

2026 GUIDE

VET
DELIVERED TO
SECONDARY
STUDENTS



Why choose SWTAFE?

TAFEs offer practically-oriented courses that are designed to give you the skills, training and qualifications you need for the workforce.

Our courses enable you to gain qualifications for all types of employment and specific skills to help you in the workplace.



You will be more employable

TAFE graduates have a **high employment rate**.

83.1% of students who completed a course at SWTAFE in 2024 were employed or enrolled in further study after training.¹



High employment outcomes

81 out of the top 100 largest growing occupations in Victoria are attainable via a TAFE education.²



TAFE unlocking opportunities

By 2026, 9 in 10 new jobs will require a post-school education. And 80% of future jobs are attainable via a TAFE education.²



You will learn specific skills

When you study a TAFE course, you're learning hands-on practical skills that you need to do a specific job; whereas university degrees tend to focus more on the theory aspect, giving you a large general knowledge base in your chosen field.



Spend less time, less money

The length and cost of a TAFE course is also a key difference between TAFE and university. TAFE courses typically take from six months to two years to complete, while university degrees can require a minimum of three or four years full-time.



You'll earn while you learn

TAFE gives you the opportunity to work while you train, whether that's through an apprenticeship or by studying part-time while working in industry. Often that extra practical experience is what gives you an edge over university graduates.

Welcome to **VET**

DELIVERED TO
SECONDARY
STUDENTS

What is VET DSS?

VET DSS stands for Vocational Education & Training Delivered to Secondary Students.

It combines Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) studies at school, with practical hands-on experience and training at one of our SWTAFE campuses. You need to be at least 15 years old by April in the year you enrol and be in Years 10, 11 or 12 in the following year to apply.

Gain insights and experience within an industry you're interested in working in and get ahead in your career with a VET DSS program while still at school.

SWTAFE VET DSS programs are offered over a one or two-year period and contribute to your overall VCE or VCE VM requirements. As a student you will need to attend one of SWTAFE's campuses once a week and participate in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements. These placements will enhance your skills and provide opportunities for employment.

Why would I choose to do VET DSS?

Having a VET DSS qualification helps you to pathway into an apprenticeship, traineeship or employment, and best of all, when you have finished school – you can fast track into another course in the same area or we can help you choose an area of interest.

Sometimes, subjects at school may not be of interest to you. So once a week, come to SWTAFE and gain practical skills, employability skills and build your confidence.

Just remember there is no right or wrong reason to do VET DSS. In partnership with your school, we are helping to prepare you to start thinking about your future and the endless possibilities

What's next?

- ▶ This guide gives you an insight into all the VET DSS courses available to you.
- ▶ We suggest you pick one or two courses at SWTAFE that interest you.
- ▶ Your enrolment will be managed by your school. Ask your school VET DSS Coordinator for more info and steps on how to enrol.



What do I get from VET DSS?

Hands-on experience in an industry you're interested in while you're still in school.

- ▶ You can explore potential careers while you are still in school.
- ▶ The VET program you choose will contribute towards your VCE or VCE VM.
- ▶ Hands-on industry experience and employability skills.
- ▶ Credits towards further education via pathway opportunities post-secondary school.
- ▶ Valuable hands-on skills and experience for work, further training or university.
- ▶ You'll study close to home and experience an adult learning environment.
- ▶ You'll gain technical and specialised skills in your chosen area that will make you more employable; including communication, teamwork, problem solving and many more transferable skills.
- ▶ You'll gain state or nationally-recognised units of competency and qualifications, meaning the credentials are recognised anywhere in Australia.
- ▶ You can potentially earn while you learn if you study a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.
- ▶ A VET qualification can lead to further study options within TAFE or university – it's up to you and your goals.
- ▶ VCE VM students must complete a minimum of 180 nominal hours to be eligible for their senior secondary certificate.
- ▶ VET DSS courses contribute to your ATAR if you complete the two-year course of study completing units 1-2 and 3-4.
- ▶ Some of SWTAFE's VET DSS programs contain a study score. These 'scored' VET DSS programs provide a study score like any other VCE subject, boosting your overall VCE results and ATAR score.
- ▶ Any 'non-scored' courses may provide an additional 10% increment towards your ATAR score.



A VET DSS course has inspired Zemma Wright to strive for a career in the beauty industry.



I was in Year 11 at Warrnambool College when I started a VET DSS course in make-up.

Beauty wasn't something I had considered before but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so I thought I would give it a try.

We had a lot of fun during the course and I made so many new friends from across the district.

Our teachers were really knowledgeable and we had the chance to learn new techniques in theatrical and creative make-up which I really enjoyed.

