

MINLATON DISTRICT SCHOOL

What is Vocational Education ?

Vocational Education is about helping people become ready for work. It is a combination of broad vocational learning and specific industry related skills through Vocational Education and Training (VET). The VET courses are offered to meet the needs of the students in the school and to support employment, education and training needs of the local community.

What is a VET Course?

By doing a VET course, students can experience the world of work in a range of occupations whilst still at school.

In a VET course, students will undertake:

[Off The Job Learning](#) which might happen at school or at TAFE or other training provider

[On the Job learning](#) which will happen at one or more workplaces and is referred to as Structured Workplace Learning.

What is the difference between Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and Work Experience ?

[Work Experience](#) offers students a general taste of the world of work. Students observe different aspects of the work carried out, and assist with tasks nominated by their supervisor / employer.

[Structured Workplace Learning](#) (SWL) enables students to gain specific skills on the job. The school and the participating employer agree on these skills or “competencies” beforehand. The skills reflect nationally recognised, industry defined competency standards, which have been developed by industry training bodies. A student’s time in SWL as part of their VET course will contribute to their SACE and to a nationally accredited Training Package.

VET Courses Available at Minlaton District School

Minlaton District School Curriculum Handbook outlines many of the VET courses already available. Please ask the Pathways Coordinator – Greg Hackett to help you with any questions related to VET courses. The courses are divided into 3 groups.

1. [School VET Courses](#) (in Senior School Curriculum Handbook)
2. [Regional VET Courses](#) (Such as the ‘Animal Care and Husbandry’ and ‘Resources And Energy Careers Program’ which are run at various locations across Yorke Peninsula.)
3. [Other VET Courses](#) – From time to time, other VET courses become available – these are generally through TAFE SA or other Registered Training Organisations. These are advertised via daily notices within the school as they become available.

School Based Apprenticeships (ASBA's)

Australian School Based Apprenticeships allow you to train and do paid work in your chosen apprenticeship area while you are still at school studying for your SA Certificate of Education (SACE). As well as paid work, you will get extra training to build on the skills learned at work and at school. This training may occur while you are at work, at school, or at TAFE SA or a Registered Training Organisation.

What are the benefits of VET courses?

- You can explore possible areas of interest which will help you to make decisions about further study and work choices.
- VET qualifications are nationally recognised.
- You will receive credit towards apprenticeships and traineeships, giving you a head start in your chosen career pathway.
- The VET courses will make your senior school studies more relevant and interesting. While you complete SACE you are also working towards gaining a VET qualification.
- Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) provides opportunities to “learn on the job” whilst undertaking work placements and thus gaining skills and knowledge that employers want, increasing your opportunities for employment.

How can VET help me to get my SACE?

VET is competency based training, in other words, you will be working towards a level of competency in the specific training you undertake. We refer to VET “units of competency”, which are measured by the number of hours of study required and the levels of achievement expected from undertaking those units of training. There are three possible ways you can use VET subjects to contribute to your SACE. You can select subjects that have been adapted from national training packages and are available as SSABSA VET Stage 1 and 2 subjects. Or, you can choose Stand Alone VET which involves completing units of competency that will count towards completion of your SACE. The third option is where VET units of competency are embedded into existing SACE subjects.

If you complete Stand Alone VET units of competency towards your SACE studies, you can be granted status towards your ‘free choice’ units. SACEBoard will calculate the amount of SACE Credit you receive from each course, with 70 nominal hours of successfully completed VET units of competency equivalent to 10 Credits in the SACE.

Will undertaking a VET course affect my chances of going to university?

All VET courses are designed to prepare you for the world of work.

Any Stage 1 student can do a VET course without restriction, but for students wishing to complete their SACE and apply for an ATAR (Tertiary entrance score), it is not so straightforward as different courses will provide differing amounts of SACE credits. Please discuss with Pathways Coordinator.

Will doing a VET course affect other subjects?

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) requires you to undertake industry placements related to your area of study in combination with supervised study lessons. This might be in the form of a Block Release (one or two weeks per term) or one day per week for the year (this is on Wednesdays). You will need to be well organised and prepared to catch up work missed, either at home or in the Study Room by liaising with your subject teachers. School Based Apprenticeships and VET Courses count as one of your subject selections – they are not extras.

How will I apply to be in a VET course or School Based Apprenticeship?

Selecting a School Based Apprenticeship or VET course will be done through the counselling process. The School’s Pathways Coordinator will assist you in selecting a course that will fit your SACE pattern. You may be required to complete an Application Form (for Doorways to Construction for example) and submit a Resume. You may be required to attend an interview.

How much will it cost me?

The cost of VET courses vary considerably but includes the training costs and the costs associated with consumables. This is a private arrangement with the Registered Training Organisation. The Minlaton District School Governing Council have endorsed that MDS will reimburse up to 50% of the VET Course costs on successful completion of an entire Certificate Course. Students who do not complete their VET course will receive no reimbursement.

Travel Arrangements

Students in most cases, will be required to arrange their own transport to VET courses and work placements. Car Pooling may be a good travel arrangement arranged by parents. We do not support students transporting other students, unless all the necessary forms and paperwork is completed prior to travel commencing.

Need more information ?

Contact Senior School Coordinator, Glen White at Minlaton District School –
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