

Year 12

Tertiary Application Timeline...

You should be aware that VTAC applications for tertiary study open on Monday 4th August but don't close until Tuesday 30th September, 2014 (during the next school holidays). This means that you have two months to complete an online application via the VTAC website. The actual application will take you about 25 minutes to complete, as long as you are well prepared. Please remember that this is just your draft application which can be changed after you receive your VCE results in December, during the change of preference period!

Students are encouraged to make appointments to discuss career and course options. All Mazenod students need to have completed their application prior to the term 3 Holidays so as to concentrate on the VCE trial exams that will occur during the break. Just see Mr Ford to organise a time.

Because the VTAC applications are done online via the VTAC website (www.vtac.edu.au), you are able to complete your application at home. However, you are also invited to complete your application at school in the careers resource centre and during your scheduled lunchtime homeroom session this term. The VTAC application process will be explained on Monday 4th August to all Year 12 students

Finally, can I encourage all of you to keep your weekends free during August? This is when most Open Days take place. Try to go to those for the institutions you are realistically considering! Open Days really are the best way to confirm whether a particular course is right for you. See attached information

Hints for Year 12's:

The new 2015 VTAC Guide will be available for purchase in newsagencies from the end of July. Costing around \$15.00, this is a great reference for students applying for tertiary study. The VTAC Guide contains information about the courses you are eligible to apply for after completing Year 12 and also the critical details about the application procedures. You must use the 2015 VTAC Guide as information can change from year to year. This is also accessible online through www.vtac.edu.au and using the course search facility

☑ Be well informed about the Prerequisite Studies (VCE subjects) that you are required to have to make you eligible for selection into tertiary courses. Don't bother considering courses if you do not meet the prerequisites. You can find this information via the VTAC website at www.vtac.edu.au.

Timeline for 2014/2015 VTAC Applications...

2015 VTAC Guide available: July, 2014

VTAC applications for current Year 12 students open: 4 August, 2014

Closing date for timely VTAC applications: 30 September, 2014

VCE results and ATAR available: 15 December, 2014

Change of Preference Period opens: 24 November, 2014

Change of Preference Period closes: 22 December, 2014

First round offers released: 19 January, 2015

Understanding the language...

When you are investigating tertiary study options, you will quickly learn that there are lots of acronyms and jargon that you need to understand, to make it through the application process. Below are the explanations of the terms used most commonly:

Bachelor's degree – an undergraduate degree taken as the first level of study at university (i.e. after Year 12).

Clearly in ATAR – the point at which all students with an ATAR at or above that point, get offered a place in a course.

CSP – Commonwealth-supported places for students in tertiary study, when fees are partially subsidized by the government (we often refer to this as HECS).

Deferment – Postponement of the starting date for study (usually for one year).

Enrolment – The time when students sign up for subjects, receive timetables, pay for books etc.

ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank which is used as one of the primary selection mechanism into courses.

Extra Requirements – other criteria used by the institutes to select students (in addition to the ATAR) i.e. folios, interviews, UMAT exam.

Faculty – The group of academic departments of similar subject areas grouped together i.e. Science Faculty.

FEE-HELP – A loan from the government to cover the cost of full-fee courses.

Major – the main area of study taken in a degree (usually the student chooses the major from a list of options).

Middle band – students who have not achieved the Clearly-In ATAR may be placed in the middle band and other factors will be used to decide if they are to be offered a place e.g. individual subject study scores.

Prerequisite Studies – the compulsory VCE studies stipulated by each course that MUST be completed so that you are eligible to apply and be selected for that course.

VTAC – Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre which administers almost all tertiary applications by Year 12 students.

Extra Requirements in more detail...

Certain courses have extra requirements for Year 12 students and these are the additional things you must do to complete your application. Extra requirements are a compulsory part of the selection process and you will automatically rule yourself out of being selected if you do not meet these requirements.

Usually institutions set extra requirements if they want to know more about you than your ATAR score alone. For example, Visual Arts courses may require you to attend an interview and show your folio. Medical courses require you to sit the UMAT aptitude test and may also ask for an interview. Drama, dance or music courses will ask you to audition.

Depending on your interest areas, you may have extra requirements to fulfil for a number of the courses you wish to apply for and this will require you to be organized and commit the time to completing the requirements.

Remember, if you do not fulfil the extra requirements, you can't be selected into the course.

Details of extra requirements can be found under each course heading on the VTAC website (as a hint, sometimes the requirement will only be for non-year 12 applicants and not relevant to you; but if see the code 'CY12', this means current Year 12 students and is applicable to you).