

Guidelines for Academic Progression



As Nossal High is a select entry school, our students tend to work at a very high level in all academic subjects. All of our students can access an individual learning pathway and choose subjects appropriate to their own strengths and interests. For many students this may include accelerating in one or more subject areas.

We have guidelines in place that students should be aware of when choosing their academic course from year to year.

Progression to Year 10, VCE 1 & 2 and VCE 3 & 4

Students who wish to progress in a subject should be achieving at Just Acceptable or above in all areas of assessment in that subject. Students who are not achieving at this level will review their course during course confirmation to ensure that they are in an appropriate pathway.

Acceleration

For some students it may be of benefit to accelerate by commencing a VCE Unit 1 & 2 subject in Year 10 and then continuing on to study a Unit 3 & 4 subject in Year 11. This allows students to have a sixth subject to contribute towards their ATAR. The ATAR calculation is complicated, but in simplest terms it counts English first, then the next three top scores (this is called the primary four) and then 10% of the fifth subject. If students accelerate by studying a Unit 3 & 4 subject in Year 11, they will receive an additional 10% of their sixth subject in the calculation. No other subjects contribute to the calculation of the ATAR.

The other advantage to students who accelerate is that they gain the experience of VCE earlier and know what to expect in the following year. As acceleration can, however, put undue stress on some, students need to be achieving at an appropriate level to accelerate.

We recommend that students accelerate in one subject only.

We recommend acceleration only to students who have demonstrated maturity, organisational skills and high performance in the area they wish to study.

We recommend students do not accelerate in the subjects they require as prerequisites for tertiary study. We consider additional time to develop maturity and deeper conceptual understanding to be the best preparation.

Some subjects will have specific criteria that students need to satisfy to be eligible to accelerate. For these reasons, the following guidelines apply for acceleration:

Students who wish to accelerate in **one subject** should be achieving at **Good or above** in at least the areas of **Knowledge, Skills and Study Habits** in the relevant subject or appropriate subject area. For example, for Philosophy Units 1 & 2 at Year 10, students should achieve at Good or above in Year 9 Humanities and/or English.

Students who wish to accelerate in **more than one subject** should be achieving an average of **Very Good or above**, in the number of subjects specified for their year level, in at least the areas of **Knowledge, Skills and Study Habits**. For 2020 these are:

Number of Subjects	Year Level
7	Year 9
5	Year 10
5	Year 11

For all progression and acceleration, students will be assessed on what they are **currently** achieving and those who wish to accelerate must be achieving at that level for acceleration when they choose their courses (ie. in their Term 2 reports).

Students should also note that some VCE subjects will not be available for acceleration. These are indicated in the subject descriptions.