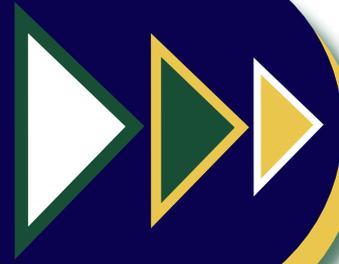


STUDENT PATHWAYS

A Guide for Year 11 and 12 Students



LIFELONG LEARNING

Enabling our students to learn and realise their potential to become fully contributing members of the local and global community.



**IRENE MCCORMACK
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**
Prayer Service Justice

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Students, and Parents of students, preparing for course selections for Years 11 and 12 at Irene McCormack Catholic College.

As a College we have worked hard to listen to the needs of all stakeholders to develop a variety of Year 11 and 12 pathways that will engage our students and help them to realise their potential.

This brochure aims to provide a simple outline and understanding of the broad pathway information that is often assumed, ahead of navigating the more complex curriculum handbook and course selection process.

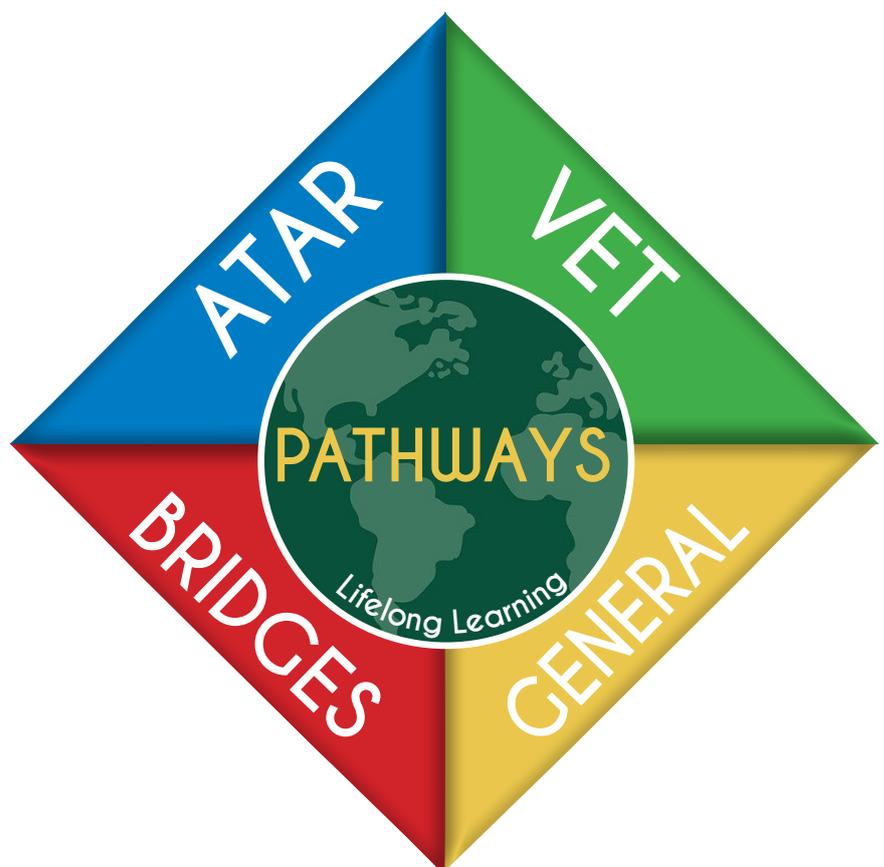
General information on post school destinations and school pathways is often presented on the assumption that the audience are Western Australian born, educated, and have completed training and further education locally, when in fact many have migrated from a broad range of overseas countries or interstate. Those parents amongst us that were educated locally, often feel it is so long since we were at school, or that the rapidly changing landscape around transitioning through senior school to work or further education is unrecognisable and we can feel quite lost.

Subsequently, some of the terminology, programs, and pathways that you will encounter on your course selection journey is introduced in this booklet which outlines the four Irene McCormack Catholic College pathway options.

At Irene McCormack Catholic College we want students to engage in their own personal *lifelong learning* journey on whichever of the Student Pathways you follow, but especially to *Realise Your Potential*.