I'm now in Year 12 studying VCE VM and completing a VET DSS course in hair at the same time.





I really look forward to my one afternoon at SWTAFE each week and have enjoyed the hands-on style of learning.

When I finish Year 12 I want to enrol in the Certificate IV or Diploma of Beauty Therapy to expand my skills.






I would highly recommend a VET DSS course to anyone. I have really enjoyed learning new skills and it has helped me decide what I want to do with my future.



2026 VET DSS COURSES

Interests	Career path	VET DSS course	Study timetable	Locations	Essential information
Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Artist ▶ Art assistant ▶ Visual arts assistant ▶ Illustrator 	Certificate III in Visual Arts CUA31120 (P)	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Babies + children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Early childhood educator ▶ Family day care worker ▶ Kindergarten or preschool assistant ▶ Nanny ▶ Out-of-school hours care assistant 	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care CHC30121 (must be in Yr 11) (P)	One afternoon a week plus work placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus • SWTAFE Hamilton campus • SWTAFE Portland campus • SWTAFE Colac campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Baking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Patisserie Chef ▶ Pastry Chef ▶ Dessert Chef 	Certificate III in Baking FBP30521 (P)	One afternoon per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No
Building + construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bricklayer ▶ Builder ▶ Carpenter ▶ Glazier ▶ Plasterer ▶ Stonemason ▶ Tiler 	Certificate II in Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship 22614VIC (P)	One afternoon a week plus one week in school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Sherwood Park campus • Hamilton District Skills Centre (A) • Cobden Technical School Trade Training Centre (A) • SWTAFE Colac Trade Training Centre 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No
Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Administration assistant ▶ Customer service ▶ Receptionist ▶ Accounts clerk ▶ Executive assistant ▶ Sales support officer 	Certificate III in Business BSB30120	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool Campus • SWTAFE Colac campus • SWTAFE Hamilton campus • SWTAFE Portland campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Cars, trucks or anything with an engine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Auto electrician ▶ Detailer ▶ Engine reconditioner ▶ Mechanic ▶ Motorsport technician ▶ Panel beater 	Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation AUR20720	One afternoon a week plus one week in school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brauer College • Cobden Technical School Trade Training Centre (A) • SWTAFE Colac Trade Training Centre 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No






- A** This is an auspiced training agreement where training is delivered by a third party on behalf of SWTAFE.
- P** This course is partial completion only.
You will receive a Statement of Attainment listing the successfully completed units. You may be able to use the Statement of Attainment to receive credit towards a full qualification, reducing the time and cost of future studies.

Interests	Career path	VET DSS course	Study timetable	Locations	Essential information
Civil Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction labourer Road construction and maintenance operator Civil construction machine operator Local council worker Mine or quarry worker 	Certificate II in Civil Construction RII20720 (must be in Yr 11)	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWTAFE Glenormiston campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score:: No Diploma pathway to uni: No
Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case manager Child protection worker Out-of-home carer Youth worker Community or support worker Community development officer Crisis support and intervention roles Alcohol and other drugs worker 	Certificate II in Community Services CHC22015 Certificate III in Community Services CHC32015 P	One afternoon a week plus two days in the mid-term break for Certificate II only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWTAFE Warrnambool campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation worker Ranger Parks and wildlife roles Indigenous land manager Marine and/or coastal manager 	Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management AHC21024 P	One afternoon a week <i>This VET DSS course is fully funded by the Department of Education, Garinga Djimbayang project.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWTAFE Sherwood Park campus SWTAFE Portland campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Electrical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical engineer Electrician Linesworker Engineering or refrigeration technician Technical officer 	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Pre-vocational) 22682VIC (must be in Yr 11) P	One afternoon a week plus one week in school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWTAFE Warrnambool campus SWTAFE Sherwood Park campus SWTAFE Portland campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No
Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boilermaker Engineer Machinist Fitter + turner Hydraulic controls technician Metal fabricator 	Certificate II in Engineering Studies 22632VIC P	One afternoon a week plus one week in school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWTAFE Portland campus Timboon P-12 School Trade Training Centre A Cobden Technical School Trade Training Centre A 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: Yes





Scan here
to enrol.

