

2021 ViSN Online Learning Handbook



Welcome



ViSN

Virtual School Network

Welcome to ViSN, a network of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) secondary schools who work together to deliver online courses to Year 11 and Year 12 students.

ViSN provides students with the opportunity to engage in studies not available at their own school and in doing so, helps them build their technology skills, their ability to work independently and expands their network in the Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) system.

Online learning is of particular benefit in transitioning to further study, especially university, where more and more courses are being delivered online.

This handbook outlines the way ViSN works, the benefits of online study and the courses available to study in 2021.

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2020 ViSN Snapshot

195

ViSN course enrolments
in 2020

22

Schools involved in ViSN
in 2020



ViSN
Virtual School Network

ViSN is a network of Catholic schools who work together to design and deliver online courses

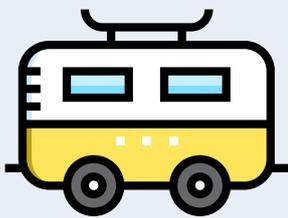
Why study through ViSN?



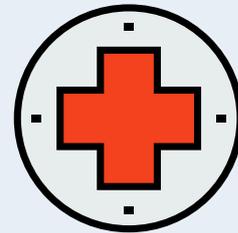
Timetable Clash



Course not available



Travelling with family



Too unwell for school

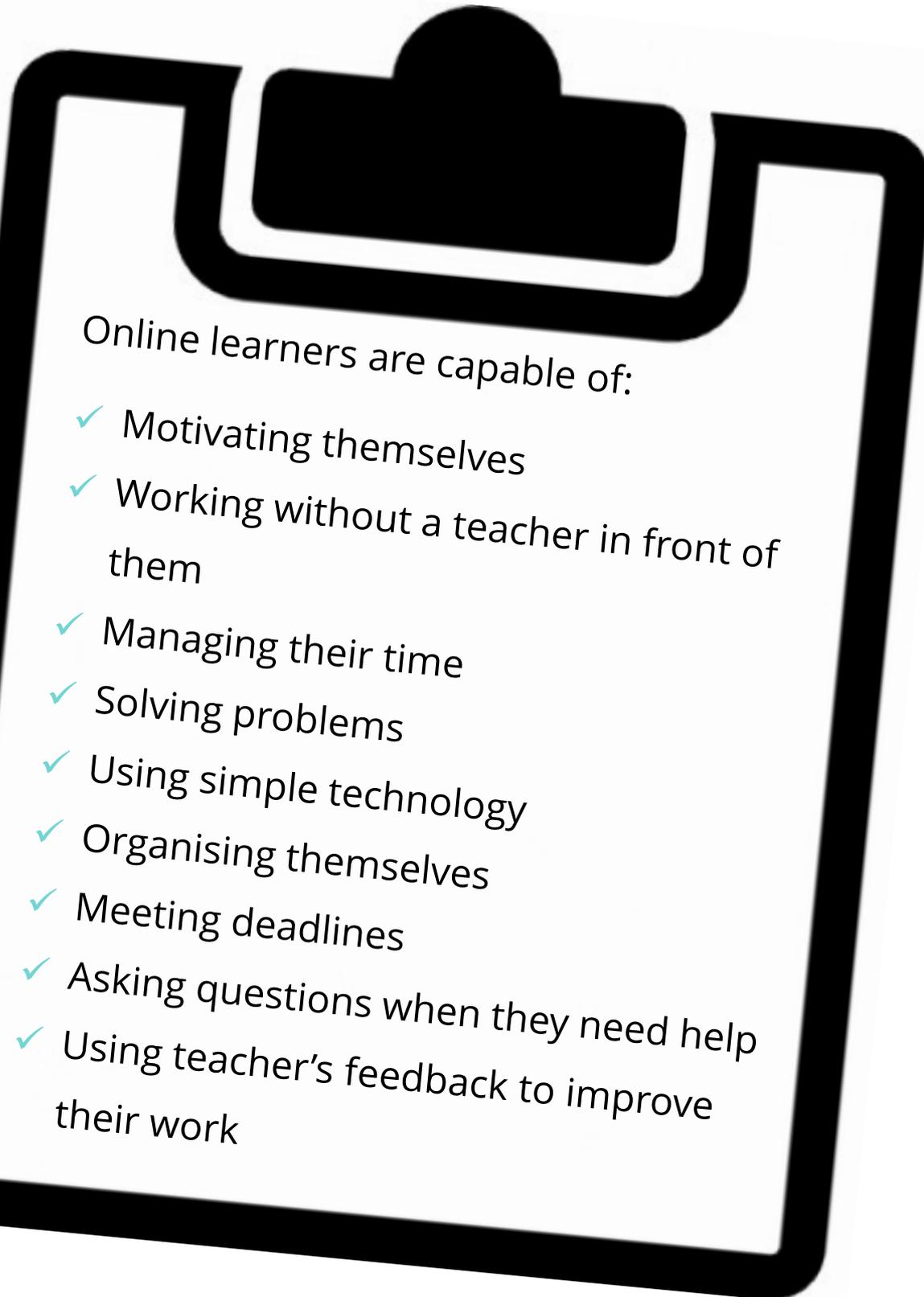


Away for competitions



Independent learner

Online Learner Capabilities



Online learners are capable of:

- ✓ Motivating themselves
- ✓ Working without a teacher in front of them
- ✓ Managing their time
- ✓ Solving problems
- ✓ Using simple technology
- ✓ Organising themselves
- ✓ Meeting deadlines
- ✓ Asking questions when they need help
- ✓ Using teacher's feedback to improve their work

Student Voice



"I find the teachers are always there if you need to ask them anything."



"I'm really enjoying working at my own pace and taking in what I'm learning in a way that is most effective for me."



"ViSN is great as I can have independence with my learning."



"You can spend as much time as you need to on what you deem suitable and appropriate for your own needs."



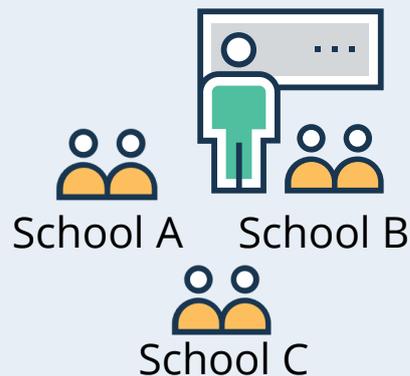
"ViSN has transformed my learning and has made me adapt into a more resilient and independent learner."

How does ViSN work?

