

Choosing the Right VCE Mathematics Pathway



Foundation Mathematics and General Mathematics

Supporting students to choose the mathematics pathway that best fits their future goals and strengths

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YEAR 9 SUBJECT AVERAGE RESULT YEAR 10 SUBJECT

Year 9 Foundation
Maths

Year 10
Foundation Maths

Year 9 Maths

< 50%

Year 10
Foundation Maths

Year 9 Maths

51 - 70%

Year 10
General Maths

Year 9 Maths

> 70%

Year 10
Maths Methods

Note: A review of mathematics performance will occur for students that select Foundation Mathematics. Like all subjects, spaces are limited and students that miss out on Foundation Mathematics will be placed into Yr 10 General Mathematics. Where this occurs, students will be able to select VCE Foundation Mathematics in Year 11 and/or 12.

Students that were in Year 9 Foundation Mathematics are only able to continue with Foundation Mathematics in Year 10-12

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YEAR 10

AVERAGE RESULT

UNIT 1 & 2 SUBJECT

Year 10 Foundation
Maths

VCE
Foundation Maths

Year 10 General
Maths

$< 50\%$

VCE
Foundation Maths

Year 10 General
Maths

$> 50\%$

VCE
General Maths

Year 10 Maths
Methods

$< 60\%$

VCE
General Maths

Year 10 Maths
Methods

61 - 80%

VCE
Maths Methods

Year 10 Maths
Methods

$> 81\%$

VCE Maths
Methods & VCE
Specialist Maths

Choosing the Right VCE Mathematics Pathway

Why does VCE offer different Mathematics pathways?

Every student uses mathematics differently after school.

VCE Mathematics pathways are designed to:

- Support different career and study destinations
- Match different learning strengths and interests
- Ensure students experience success, confidence and relevance in mathematics

Choosing the right pathway is about best fit, not ability.

What is VCE Foundation Mathematics (Units 1–4)?

Foundation Mathematics focuses on practical, real-world mathematics.

It is not an 'easier' version of General Mathematics, it is a different type of mathematics with a different purpose.

Students develop the skills they will use in:

- Tertiary education (including TAFE and non-maths prerequisite university courses)
- Work and employment
- Everyday life and decision-making

Key areas include:

- Numbers and operations
- Statistics
- Wages, taxes, loans and bills
- Measurement

Students should note that Foundation Mathematics has only one VCE examination.

What is VCE General Mathematics (Units 1–4)?

General Mathematics focuses on more complex skills and application of those skills.

It suits students who:

- Are proficient with explaining mathematical processes
- Are confident with applying their maths skills
- Need this mathematics as a prerequisite for specific university courses

Topics include:

- Data analysis
- Linear modelling
- Sequences and finance
- Matrices
- Networks

Which pathway is right for me?

General Mathematics may be suitable if you:

- Need it as a university prerequisite

Foundation Mathematics may be suitable if you:

- Exploring university courses which accept "any mathematics"
- Learn best through applied, real-world contexts
- Are currently finding General Mathematics challenging
- Want mathematics skills for work, training and everyday life

Students should note that General Mathematics assessments require application of skills. There are two examinations in this course.

Choosing the Right VCE Mathematics Pathway

Choosing Foundation Mathematics is a positive and informed decision.

University & TAFE Prerequisites

It is important to note that mathematics subjects (like Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics) are generally required for bachelor's degrees in engineering, physics, or data science.

Conversely, degrees in nursing, arts, or general business typically require subjects such as General Mathematics or Foundation Mathematics.

In Victoria, any university or diploma course that lists "any Mathematics" as an entry requirement considers VCE Foundation Mathematics (Units 3 and 4) as fulfilling that prerequisite.

A complete list of tertiary courses and prerequisites can be found on the VTAC course search website:
<https://delta.vtac.edu.au/coursesearch/#/search>

Who helps students decide?

Your Mathematics teacher is considered the best person to help advise you of your mathematics pathway options for next year. They will consider:

- Classroom performance and assessment data
- Career and study goals.
- Knowledge of your learning behaviours and work habits.

Mathematics at Parade

We recognise that confidence comes from success, and confident learners are more willing to engage, persist, and grow. Mathematics at Parade is designed to be meaningful, purposeful, and relevant to students' lives.

We work alongside students to select pathways that provide the best opportunities for both immediate success and future choice.

For advice, please speak with your child's Mathematics teacher.

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How may my Maths subject effect my ATAR?

Example 1 - Student whose average study scores are 35 in Year 12.

- On average, scored 85% in Year 11 General Mathematics
- On average, scored 85% on SACs in Year 12 General Mathematics

Subject	Study Score
English	35
General Mathematics	35
Physical Education	35
Psychology	35
Business Management	35

ATAR: 80.34

Subject	Study Score
English	35
Foundation Mathematics	35
Physical Education	35
Psychology	35
Business Management	35

ATAR: 79.37

Example 2 - Student whose average study scores are 30 in Year 12.

- On average, scored 65% in Year 11 General Mathematics
- On average, scored 65% on SACs in Year 12 in General Mathematics

Subject	Study Score
English	30
General Mathematics	30
Physical Education	30
Psychology	30
Business Management	30

ATAR: 65.13

Subject	Study Score
English	30
Foundation Mathematics	30
Physical Education	30
Psychology	30
Business Management	30

ATAR: 63.88

Note: A VCE study score is a scaled ranking showing a student's performance in a subject compared with other students statewide.

Study Score	45	40	35	30	25	20
Proportion of students on or above this position (approx.)	2%	9%	26%	53%	78%	93%