2026 VET DSS COURSES

Interests	Career path	VET DSS course	Study timetable	Locations	Essential information
Farming + outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Farm hand or farmer ▶ Farm or station operator ▶ Agricultural sales ▶ Agronomist representative ▶ Stock agent 	Certificate II in Agriculture AHC20122	One afternoon a week plus one week in the holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Colac Pound Road campus • SWTAFE Glenormiston campus • SWTAFE Hamilton campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Food + hospitality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chef ▶ Bar attendant ▶ Kitchen hand ▶ Bakery assistant ▶ Waiter ▶ Butcher ▶ Caterer 	Certificate II in Cookery SIT20421	One afternoon a week plus restaurant work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus • Portland Secondary College Trade Training Centre (A) • Lorne P-12 Trade Training Centre (A) 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: No
Hair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Barber ▶ Hairdresser ▶ Salon assistant ▶ Salon manager ▶ Stylist 	Certificate II in Salon Assistant SHB20216	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus • Camperdown College Trade Training Centre (A) • Hamilton District Skills Centre (A) 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No
Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nurse ▶ Health care professional ▶ Allied health professional ▶ Allied health assistant ▶ Individual or disability support worker 	Certificate III in Health Services Assistance HLT33115 (P)	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus • SWTAFE Hamilton campus • SWTAFE Portland campus • SWTAFE Colac campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Horticulture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Landscaper ▶ Horticulturalist ▶ Gardener ▶ Nursery worker 	Certificate II in Horticulture AHC20422 (P)	One afternoon a week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colac Secondary College Trade Training Centre (A) 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: Yes

*Courses will not run if there are insufficient numbers to form a class.

- A** This is an auspiced training agreement where training is delivered by a third party on behalf of SWTAFE.
- P** This course is partial completion only.
You will receive a Statement of Attainment listing the successfully completed units. You may be able to use the Statement of Attainment to receive credit towards a full qualification, reducing the time and cost of future studies.

Interests	Career path	VET DSS course	Study timetable	Locations	Essential information
IT + Computers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Programmer ▶ IT technician ▶ Help desk or technical support officer ▶ User support specialist ▶ Software or web developer 	Certificate III in Information Technology ICT30120	One afternoon a week plus one week in school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: Yes Diploma pathway to uni: Yes
Make-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Make-up artist ▶ Retail make-up sales person ▶ Beauty therapist 	Certificate III in Make-up SHB30221 P	One afternoon a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWTAFE Warrnambool campus • SWTAFE Portland campus • Camperdown College Trade Training Centre A • Hamilton District Skills Centre A 	Credit to VCE/VM: Yes Study score: No Diploma pathway to uni: No



Scan here to enrol.



School-Based Apprenticeships + Traineeships

Why choose an apprenticeship or traineeship?

- ▶ Combine your VCE VM with on-the-job training in a supportive environment.
- ▶ Gain valuable work skills and experience.
- ▶ Earn while you learn and get paid to develop your skills.
- ▶ Develop nationally-recognised skills in high demand areas.
- ▶ Get a head start in your career.
- ▶ Use your studies as a pathway or to gain credit towards further study.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow Year 10, 11 and 12 students to start an apprenticeship or complete a traineeship while still at school.