Students remain enrolled at their own school but register for a ViSN online course, taught by a teacher (usually) in another WA Catholic school.

ViSN courses are compliant with SCSA requirements and can be used towards the calculation of WACE. In other words, they are no different to the courses delivered in a face-to-face classroom. A ViSN course is one of the 5 or 6 courses that are a part of the student's total study program. Someone at your school will check that ViSN will help you meet WACE requirements.

Classmates may be from their own school and/or other Catholic schools around WA.



5 = 4 + 1



Students are timetabled by their own school for 5 periods a week for the online course.



Students spend 4 of the 5 lessons working independently or collaboratively online with other students.



Students and the Teacher come together for 1 period a week via a Teams Call.

ViSN teachers are available daily to answer questions, provide feedback, monitor progress and provide assistance.

Student Access to Learning



Students and Teachers use a Microsoft product called Teams. It is where they can chat (type and Web call) with their teacher and classmates, access documents, upload assignments for marking and access their course Class Notebook.



Teachers use a digital notebook called Class Notebook to create their lessons, which students then access on a daily basis. Students work with classmates in the collaborative part of the Class Notebook and independently in their own private section of the Class Notebook. The teacher can see all parts and monitors progress daily.



Forms



Stream



Cloned



Teams



Sway



OneNote

ViSN Camp

Each year, CEWA offer the ViSN students the opportunity to attend a 2 day camp at St Thomas More College in Perth. The camp is held at the end of Week 1 of Term 1.

The purpose of the camp is to:

- create an opportunity for students and teachers to connect in person, which is beneficial to online student success.
- help students become familiar with their ViSN course design and its requirements, key concepts and teacher expectations.
- provide students with opportunities to participate in activities not necessarily available to them in their own school, which may aid their transition to post-school options.

Whilst camp is not compulsory, all students are encouraged to attend. Students who have attended previous ViSN camps have reported:

- A greater sense of connection to their teacher and classmates.
- Increased confidence in online learning due to knowing how their teacher works and a familiarisation with their course structure.
- Better understanding of how to use the IT tools used in ViSN.



Support for Students



ViSN Teacher

Only a message, email, Teams Call or phone call away. The first point of call when you need help with your course.



School-Based ViSN Mentor

Available to help you on a daily basis, during school hours. They will also ensure you're progressing as planned.



Tech Support

Your school may have a tech specialist who can help you with ICT issues. If not, the CEWA ICT Service Desk can help.



Parents/Guardians

Your parents/guardians will be able to support you, particularly at home, to ensure you are on track.



Online Course Classmates

Those doing the same online course as you can be a big help if you've got a question or need to clarify something.



“ViSN’s structure allows for students and teachers to learn alongside each other. As a practitioner it enables you to change delivery methods with and alongside new technologies in real time.”

2020 ViSN Teacher



- Qualified and experienced CEWA teachers.
- Passionate about their learning area and online learning.



- Well trained in the delivery of online learning.
- Based in their own school.



- In regular contact with students and parents.
- Only a phone call, message, email or Teams Call away if you have questions.



What are the benefits of studying through ViSN?

- Go at your own pace – no holding others up if you don't get the content, no being held back while you wait for others to understand the concept.
- Learning that suits your needs.
- You get to study a course your school may not offer.
- Study with students from other Catholic schools around the state.
- Be better prepared for the transition to university learning as many university courses now deliver a majority of the content online.



Do the ViSN courses have prerequisites?

Most of the courses have prerequisites, to give you an idea of the level you need to be operating at to be successful in the course. See the course outlines further in this book for details.



Is there a teacher?

Yes, ViSN teachers are based in their own school but are available to you via Teams message, email, Teams Call or phone. They will let you know when they're available each day to answer your questions and they'll be in regular contact with you each week, to see if you need help or have any questions.



What does a normal week look like when studying a ViSN course?

You will be timetabled by your own school for 5 periods a week. For 4 of those periods, you work independently and/or with other virtual students doing your course. Your teacher will let you know what has to be completed by the end of each week and in each lesson. The 5th period each week will be for you to connect online with your ViSN teacher and all other ViSN students doing the same course.



Will someone from my own school support me?

Of course! Your own ViSN mentor will ensure you arrive at each lesson, take the roll, chat with you about your progress or any concerns you have, help you where they can and make sure you're keeping up with the work. They'll work closely with your ViSN teacher too.



How do I access my ViSN course?

Once you've registered and been accepted, you will participate in an online orientation program which will outline where you access your courses, where to find your course materials, all about your assessments, how to get help, how to contact your teacher, how to use the software programs etc.

For more FAQs, go to

<https://leadinglights.cewa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ViSN-Student-FAQs.pdf>



Online study is for everyone.

Some students are better suited to studying online than others. This is because not everyone is a self-motivated, independent studier! With commitment, these skills can be developed. See pages 13 - 14 of this handbook to see what other skills you need to be successful online.



I'll be learning on my own.

This is not the case in ViSN! Our teachers ensure there are plenty of opportunities for you to work online with others in your course. You'll get to know your online classmates well and you'll be able to contact each other too.



It will be hard to get hold of my teacher.

While not in the same school as you, your ViSN teacher is just as accessible as your other teachers. You can contact them anytime during school hours and they'll get back to you within 24 hours (but it's usually within the next hour in reality!)



You have to be tech savvy to study online.

While it helps to have some basic tech understanding, it's not a criteria for being successful online. You'll be shown how Teams and OneNote (our main tools) work during orientation, and your teachers and classmates will help you too.



Online classes are second rate, or not as good as face to face classes.

There is plenty of research from online schools around the world that says otherwise! ViSN is no exception – our data to date says that our students are doing just as well in their ViSN classes, as compared to their face to face classes and in some cases, even better!



I won't know my teacher.

You'll get to know your teacher really well, perhaps even better than some of your face to face teachers! You'll get a chance to meet them in person at ViSN Camp and they are super-skilled at developing positive connections with their students in the online environment.



The technology won't work.

Catholic Education WA (CEWA) has done a lot of work to ensure that all students (online or not) have improved internet access. There are times when things don't go according to plan but don't let internet connection stop you – there's always a plan B in place! In addition to internet access at home and at school, you'll need access to a laptop or desktop computer (yes, you need to do work at home, just like your other courses!)



You can't study this course online.

Most of SCSA courses can be taught online, or we wouldn't be offering it! The ViSN teachers go through a year of training before they start teaching you online so they know all the clever ways to create engaging online lessons for you.



My parents won't know my teacher.

