-hour courses. Each framework has a 240- hour course, and in some cases, there are 60- and 120-hour extension courses available to complete a certificate level. Students can also complete their study through a part-time traineeship pathway, allowing them to combine part-time employment and study.

In addition to competency-based Assessment, students who enrol in a 240-hour framework course can undertake an optional two-hour written Examination and may have the result for that course included in the calculation of their Universities Admission Index. Students who attempt the Examination will receive an Examination report that describes their performance in one of six bands. The marks gained in the Examination will be aligned with the description of the knowledge, skills and understanding typically demonstrated by students in that band. The mark achieved by a student will reflect the standard actually achieved rather than a relative position within the cohort. Students who meet or exceed the minimum standard expected will receive a mark of 50 or more.

St Catherine's, in association with other providers, and as part of the Trade Training Centre, can offer students access to all the frameworks.

NOTE:

If students are interested in pursuing Tourism, Business Services or Information Technology VET, then it is possible that this may be arranged. Please indicate your interest by contacting the Assistant Principal Secondary or the VET Co-ordinator.

Assessment and Reporting

- The Higher School Certificate will provide you with more detailed descriptions of the knowledge, skills and understanding you have attained in each subject.
- The syllabuses, along with Assessment and Examination information and a performance scale that will be used to describe your level of achievement, give a clear idea of the standards that are expected.
- The Higher School Certificate will provide a description of your achievements in the Year 12 course, along with a Record of School Achievement that lists the grades earned in Year 10 and Year 11.
- School-based Assessment Tasks will contribute to 50% of your Year 12 mark. Your school Assessment mark will be based on your performance in Assessment Tasks you have undertaken during the course.
- The other 50% will come from the Higher School Certificate Examination.
- The Higher School Certificate mark for 2-unit courses will be reported on a scale of 0 to 100. A mark of 50 will represent the minimum standard expected. If you achieve the minimum standard expected in a course, you will receive a mark of 50. There will be five performance bands above 50 that correspond to different levels of achievement in knowledge, skills and understanding. The band from 90 – 100 will correspond to the highest level of achievement.
- On satisfactory completion of your The Higher School Certificate you will receive a portfolio containing:
 - **The Higher School Certificate Testamur**
The official certificate, confirming your achievement of all requirements for the awarding of a Higher School Certificate.
 - **Record of School Achievement (RoSA)**
This document lists grades earned in all Year 10 courses and all successfully completed Year 11 courses. This document may also include results of the optional Literacy and Numeracy Examinations that can be sat once a student has indicated they are leaving school (prior to Year 12 completion).

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

The ATAR is a numerical measure of a student's overall academic achievement in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in relation to that of other students. This measure allows the comparison of students who have completed different combinations of HSC courses. The ATAR is calculated solely for use by institutions, either on its own or in conjunction with other selection criteria, to rank and select school leavers for admission.

The ATAR references a student's achievement to the Year 7 students in their cohort.

1. To be eligible for an ATAR a student must complete at least 10 units of ATAR courses including at least two (2) units of English. ATAR courses are Board Developed courses for which there are Examinations conducted by the NSW Education Standards Authority that yield a graded Assessment. The Board Developed Courses must include at least three (3) courses of two units or greater, and at least four (4) subjects.
2. The ATAR will be based on an aggregate of scaled marks in ten units of Board Developed Courses comprising the best two (2) units of English and the best eight (8) units from the remaining units, subject to the provision that no more than two (2) units of Category B courses be included.

Footnotes:

1. To have an ATAR based on an aggregate of scaled marks in ten (10) units, students must have completed at least eight (8) units of Board Developed Category A Courses. Please note that English Studies, Mathematics Standard 1, Electrotechnology, Hospitality, Primary Industries, Construction, Metals & Engineering & Retail are classified as Category B.
2. Students who are eligible for an ATAR will receive one based on an aggregate of scaled marks comprising their best two (2) units of English, the remaining units from Category A courses and the best two from Category B courses.
3. Marks to be included in the ATAR calculations can be accumulated over a five-year period.
4. If a course or part of a course is repeated only the last satisfactory attempt is used in the calculation of the ATAR.