Mr Andrew Billingsley
Deputy Principal

This diagram represents the four pathways available to students in Years 11 and 12. Students choose a pathway that will be sustainable across the final two years of school to lead them to their preferred post-school destination.



ATAR

THE ATAR

The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) is a student's final ranking compared to all other students in Western Australia completing 4 or more ATAR courses of study.

ATAR Pathway is suitable for students who:

- Aspire to University entry, particularly to courses with an ATAR above 70.
- Have met the prerequisites for entry to ATAR subjects in Year 11.
- Are prepared to undertake the demanding study load, both in class time and at home learning, associated with the ATAR Pathway.

ATAR COURSES

Refer to the Curriculum Handbook for ATAR courses on offer at school next year, and the required Year 10 prerequisites. Students select 4-5 ATAR courses and 1-2 General/VET courses to create an ATAR pathway.

Refer to the ViSN Online Learning handbook for the online courses available to students via the Virtual School Network (ViSN) of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA), provided by a network of Catholic schools to students, with the opportunity to engage in studies not available at their own school.

UNIVERSITIES AND TISC

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) is a company, whose shareholders are Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia. TISC provides the following services:

- Conducting the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).
- Scaling WACE results and calculating ATARs for students in Western Australia.
- Processing of applications for admission to undergraduate courses at the Universities.
- Applications to Notre Dame University and CQUniversity are not through TISC, but directly to the university.

ATAR AND ALTERNATE ENTRY PATHWAYS TO UNIVERSITY

Alternate entry pathway options to select undergraduate degrees to students with a near miss ATAR, or those lacking a necessary prerequisite course include, but are not limited to:

- Portfolio or Experience Based Entry.
- Enabling (bridging) Programs.
- University College diplomas.
- The Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).

Upon completion of Year 12, ATAR students may be eligible for a bonus ATAR ranking and/or a number of alternate entry paths to an identified range of university courses.

Students at Irene McCormack Catholic College with an ATAR are eligible for the following bonus rankings for course selection as described by each university:

- CQUniversity - eligible students apply individually for adjustment factors bonus.
- CURTIN University - eligible students apply individually for StepUp bonus.
- Edith Cowan University - students automatically receive ACCESS bonus.
- Murdoch University - students automatically receive RISE bonus.
- University of Western Australia - students automatically receive Broadway bonus.
- The University of Notre Dame does not use a bonus ranking system.

VET

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)?

Vocational Education and Training allows students to gain qualifications for all types of employment and specific skills required in the workplace. VET qualifications differ from university qualifications as they provide a practical workplace focused skillset. There are also differences in the grading and assessment process, with VET qualifications using competency-based assessment.

VET qualifications range across four levels of certificates (Certificate I, II, III, IV), as well as Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses.

VET courses will broaden skills in a specialised area, and give practical and hands-on experience needed for the workplace. Hands-on application of study teaches students how to design, plan and execute the practical and technical aspects of the field of study within an industry context.

WHERE DO YOU STUDY A VET QUALIFICATION?

In today's modern, educated, competitive and ever-changing world of employment, VET is open to everyone of all ages whether a student, employed or unemployed. Courses are open to everyone and cover all the new emerging industries, as well as the more traditional and non-traditional industry areas.

VET is provided by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) which can be private organisations or public which are Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges. TAFE has campuses across Perth, grouped into two separate organisations: North Metro TAFE and South Metro TAFE.

Entry requirements to VET courses can be very competitive and students usually complete the high school WACE. This allows time to explore industry areas and gain workplace skills to identify a preferred occupation and the related VET qualification.

VET DELIVERED TO SECONDARY STUDENTS

Vocational training available to senior school students counts toward the WACE.

- Schools may choose to auspice with an RTO to provide VET qualifications for students to complete at school within the senior school timetable.
- A student can apply for a limited number of VET qualifications that are completed 1 or 2 days per week out of school at the RTO/TAFE. These courses are very competitive, some are free, some are full fee paying.
- Students ready to commence and able to secure an Apprenticeship/Traineeship can do so part-time 1 or 2 days per week out of school with the employer.

It is important that students identify the industry area they wish to be employed in and create a VET program pathway across senior school to take you there. Out-of-school VET programs require enrolment in the Career and Enterprise general course of study.

Refer to the Curriculum Handbook & IMCC website for detailed information.