Your parents will have plenty of opportunities to meet your ViSN teacher, via email, Teams calls, Parent/Teacher/Student meetings online and the phone. ViSN teachers will contact your parents at the start of the year and share their contact details, so your parents are welcome to contact them at any time...just like in your face to face school.



No one will be there to check on me.

You are going to have plenty of support while you study online. Your school will appoint a staff member as the ViSN mentor and they are your school-based support, ensuring you're on track, that your technology is working, that you're handing in assessments on time, that you don't need any help with content etc. In addition, your ViSN teachers are only a message away and are always keen to help. Your teacher will check your work daily and provide feedback, and your mentor will check on you regularly too.



Are You Ready to Study Online? (Part 1)

Student Readiness	Technology Skills	Work and Study Habits	Learning Style	Technology / Connectivity
Less Ready 1	Student has little, if any, experience using a computer or the Internet, and has minimal desire to develop more skills in this area.	Student often needs reminders to complete routine assignments, often turns homework in late and has very limited independent study habits.	Student is not a self directed learner and often requires real time feedback from teachers regarding basic directions and follow-up support.	Student does not have consistent access to a computer and a reliable connection to the Internet at home and at school.
2	Student has limited experience using a computer and the Internet, and has expressed a strong interest in developing more skills in this area.	Student sometimes needs reminders and assistance in completing routine assignments and has demonstrated an improvement in independent study habits.	Student is beginning to demonstrate a behaviour of self-directed learning and sometimes requires real-time feedback from teachers regarding basic directions and follow up support.	Student has limited access to a computer with low-speed Internet service at school and at home.
3	Student has strong computer skills and more than adequate experience using a word processor, email application and web browser.	Student rarely needs reminders or assistance in completing routine assignments and has demonstrated good independent study habits.	In general, the student is self-directed and does not require real time feedback from teachers regarding basic directions and follow-up support.	Student has consistent access to a computer with moderate-speed Internet service at home and at school.
More Ready 4	Student has excellent computer skills and significant experience using a word processor, email application and web browser, and is comfortable downloading information from the Internet and using other technology tools and applications.	Student does not need reminders or assistance in completing routine assignments, usually finishes homework ahead of time and has successfully completed an independent study experience or taken an online course.	Student is a self directed learner and demonstrates a high level of comfort and skill in learning new material without requiring real-time feedback from teachers regarding basic directions and follow up support, and deals well with ambiguity.	Student has daily access to a computer with high-speed Internet service at home and at a convenient location in the school building before, during and after regular school hours.



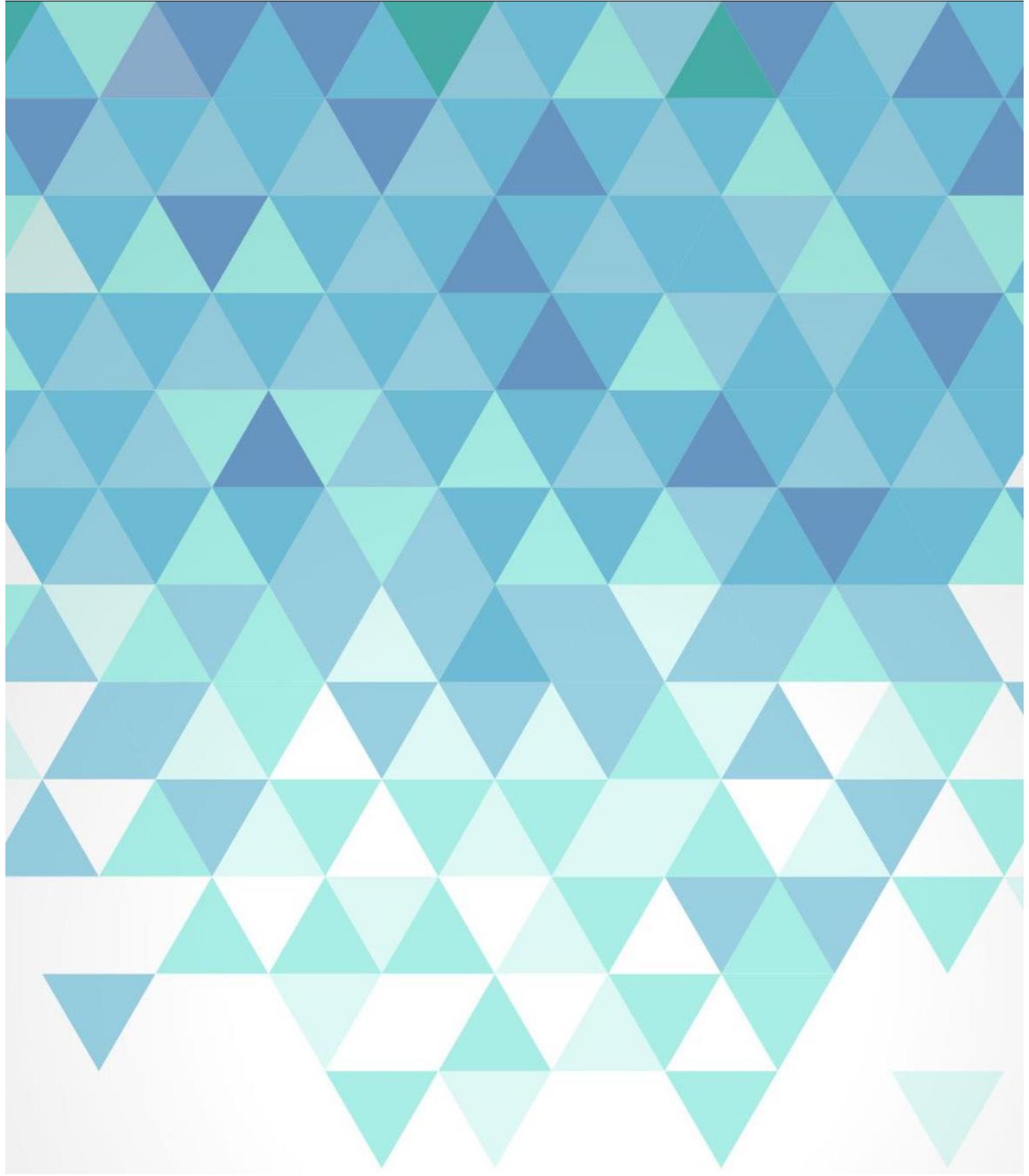
Are You Ready to Study Online? (Part 2)