Regions/Institutes have responsibility for developing and implementing protocol and procedures for VET planning. Students can select from a diverse range of school and TAFE delivered Higher School Certificate VET courses that make efficient use of education resources across the region.

Different ways of studying courses

St Catherine's Catholic College, provides students in Year 11 with the widest possible subject choices and therefore works in conjunction with several other educational providers.

VET COURSES

A range of courses are provided through Singleton, Maitland or nearby TAFE's and OTEN (Open Training & Education Network), as well as the Singleton Trade Training Centre which includes Singleton High School, the Australian Christian College and support from the Catholic Schools Office.

E – LEARNING

The Lismore Diocese provides courses online. There is an additional fee for these courses.

Courses on offer include:

- Ancient History
- Beginners Japanese
- Beginners Indonesian
- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- Software Design and Development

CAMDEN HAVEN DISTANCE EDUCATION CENTRE

A range of courses, including language courses, are currently provided through this centre. Students are allocated a tutor who provides the course work, Assessment Tasks and feedback. There is an additional fee for these courses.

Subject Expenses

All HSC subjects, other than Religious Studies, English and Mathematics have associated costs. Subject costs include compulsory excursions, workbooks, licences for specific software and consumable materials.

2020 – HSC SUBJECT COST TABLE (2021 TBC)		
Course	Year 11	Year 12
Aboriginal Studies	\$135	\$135
Ancient History	\$135	\$135
Agriculture	\$180	\$180
Biology	\$135	\$135
Business Studies	\$135	\$135
Chemistry	\$135	\$135
Community and Family Studies	\$150	\$150
Dance	\$400	\$400
Design & Technology	\$135	\$135
Drama	\$150	\$150
Exploring Early Childhood	\$150	\$150
Food Technology	\$150	\$150
Industrial Technology	\$150	\$150
Investigating Science	\$135	\$135
Legal Studies	\$135	\$135
Metals and Engineering	\$180	\$180
Modern History	\$135	\$135
Music 1	\$180	\$180
Photographic & Digital Media (PDM)	\$210	NA
Personal Development, Health, Physical Education	\$120	\$150
Physics	\$105	\$150
Primary Industries	\$200	\$150
Society and Culture	\$135	\$135
Software Design and Development	\$75	\$75
Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation	\$135	\$135
Textiles Technology	\$150	\$150
Visual Arts	\$210	\$210
Lismore Diocese Flexible Courses	\$400	\$400
Open High School Flexible Courses	\$400	\$400
Camden Haven Flexible Courses	\$400	\$400
TAFE EVET Courses	\$300 per unit	\$300 per unit
VET/TTC Courses	See individual courses	See individual courses

Changing courses in 2021

Students should make well-considered choices based on their career needs, interests and abilities. While most students will study courses for the entirety of their Year 11 and Year 12 years, there will be some cases in which a change of course is in the student's best interest.

Changes in courses can only be made **before** Week 6 of Term 1 2021. From Week 7 Term 1, 2021, students may change the level of course studied in Religious Studies, English or Mathematics or discontinue an Extension course (Note it is not possible to move into Extension courses). This is dependent upon a discussion with the Assistant Principal, and the need to meet the minimum number of units required for the Year 11 course. The Change of Course form may be collected from Student Services.

What do I need to do next?

Early Term 3 you will receive an email with instructions on how to select your preferences for courses.

Your choices must include:

- A Religious Studies course – Catholic Studies, Studies in Catholic Thought (1 unit or 2 unit), Studies of Religion I or Studies of Religion II
- An English course – English Studies, English Standard or English Advanced. If you choose English Studies, you must choose Catholic Studies.
- Up to another EIGHT courses, making sure you have selected between 12 and 14 units in total, including your Religious Studies and English choices.
- Another THREE reserve courses which need to add to 6 units.

Students who need to re-choose courses will be contacted individually.

Students who have chosen VET courses will need to complete a VET application Form and return it by the due date. It is the responsibility of students to follow all necessary instructions and deadlines for these courses. Failure to do so may result in these courses becoming unavailable.

Questions? Contact the VET Co-ordinator, a Studies Co-ordinator or your class teacher.