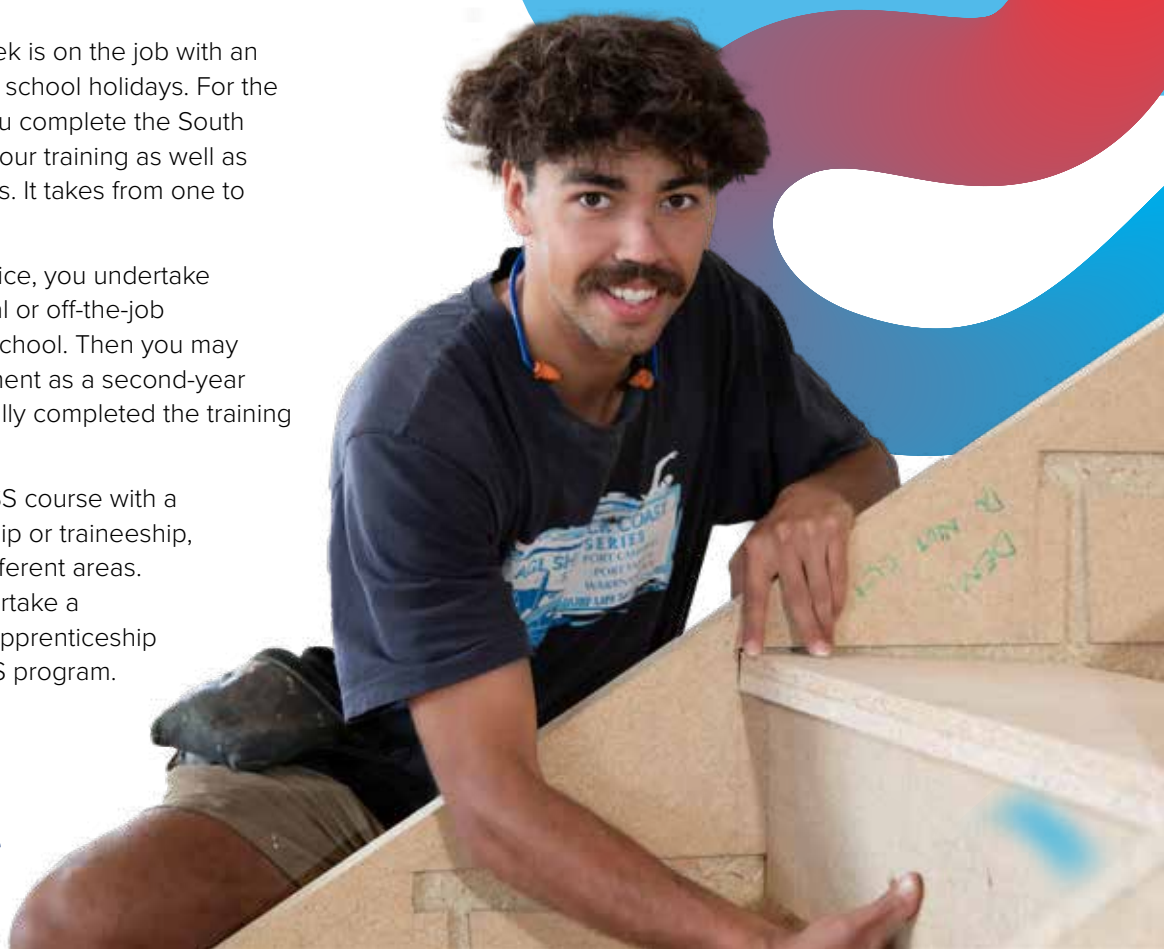
On average, one day a week is on the job with an employer, plus some of the school holidays. For the rest of the school week, you complete the South West TAFE component of your training as well as your other VCE VM subjects. It takes from one to three years to complete.

As a school-based apprentice, you undertake the first stage of your formal or off-the-job apprenticeship training at school. Then you may jump into full-time employment as a second-year apprentice if you successfully completed the training program while at school.

You can combine a VET DSS course with a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, but they must be across different areas. For example, you can undertake a school-based automotive apprenticeship and an agriculture VET DSS program.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships are offered in a range of areas including:

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Bakery
- Beauty Services
- Business
- Cabinet Making
- Carpentry
- Community Services
- Early Childhood Education & Care
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Horticulture
- Make-up
- Meat Processing
- Plumbing



Accessibility Support

We are committed to providing equitable opportunities for all students.

We ensure reasonable adjustments, modifications and supports are agreed upon collaboratively.

These supports may be for one or more of the following:

- ▶ Physical disability
- ▶ Visual or hearing impairment
- ▶ Mental health condition
- ▶ Learning disability
- ▶ Intellectual disability
- ▶ Medical condition
- ▶ Permanent cognitive delay
- ▶ Chronic illness
- ▶ Speech/communication impairment
- ▶ Mental health condition
- ▶ Psychosocial disability
- ▶ Acute or chronic medical conditions

Supports may include the following:

- ▶ Pre-enrolment information and enrolment assistance
- ▶ Orientation to the organisation and introduction to key staff members
- ▶ Advice regarding physical access
- ▶ Liaison with teachers
- ▶ Participation assistance
- ▶ Australian sign language (Auslan) interpreters
- ▶ Alternative formatting of class materials
- ▶ Assessment accommodations
- ▶ Access to software, technology and equipment that enhance learning
- ▶ Referral to other support services, e.g. counselling and welfare

Your school will continue to support you through your VET DSS studies.

SWTAFE will work collaboratively with the student support group at your secondary school ensuring you have a smooth transition into SWTAFE.

Contact the accessibility support team for more info
(03) 5564 8720 | disability.support@swtafe.edu.au

Any Questions?

Head to **vetdss.swtafe.edu.au** for more info, discuss your options with your VET DSS Coordinator or contact the SWTAFE VET DSS team via 1300 648 911 or email vetdss@swtafe.edu.au



Want More?

Find out more about VET DSS and each industry program by visiting:

vetdss.swtafe.edu.au

Published by South West TAFE in July 2025. All information published in this course menu was accurate at the time of publication. SWTAFE reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course offerings and other information published here. Courses may be affected by changes to the relevant training package. For the most up-to-date course information, please view our website at swtafe.edu.au.

SWTAFE training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding.



swtafe.edu.au | 1300 648 911
TAFE 3120