Student Readiness	Time Management	Interest / Motivation	Reading / Writing Skills	Support Services
Less Ready 1	Student does not manage his or her time effectively in doing research, basic studies and preparing for tests or quizzes.	Student has little or no interest in the content area of the online course offering and has a negative or unrealistic attitude toward online learning.	Student is reading below grade level and has experienced difficulty with routine writing assignments.	In general, parents and school personnel do not actively support online learning and are unable or unwilling to provide support assistance.
2	Student is beginning to demonstrate effective time management skills in doing research, basic studies and preparing for tests or quizzes.	Student interest in content area of the online course offering, but has expressed concerns about enrolling in an online course or has an unrealistic attitude toward online learning.	Student is reading at grade level and has demonstrated limited proficiency with writing assignments.	Student support system is limited, parents and school personnel are somewhat supportive of enrolment in online courses.
3	Student has demonstrated effective time management skills in doing research, basic studies and preparing for tests or quizzes.	Student has an interest in the content area of the online course offering, and has a positive and realistic attitude toward online learning.	Student is reading at or above grade level and has demonstrated success with a variety of writing assignments.	Student has open access to school based mentoring/ counselling service and parental support.
More Ready 4	Student has demonstrated outstanding time management skills while participating in a variety of clubs, student organisations, sports and work activities.	Student has a strong interest in the content area of the online course offering, is highly motivated to enrol in an online course and has a positive and realistic attitude toward online learning.	Student is reading above grade level, has strong reading comprehension skills and has demonstrated success with complex writing assignments.	Student has access to school-based mentoring/counselling services, parental support is strong and school has adopted policies and identified best practices to support students as online learners.



What next?

- 1. ViSN Handbook**
Make sure you've read the ViSN handbook so you know what to expect. This includes ViSN and course information.
- 2. Speak to the ViSN contact in your school**
Chat to this person about your desire to study a ViSN course. Ask a Deputy who the ViSN contact person is.
- 3. ViSN Enrolment**
Follow the instructions provided by your school to complete an enrolment request form.
- 4. ViSN Student Orientation**
Upon acceptance into the ViSN course, students are sent a link to the online ViSN Student Orientation (in Term 4).
- 5. Start your ViSN course**
Students will get an email with a link to the course, with pre-start lessons to do, to ensure everything is working!



ViSN
Virtual School Network

2021 ViSN Course Offerings



2021 ViSN Delivery Schools



The following Catholic Education WA (CEWA) schools are supporting equitable access to quality online education by delivering a course in 2021:

Aranmore Catholic College	Leederville
Bunbury Catholic College	Bunbury
Emmanuel Catholic College	Success
Holy Cross College	Ellenbrook
Irene McCormack Catholic College	Butler
John Paul College	Kalgoorlie
John XXIII College	Mount Claremont
Lumen Christi College	Martin
Mandurah Catholic College	Mandurah
Mater Dei College	Edgewater
Mercy College	Koondoola
Nagle Catholic College	Geraldton
St Joseph's School	Northam
St Mary's College	Broome

ViSN course enrolments are open to all CEWA schools and their students.



2021 ViSN Offerings



Year 11 2021	Year 12 2021
Biology	Biology
Certificate III Business (VET)	Certificate III Business (VET)*
Chemistry	Chemistry
Curtin UniReady (Endorsed Program)	Curtin UniReady (Endorsed Program)*
Design (Graphic Design)	Design (Graphic Design)
Earth and Environmental Science	Earth and Environmental Science
Economics	Economics
Geography	Geography
Health Studies	Health Studies
Human Biology	Human Biology
Italian: Second Language	Italian: Second Language
Maths Specialist	Maths Specialist
Modern History	Modern History
Politics and Law	Psychology
Psychology	

* This course is only available to students who commenced the qualification in Year 11.

All courses are ATAR unless otherwise noted.

BIOLOGY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Ecosystems and biodiversity

Students examine movement of energy and matter in ecosystems, ecosystem dynamics, abiotic factors, population numbers, species diversity, species interactions as well as biodiversity at all levels.

Unit 2 – Single cells & multicellular organisms

Students investigate the interdependent components of the cell system and the multiple interacting systems in multicellular organisms. Photosynthesis and respiration, and the role of enzymes in controlling biochemical systems is also examined.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 Science course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Biology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“ViSN Biology allowed me to access help through online platforms, as well as making learning more fun with videos and creative technology involved. With the supportive and detailed comments/feedback I receive, I am more motivated to study and improve than ever. The uniqueness of this course has genuinely made learning much more enjoyable.”

BIOLOGY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Continuity of species

Students investigate mechanisms of heredity and the ways in which inheritance patterns can be explained, modelled and predicted; they connect these patterns to population dynamics and apply the theory of evolution by natural selection in order to examine changes in populations.

Unit 4 – Surviving in a changing environment

Students investigate system change and continuity in response to changing external conditions and pathogens. They examine homeostasis, infectious disease and its spread of at the population level.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Biology.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Biology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Biology is a great subject if you are hoping to broaden your knowledge of your world environments and nature. As class is online, there are a range of fun and engaging activities to help consolidate your knowledge and learn, Your ViSN class soon become your best friends, spread across the state. I have loved my 2 years in ViSN Biology and I believe it has set me up for great success at University.”

Certificate III Business 11 VET, cont'. Y12

Course Content



Students will complete 12 units of competency that will allow them to run their own small business venture in Term 3.

Units of Competency:

- Contribute to health and safety of others
- Communicate in the workplace
- Work effectively in a business environment
- Organise and complete daily work activities
- Produce digital text documents
- Create and use spreadsheets
- Use digital technologies to communicate remotely
- Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices
- Deliver a service to customers
- Process and maintain workplace information
- Deliver and monitor a service to customers
- Organise personal work priorities and development

Prerequisite



No prerequisite.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$60.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Certificate III Business Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"I get to complete work that has a real-world application. The skills I have learned can be used in lots of office roles in any industry."

CHEMISTRY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Chemical fundamentals

Students use models of atomic structure and bonding to explain the macroscopic properties of materials. Energy changes associated with chemical reactions and the use of chemical equations are also examined.

Unit 2 – Molecular interactions and reactions

Students examine bonding models and the associated relationships, including the rate of chemical reactions. Unique properties of water acids and bases, and the use of chemical equations are also studied.

Prerequisite



SCSA A grade in Year 10 Science and Maths.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA B grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Chemistry Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Chemistry is really interesting – I can see it’s application to life after school.”

CHEMISTRY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Equilibrium, acids and bases, and redox reactions

Students investigate the concept of reversibility of reactions and the dynamic nature of equilibrium in chemical systems; contemporary models of acid-base behaviour that explain their properties and uses; and the principles of oxidation and reduction reactions, including the generation of electricity from electrochemical cells.

