

**Rationale:**

Gisborne Secondary College is an innovative, flexible learning community that is committed to enabling every student to achieve their personal best.

Students enrolling in VCE studies must meet the requirements of GSC, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) and the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). A student must have passed the appropriate subjects to provide them with a suitable course of study. Some students may therefore need to select studies at more than one year level to provide the base for a course. It may be appropriate or necessary for a student to complete their course over a 3 year period.

GSC believes in providing extension and acceleration programs to students who are identified as exhibiting the capacity to meet those programs. Acceleration allows a student who has demonstrated that they have advanced knowledge and skills in a particular domain to access a curriculum at least one year in advance of their current year-for-age level.

Where a student has specific talents in a subject area, acceleration may be beneficial to the student's overall academic achievement and school satisfaction.

**Definitions:**

Acceleration at GSC may include a combination of the options listed below. All involve exposing the student to advanced content and skills and include:

- Early entry into school

Early Entry into Secondary School occurs when a child is allowed to enter school at an earlier age than

that mandated by education authorities.

- Single-subject acceleration (Advanced offerings in a specific subject)

Single-subject acceleration allows a student who has demonstrated that they have advanced

knowledge and skills in a particular area to access a curriculum at least one year in advance of their

current year-for-age level.

- VCE Extension Studies / Multiple Acceleration

VCE Extension Studies / Multiple Acceleration can be undertaken by high potential gifted and talented

students in years 10 and 11 to ensure that the curriculum is sufficiently challenging and matches their

learning needs.

- Curriculum compacting

Curriculum Compacting is different from subject acceleration in that the student's actual levels are

assessed through pre-testing and then this pre-testing determines what will be learned next.

- Year Level Advancement

Year level advancement occurs when a student is promoted into a higher year level resulting in the student not completing a full twelve months placement in an intervening year level, for example at the conclusion of Year Seven a student is promoted into Year Nine the following year.

- **Concurrent Enrolment**

Concurrent Enrolment occurs when a gifted or high potential student is enrolled at two schools (one may be a university) in the same year and attends classes (or lectures and tutorials) in two physically different locations or accesses these classes by Distance Education.

- **Mentoring / Virtual Mentoring**

A mentoring arrangement has the gifted or high potential student partnered with an 'expert' or professional in the student's specific area of interest.

- **Early Admission into Tertiary Education**

Early entry into tertiary education occurs when a student completes VCE after rapid acceleration (perhaps using a variety of curriculum options) and enters university significantly younger than the usual 18 years of age.

### **Procedure:**

1. Students should make their subject choices based on advice and information provided through the course counselling processes in the year prior to their course.
2. Students are advised to attend Information Evenings to familiarise themselves with relevant studies, pathway requirements and acceleration options.
3. Prerequisites need to be met by specific subject areas. (see GSC Course Handbook)
4. Students undertaking single or multiple-subject acceleration may be required to physically attend a higher class (Years 10, 11 & 12), or the student may work on the advanced material in their current classroom (Years 7, 8 & 9). Approved Year 10 students may be permitted to undertake VCE / VET studies, approved Year 11 students may be permitted to undertake Unit 3 and 4 VCE / VET studies and Year 12 students may access Tertiary units of study.
5. Access to accelerated studies is via a formal application process that includes recommendations from the Mentor Teacher, relevant Class Teacher, Domain Leader and Head of House. All applications will be reviewed for final approval by the Student Learning Leader Years 10-12 and the Assistant Principals Student Learning and Pathways and Transitions as per the Acceleration Policy and the relevant Course Counselling timelines.
6. Students most suitable for subject acceleration are those of above average ability, working well in most subjects, and displaying a real interest in the particular subject area.

**Criteria established to meet acceleration include;**

The student will have demonstrated:

- significant skills (performing at least 12 months above expected level for their enrolment / age in the relevant Learning Standards AusVELS / VCE / VET Level) in the subject
- a proven commitment to academic study,
- sound attendance,
- strong organisational skills,
- independent learning skills and
- that there is an obvious benefit to the student in undertaking the chosen study.

7. Gisborne Secondary School maintains that its first obligation to students is to ensure that they gain a

successful education at their enrolled year level. Students undertaking accelerated studies must ensure

that their performance in their year level studies is not neglected. Should this become the case, their

enrolment at the higher level will be reviewed and they may be withdrawn from the study.

8. Enrolment in an acceleration subject requires a serious commitment to study. A student who is not taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered will be provided with counselling and support. This may include re-direction into a more appropriate educational and training pathway. Attendance and

progress will be monitored closely to ensure that students are demonstrating commitment to their studies.

9. As per the GSC Student Learning Pathways priorities, student preferences determine which senior classes are run each year. The process is considerate of the resources available across the school.

10. Students successfully recommended for acceleration classes will be given priority access to those

acceleration units / classes running on the following basis:

- 1st preference: Current Year 12 students ie; students undertaking their final year of study
- 2nd preference: Students achieving in the top 10% of the subject in which they would like to accelerate
- 3rd preference: Students that have completed sequential units of study in a previous year

***Please note; all access and preferences will be considered in the context of the student's pathway program.***

**Individual Pathways Monitoring and Counselling.**

Students will be individually monitored and counselled through the pathways structure adopted by the school.

Accelerated Pathways are intended to be flexible to allow for changes of direction yet structured to encourage student focus on their post-school options. Pathways records will be maintained and students will be able to access their information on request. All

conversations about pathway changes will be documented as per the Class Change Process, and kept as part of the student's pathway plan.

**References:**

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/gifted/schooloptions/>

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/index.html>

VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook

GSC Acceleration Application Form

**This policy was ratified by School Council in June 2014**