It is also essential to register your interest in any out-of-school program as soon as possible with the VET Coordinator, as applications often close before subject selections are finalised.

GENERAL

Students select the General Pathway with one of these **post school destination goals**:

- **Entry to the workforce.**
- **An Apprenticeship or Traineeship** with family, or via work experience, but not requiring a previous VET qualification.
- Study at a TAFE or private Registered Training Organisation e.g. a Pre-apprenticeship course not available in schools, to develop industry knowledge and skills to then apply for an Apprenticeship or Traineeship at a later date; OR to apply for an emerging industries course such as Cyber security or Robotics not undertaken or available in schools across Years 11 and Year 12.

General Pathway students want to achieve WACE but do not aspire to enter University immediately after school, although this might happen as a mature age student after being in the workforce for 2-3 years, or after further study at a TAFE/RTO, or completing a university preparation upon leaving school.

General Pathway students:

- Select all General courses, and this can include the option of the endorsed work experience program **Workplace Learning (WPL)** if students are enrolled in the vocational course **Career and Enterprise General**.
- Students can select **industry relevant** general courses e.g. Building and Construction, Materials Design & Technology Wood or Metals to investigate if a related VET pathway would be of interest; OR students can select general courses for **personal interest and enjoyment** e.g., Outdoor Education, Photography, Japanese.
- May be unsure of a specific career interest or may have found Year 10 studies challenging. These students are **strongly advised to select Workplace Learning** to gain experience across two different industry areas to assist them find an employment area of interest and to develop transferable work skills. The Career and Enterprise class will provide opportunity for personal career research and planning while developing career management skills and being supported in workplace learning.

Students may commence a General pathway in Year 11 to:

- **Focus on their academic achievement** and work experience in order to make themselves more competitive when applying for a Year 12 Out-of-School VET opportunity, if they were unsuccessful with an application for a Year 11 commencing VET opportunity.
- Students who do not take up the Workplace Learning option are **strongly encouraged** to engage in **paid or unpaid work or volunteering in their personal home time** to gain transferable work skills that can be used in any workplace. The recorded hours can be counted towards competitive entry to TAFE courses.

Refer to the Curriculum Handbook.

It is also essential to register your interest in any out-of-school program such as Workplace Learning as soon as possible with the VET Coordinator.

BRIDGES

BRIDGES TO UNIVERSITY

The ATAR pathway is the most direct and preferred pathway by universities to an undergraduate degree. Not all students are able to meet the necessary subject prerequisites in Year 10, or may not have developed the necessary academic learning or self-management skills to successfully complete an ATAR pathway in Years 11 and 12. Universities wish to widen accessibility to all students. So, students who complete Year 12 studying mainly General and VET courses (without achieving an ATAR), are also eligible for a range of alternate entry paths (or bridging courses) to university, which include, but are not limited to:

- Portfolio or Experience Based Entry to select undergraduate degrees.
- Enabling (Bridging) Programs to select undergraduate degrees.
- University College Diploma - entry often to the second year of a degree.

Traditionally these paths are available for students upon completing high school. There is now opportunity to access alternate entry via an enabling course completed whilst in school.

BRIDGES (UNIPREP) PROGRAM

Students at Irene McCormack Catholic College now have the opportunity to complete the Edith Cowan University UniPrep Program across Years 11 and 12, as part of a supported bridging to university program delivered in school on the senior school timetable. Students have the option to allocate the program as one of their school subjects.

The Bridges Program will develop academic, learning and personal management skills within a career development framework. The program incorporates an enabling (bridging) course for students who will not achieve an ATAR. Students will be supported to manage a senior school program of General & VET courses at school, with the expectation of high achievement in a non-ATAR program of study. Opportunity will be provided to explore personal career pathways and occupations of interest.

BRIDGES incorporates ECU UniPrep which is a rigorous pathway to prepare students for university level study, with entry to eligible courses with a notional entry ATAR of 70. Students must be open minded to 'learn to how to learn', be motivated with a goal for a university pathway and be able to allocate sufficient time for home learning.

The ECU UniPrep in Schools component consists of two units in Year 11 and two units in Year 12. These units are:

- Learning Skills
- Academic Writing
- Humanities
- Mathematics

Refer to the Curriculum Handbook for detailed information, pre-requisites, and application package for this pathway option.

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