Unit 4 – Molecular interactions and reactions

Students develop their understanding of the relationship between the structure, properties and chemical reactions of different organics functional groups. Students also investigate the process of chemical synthesis to form useful substances and products and the need to consider a range of factors in the design of these processes.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Chemistry.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Chemistry Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"I enjoyed the practical aspects of the course and know that the skills and content I have learned will be useful in the study towards my future career."

DESIGN (GRAPHIC DESIGN) 11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Product Design

Students learn that the commercial world is comprised of companies, requiring consumer products, services and brands for a particular audience.

Unit 2 – Cultural Design

Students learn that society is made up of different groups of people who share diverse values, attitudes, beliefs, behaviour and needs; and that different forms of visual communication transmit these values and beliefs.

This course may include elements of digital media, interactive media, graphics technology, and visual communication.

Prerequisite



There are no prerequisites for this course but an aptitude for technology is recommended.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$30.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the VISN booklist.

Students will also need access to the Adobe programs but schools will organise access to this, and may choose to pass the costs onto students.

Syllabus Link

[Year 11 Design Syllabus](#)



Student Voice



“I’ve really enjoyed learning new tech skills and being in a course that allows me to be creative.”

DESIGN (GRAPHIC DESIGN) 12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Commercial Design

Students become aware that design has commercial considerations that are influenced by various stakeholders to produce products, services and brands.

Unit 4 – Influential Design

Students learn how the communication of ideals, messages, information and values can influence opinion and attitudes.

This course may include elements of digital media, interactive media, graphics technology and visual communication.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Design.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$30.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Students will also need access to the Adobe programs but schools will organise this, and may choose to pass the cost onto students.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Design Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“The Design course has allowed me to develop my creativity to solve creative problems as well as improving my ability to use the Adobe CC Suite.”

EARTH & ENVIRON- MENTAL SCIENCE

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Earth systems

Students explore the understanding of Earth's formation, and structure and the processes that formed the oceans and atmosphere. They review significance of water at the Earth's surface and the environments influenced by water such as oceans, ice sheets and groundwater. They examine the scientific evidence, including fossils, for the evolution of life on Earth.

Unit 2 – Earth processes

Students examine how the transfer and transformation of energy from the sun and Earth's interior impact processes within and between the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, including tectonic plate movement, global weather patterns and ecosystems

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 Science course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"Earth and Environmental Science is interesting and I find the content very enjoyable and the way it is delivered."

EARTH & ENVIRON- MENTAL SCIENCE

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Managing Earth resources

Students explore the formation and extraction of non-renewable resources. They investigate the use of renewable resources at local, regional and global scales, and examine how natural and anthropogenic change influence resource availability and sustainable management.

Unit 4 – Earth hazards and climate change

Students investigate Earth hazards including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. They examine their impacts on the Earth and hazard mitigation strategies. Students explore the effects of climate change through geological time, and the management of the effects of contemporary climate change in the local, regional and international contexts.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Earth and Environmental Science Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“By doing a ViSN course, we can work at our own pace and be more independent in our learning and our teachers are still here to support us. I really enjoy Earth and Environmental Science ViSN because it is taught in an engaging way using different technologies.”

ECONOMICS

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 - Microeconomics

Students explore the role of the market in determining the wellbeing of individuals and society. Students explore the workings of real world markets with an emphasis on the Australian economy.

Unit 2 - Macroeconomics

This is an introduction to macroeconomics and explores economic growth, inflation and unemployment with an emphasis on the Australian economy.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 HASS course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Economics Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"It was good to learn more about the economy and how it impacts on me, my family and friends."

ECONOMICS

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Australia and the global economy

The unit explores the linkages between economies and the concepts of globalisation, trade liberalisation and protection in relation to the Australian economy.

Unit 4 – Economic policies and management

The unit explores how economic policies and actions, such as fiscal policy, monetary policy and microeconomic policy operate in the pursuit of the Australian Government's economic objectives.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Economics.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Economics Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"The global context of our learning in Year 12 economics has been interesting. I also enjoyed discovering how the government impacts on a country's economy. Our Teams calls are very informative and the reinforce what we have learnt over the week."

GEOGRAPHY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 - Natural and ecological hazards

Students explore the management of hazards and the risk they pose to people and environments, including preparedness, mitigation and/or prevention.

Unit 2 - Global networks and interconnections

Students explore the economic and cultural transformations taking place in the world – the spatial outcomes of these processes and their social and geopolitical consequences – that will enable them to better understand the dynamic nature of the world in which they live.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 HASS course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$20.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Geography Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"I love the course as the content is so practical and applicable to everyday life. To me, Geography is the study of our world and I love that."

GEOGRAPHY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Global environmental change

Students will assess the impacts of land cover transformations with particular reference to climate change or biodiversity loss.

Unit 4 – Planning sustainable places

Students will investigate how the outcomes of processes vary depending on local responses and adaptations, for example, population growth and decline, and economic restructuring. Students also examine the causes and consequences of urbanisation as well as challenges that exist in metropolitan and regional centres and megacities.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Geography.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$20.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Geography Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“I’ve enjoyed being able to learn about things that I can see in real life and then know why it’s like it is.”

HEALTH STUDIES 11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1

Students focus on the health of individuals and communities. Students learn about health determinants and their impact on health. Health promotion and ways to improve health are explored.

Unit 2

Students examine the impact of factors influencing the health of communities. Students learn about community development and how community participation can improve health outcomes.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in Year 10 English.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Health Studies Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"This was my favourite course this year! I found it was really applicable to real life and it also connected well with some of my other courses."

HEALTH STUDIES 12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3

Students focus on the health of specific populations and reasons why some groups do not enjoy the same level of health as the general population. Students learn why this happens and how wellbeing can be improved.

Unit 4

Students study local, regional and global challenges to health. Students examine the impact of determinants on global health inequities and explore approaches to address barriers preventing groups from experiencing better health.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Health Studies.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Health Studies Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Health Studies was really interesting and I particularly liked learning about why some populations are healthier than others.”

HUMAN BIOLOGY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – The functioning human body

Learn how the structure and function of body systems, and the interrelationships between systems, support metabolism and body functioning.

Unit 2 – Reproduction and inheritance

Learn about the reproductive systems of males and females, the transfer of genetic material from generation to generation, and the effects of the environment on our genetic makeup.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 Science course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$15.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Human Biology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Through ViSN, I have become more self-driven and motivated when studying Human Biology. The flexibility and reliability of the program has supported me in order to achieve to the highest of my abilities.”

