

Edenhope College Senior School Acceleration Policy and Process

Rationale

Edenhope College endeavours to provide all students with the opportunity to maximise their learning and to reach their full potential. We offer an Accelerated Learning Policy and Process, within the framework of a regulated and communicative approach, involving students, parents/guardians and key Middle and Senior School staff.

All students, where it would improve their educational outcomes, may accelerate their learning by studying a Unit 1 and 2 subject sequence in Year 10, and a Unit 3 and 4 sequence in Year 11. Students in Years 6-9 may also accelerate their learning in Mathematics where deemed appropriate.

This acceleration allows for a more challenging and stimulating programme for students in their senior years and allows them to maximise their ATAR result by completing six Unit 3 and 4 sequences instead of five by the time they complete their VCE. Further, the exposure to VCE studies in Year 10 can be beneficial, as can be, in some cases, the reduction of the amount of studies individual students might need to complete in their final year.

The policy aims to enable students a certain degree of choice and control over their own learning and their progression into senior school studies. However, to ensure that students have the best chance of success in their overall VCE programme, we have in place a number of desired criteria that students should meet to be accelerated in this way. This ensures that only students that are educationally ready are able to accelerate and avoids overloading students who have not yet reached that level.

Desired Criteria

Students requesting Acceleration into VCE need to:

- a) Show a history of exemplary attendance and behaviour and a solid foundation in organisational skills and ability.
- b) Have a record of major assessment pieces having been submitted within set deadlines.
- c) Have a consistently high level of achievement across all subjects in their assessment results:
 - i. Between 70%-80% achievement to attempt one Accelerated subject in the following year.
 - ii. Above 80% to be considered for two (or more) Accelerated subjects in the following year (where that might be the desire of the student concerned)
- d) Above average Victorian Curriculum level in a linked curriculum area (e.g. to accelerate in Biology, a Year 9 student would need to show an above average level Victorian Curriculum result in Science)

Where students do not satisfy all or some of the above criteria, we would advise them in writing to not consider acceleration until they are more ready for the level of challenge and commitment that is required.

Students in Years 6-9 wishing to accelerate their Mathematics learning are required to request an interview with the Assistant Principal.

Process

1. Year 9 and 10 students will be advised of this policy and process in Term 3 and 4 as subject selections are made for the following school year.
2. Students need to advise the electives coordinator (*prior to the year of study, where possible*) of a subject 'goal'. Individual student requests would then be discussed at the sub-school level. Where a Year 9 student wishes to choose a Unit 1 & 2 sequence in their Year 10 year, the Assistant Principal and the Senior Pathway Leader would be involved. The Careers coordinator will also be consulted.
3. The relevant staff would interview the student. Parents are required to partake in this process. All participating school staff (i.e. Careers Coordinator and specific subject teacher/s concerned) would be advised on the requested pathway of the student.
4. If the student satisfies the above criteria and has followed the above process, timetabling needs will be discussed. The Accelerated Programme will then proceed.

5. Where Desired Criteria have not been fully met, yet parental or student desire for Acceleration is strong, both student and the parent/guardian will be required to consult with the Principal and the Senior Pathways Leader before further action can be taken.
6. Each Acceleration Programme will be reviewed at the end of Semester 1 of the year of operation. Where results are poor, or it is judged that other subject studies are being adversely affected by the student's participation in an Accelerated subject, continued enrolment will be revisited on a case-by-case basis.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was reviewed in June 2020, and is scheduled for review no later than December 2024.