HUMAN BIOLOGY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Homeostasis and disease

This unit explores the various body systems and the mechanisms that help maintain the systems of the body to function within normal range. It also investigates the body's immune responses to invading pathogens (disease and infection).

Unit 4 – Human Variation and Evolution

This unit explores the variations in humans in their changing environment and evolutionary trends in hominids. It will also examine the impact of gene pools on evolution.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Human Biology.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$40.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Human Biology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"I am fascinated by the way our body works! This course also worked well with some of my other courses, like Health Studies. The flexibility of the course has enabled me to work at my own pace and customise my learning to suit my schedule."

ITALIAN: Second Language 11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Relationships

Through the three topics: Family, friend and school relationships; Traditions, events and celebrations; Communicating in a modern world, students further develop their communication skills in Italian and gain a broader insight into the language and culture.

Unit 2 – Travel, Let's Go!

Through the four topics: My holiday tales and plans; Destination Italy; Destination Australia; Travel in a modern world, students extend their communication skills in Italian and gain a broader insight into the language and culture.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in Year 10 Italian.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Schools must also meet the SCSA deadline and complete the paperwork, for permission to enrol students in a language.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$40.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Italian as a Second Language Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“I love learning another language and I’m confident that it will help me in life after school.”

ITALIAN: Second Language 12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Thank you Italy

Through the three topics: All things Italian; Italian lifestyle; Italy around the world, students extend and refine their communication skills in Italian and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

Unit 4 – Yesterday, today and tomorrow

Through the three topics: Reflecting on my life and planning my future; Youth issues; Environmental issues, students extend and refine their communication skills in Italian and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Italian as a Second Language.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Schools must also meet the SCSA deadline and complete the paperwork, for permission to enrol students in a language.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$40.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Italian as a Second Language Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“The positive aspects of learning a foreign language through ViSN are learning at your own pace and learning in a way that best suits you. It allows you to learn and understand the culture and language of a different country as well as a 10% boost on your ATAR.”

MATHS SPECIALIST 11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1

Unit 1 of the Mathematics Specialist ATAR course contains three topics:

- Combinatorics
- Vectors in the plane
- Geometry

Unit 2

Unit 2 of the Mathematics Specialist ATAR course contains three topics:

- Trigonometry
- Matrices
- Real and complex numbers

Prerequisite



SCSA A grade in the top level Year 10 Maths course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA B grade may be acceptable.

All students are interviewed by their school to determine suitability to undertake online studies.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$30.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Mathematics Specialist Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Maths Specialist has been a good challenge and I've enjoyed expanding on some key concepts from earlier Maths courses.”

MATHS SPECIALIST 12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3

This unit contains the three topics:

- Complex numbers
- Functions and sketching graphs
- Vectors in three dimensions

Unit 4

This unit contains the three topics:

- Integration and applications of integration
- Rates of change and differential equations
- Statistical inference

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Maths Specialist.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$30.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Maths Specialist Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"This course has set me up well for future uni studies. I've been appropriately challenged and have enjoyed the work."

MODERN HISTORY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Capitalism in USA (1907-1941)

This unit provides an introduction to significant developments in the modern period that have defined the modern world, and the ideas that underpinned them, such as liberty, equality and fraternity.

Unit 2 – Nazism in Germany

This unit examines significant movements for change in the 20th century that led to change in society, including people's attitudes and circumstances.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 HASS course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Modern History Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“The best thing about studying Modern History is getting a better understanding of how the world has evolved. I love learning about how people used to live and how much life has changed. Studying through ViSN is great because you learn how to manage your time better. I also really like working online because I come from a small school so it is great being able to work with and learn from other people.”

MODERN HISTORY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3 – Russia and the Soviet Union 1914 - 1945

This unit examines the 'nation' as the principal form of political organisation in the modern world; the crises that confronted nations in the 20th century; their responses to these crises, and the different paths they have taken to fulfil their goals.

Unit 4 – Australia's engagement with Asia 1945 - 2001

This unit focuses on the distinctive features of the modern world that emerged in the period 1945–2001. It builds students' understanding of the contemporary world – that is, why we are here at this point in time.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Modern History.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 12 Modern History Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"If you've enjoyed humanities up until year 10, you will love Modern History. You get to analyse major historical events, individuals, regimes and ideologies which allows you to contextualise the history of various countries and help you understand the foundations of many societies around the world today."

POLITICS AND LAW

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1 – Democracy and the rule of law

This unit examines Australia’s democratic and common law systems; a non-democratic system; and a non-common law system.

Unit 2 – Representation and justice

This unit examines representation, electoral and voting systems; a non-democratic system; and a non-common law system.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in Year 10 HASS course.

At the school’s discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



The course levy is \$40.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Politics and Law Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



“Studying Politics and Law has given me a knowledge of current affairs and an ability to think critically about government decisions and policies.”

PSYCHOLOGY

11 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 1

In this unit students learn about the human brain and explore the impact of external factors on behaviour, such as physical activity and psychoactive drugs. Cognitive processes, such as sensation and perception, and selective and divided attention are investigated. Students examine different types of relationships and the role of verbal and non-verbal communication in initiating, maintaining and regulating these. Students are introduced to ethics in psychological research and carry out investigations.

Unit 2

This unit focuses on developmental psychology. Students analyse twin and adoption studies to gain insight into the nature/nurture debate and look at the role of play in assisting development. Students explore what is meant by the term personality and examine historical perspectives used to explain personality. They also explore behaviour and causes of prejudice.

Prerequisite



SCSA B grade in a Year 10 Science course.

At the school's discretion, a SCSA C grade may be acceptable.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link



[Year 11 Psychology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"I enjoyed studying how our minds function and how interesting the human thought-process is."

PSYCHOLOGY

12 ATAR

Course Content



Unit 3

This unit focuses on the functions of the lobes of the cerebral cortex and examines how messages are transmitted from the brain to the body. It explores how behaviour is influenced by learning and other factors, and the impact of others on individual behaviour. Students examine socialisation processes observed within families and how social background and gender can shape communication styles. Students expand on their knowledge of ethics in psychological research as they engage in detailed investigations.

Unit 4

This unit focuses on developmental and contemporary personality theories, and behaviours observed when individuals are examined in the social context. Students analyse the causes of conformity and obedience and gain an understanding of the factors that shape a sense of community.

Prerequisite



Successful completion of Year 11 Psychology.

At the school's discretion, a student may be permitted to do this course without having done the Year 11 equivalent.

Schools will discuss suitability for online learning with interested students.

Course Levy



There is no course levy for this course.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Syllabus Link

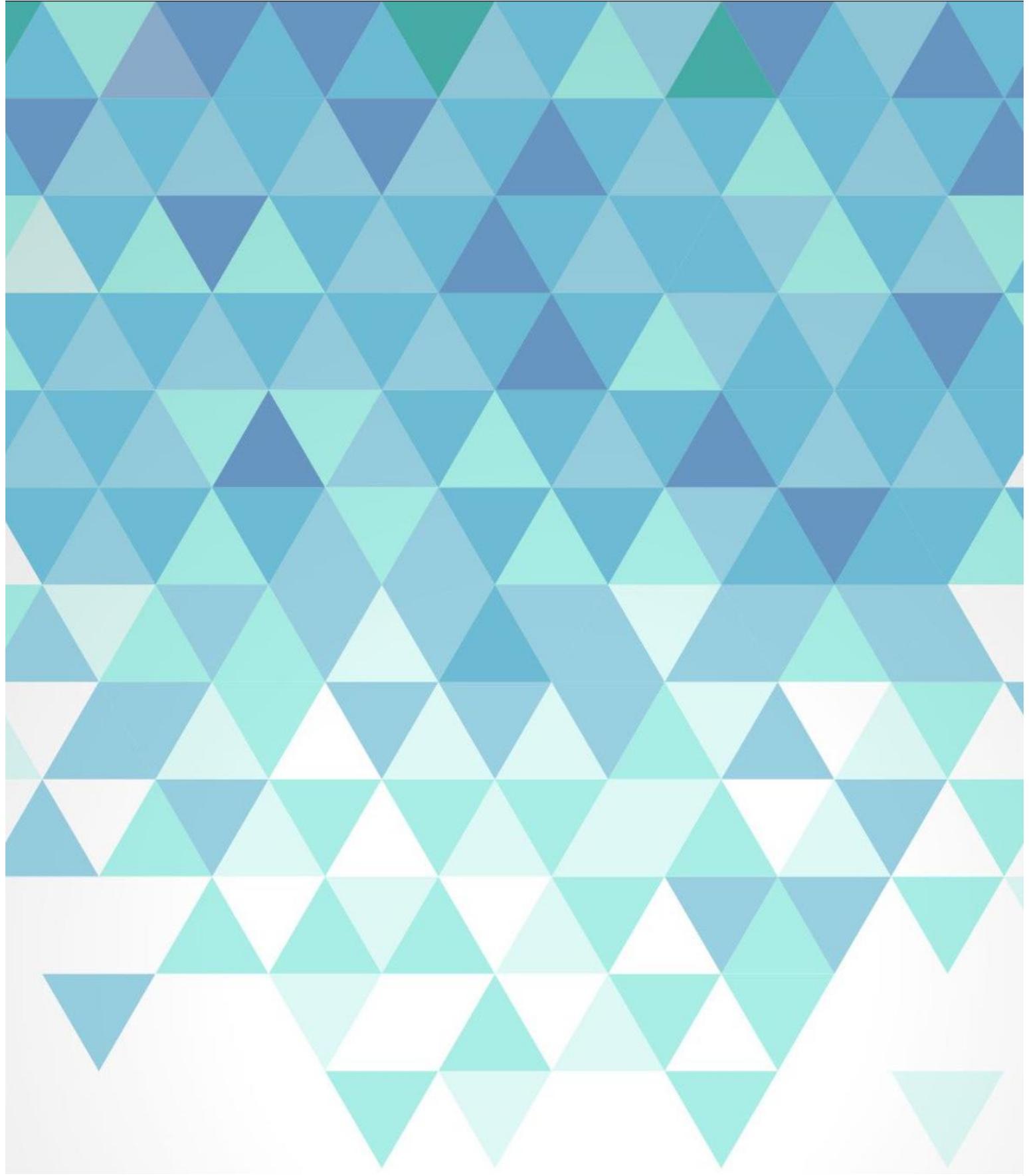


[Year 12 Psychology Syllabus](#)

Student Voice



"Psychology is a great subject if you want to learn about why we function the way we do. Learning psychology through ViSN allows you to work at your own pace and is more flexible with my timetable."



2021 Curtin UniReady ViSN Course Offerings

Curtin UniReady

UniReady is an 'alternate entry to university', run by Curtin University. Students complete 4 units over Year 11 and Year 12 and upon successful completion of these units, are awarded an ATAR of 70. This ranking can then be used to gain entry to [particular courses](#) at Curtin University.

Students may only commence this course as a Year 11 student. Each unit below is taught by a school-based ViSN teacher, in line with Curtin University standards for delivery. As such, students considering this option should understand that they would be undertaking a university level course and will be assessed according to university standards.

Course Structure

In the first year, Year 11 students complete 2 core (compulsory) units:

- Fundamentals of Academic Writing
- Foundations of Communication

See the following pages for more details on each unit.

In the second year, Year 12 students complete elective units from:

- Introduction to Health Sciences
- Introduction to Commerce
- Introduction to Humanities
- Applying Mathematics

SCSA Endorsed Program

The Curtin UniReady program has been endorsed by SCSA. Please refer to the SCSA website for [more information](#) on the use of this course for meeting WACE requirements.



Competitive Course Information

Student Application

The ViSN Curtin UniReady course is classified as a competitive one, meaning there are more students who apply than there are places available. To remain fair and equitable, limitations and special information for applications have been put in place.



School Enrolment Caps

Schools may submit as many applications as they wish, but will be asked to rank their students. A maximum of 4 students per school will be selected.



Student Suitability

Schools are responsible for ensuring students on their ranked list meet the suitability criteria. Evidence of this will be required during the application process.



Application Process

Application is via the normal online ViSN enrolment form.



Prerequisites

Students must be studying ATAR English for the duration of the 4 units. Enrolment in ATAR English is the school's responsibility.

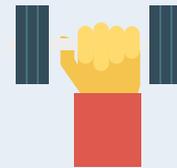
ViSN Curtin UniReady Students...



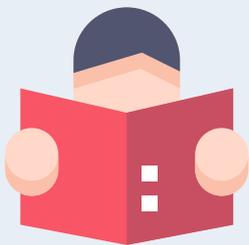
Have clear aspirations
to go to university



Are enrolled in Year
11 ATAR English



Are resilient and can
'bounce back' from
adversity



Are self motivated
and independent
learners



Show consistent
effort and persistence



Listen to and act on
teacher feedback for
improvement



Often do well in class
assessments but may
not do well in exams



Are dedicated,
hardworking and take
ownership of their
learning



Have a plan for what
they'd like to study in
the future

Foundations of Communication Endorsed Program (Core unit, Y11)

Unit Content



The focus of this unit is communication, specifically, looking at different ways of communicating information for different audiences and purposes.

Students will learn about email etiquette, group work, infographics, blogging, online communication and public speaking.

Assessments



Assessments in this unit include course assignments and other assessments. There is no exam for this unit.

Prerequisite



Students must be studying ATAR English for the duration of the Curtin UniReady program (all 4 units).

Unit Levy



The course levy for this unit is \$75 per student.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Student Voice



"It's a good experience and helps you think things through and understand where you want to go next."

Fundamentals of Academic Writing Endorsed Program (Core unit, Y11)

Unit Content



The focus of this unit is learning about the skills needed to be able to write successfully at university level. Students will also gain a strong understanding of university protocols.

Content of this unit includes reading critically, plagiarism, academic integrity, paraphrasing and referencing, all in the context of developing essay writing skills.

Assessments



Assessments in this unit include course based assignments and assessments. This unit includes an exam.

Prerequisite



Students must be studying ATAR English for the duration of the Curtin UniReady program (all 4 units).

Unit Levy



The course levy for this unit is \$75 per student.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Student Voice



“I feel like UniReady eased me into university life, a world unknown, in a way where I felt like I made the right decision for my career.”



For Year 12, students will select 2 of the units below. More detail will be provided prior to enrolment.

Introduction to Humanities

This unit explores the interrelationships of people with and within systems. Students will explore themes related to society, culture, environment and technology and their reciprocal impacts. The unit seeks to develop students understanding of self as part of diverse and complex systems viewed

Introduction to Commerce

This unit will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of economics, marketing, law, and accounting principles. The unit will focus on the basic concepts and techniques in accounting that apply to business; law with a business context; as well as giving attention to the basic principles relating to economics. Students will be shown how to apply basic economic, marketing, legal and accounting concepts to practical situations therefore shedding light on key commercial operations.

Introduction to Health Sciences

This unit will provide students with a basic understanding of some of the human anatomy and physiology components of an undergraduate Health Sciences program. This includes an overview of the structure and function of human anatomy and physiology, focused on musculo-skeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, nervous, digestive, endocrine and immune systems. Human cell biology and homeostasis will also be investigated.

Applying Mathematics

This unit aims to develop a core set of numeracy skills that will aid students in further study - particularly in Health Sciences and Business. Students will be introduced to a variety of mathematical concepts from basic numerical to statistical to financial, and to their real-life applications in Health Sciences and Business. The unit begins with numeracy skills before moving on to cover univariate statistics, bivariate statistics, algebra and functions.



CURTIN UNIREADY Y12 Elective Units

CURTIN UNIREADY 12 Elective Units

Prerequisite



Students must be studying ATAR English for the duration of the Curtin UniReady program (all 4 units).

Unit Levy



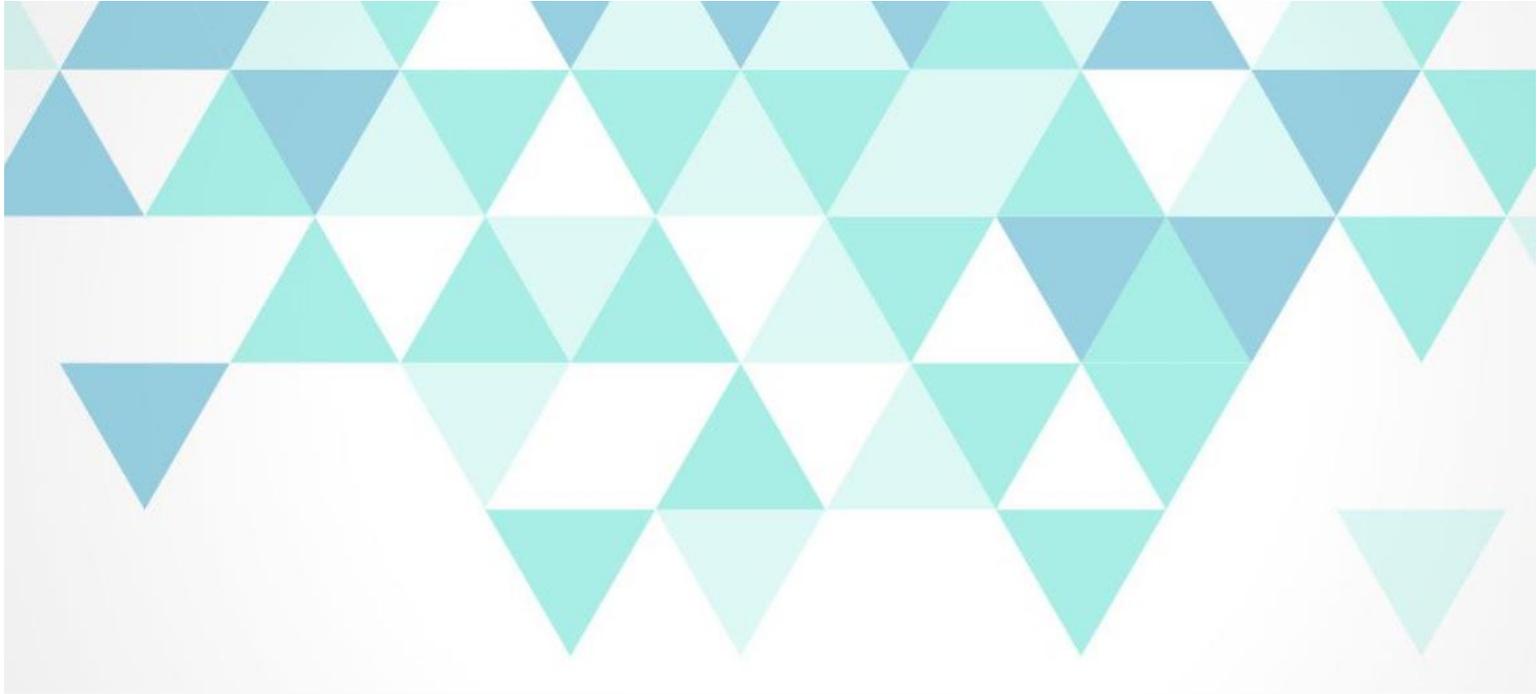
The course levy for each of the above units is \$75 per student.

The course levies are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change. Final levies will be published in the ViSN booklist.

Student Voice



"I now study a double degree in disciplines I am passionate about, and mentor new UniReady students, too."



ViSN
Virtual School Network