

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

How is post-secondary education and training different from high school?

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

SCHOOL

High school is a young person's learning environment. It is assumed that you are dependent on your parents/guardians, and they can be contacted directly to discuss any matters related to your attendance or study.

Attendance is generally compulsory, most of your timetable is structured, and the teachers follow up on your attendance and schoolwork.

Your parents/guardians and/or teachers often follow up on matters relating to your studies.

Schools may access online resources to supplement teaching material.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

VET is an adult learning environment. Any matters related to your attendance or study will not be discussed directly with anyone else (including your parents/guardians) without your permission.

Attendance is voluntary, there is less class contact time and you are responsible for your own attendance.

You are responsible for following through on matters relating to your studies. This includes enrolling, submitting assignments, and accessing services and additional support when required.

Many VET providers use the internet for student enrolment processes, course information and the delivery of some course material.

UNIVERSITY

University is an adult learning environment. Any matters related to your attendance or study will not be discussed directly with anyone else (including your parents/guardians) without your permission.

Attendance is voluntary, there is less class contact time, and you are responsible for your own attendance.

You are responsible for following through on matters relating to your studies. This includes enrolling, submitting assignments, and accessing services and additional support when required.

Many universities use the internet for student enrolment processes, course information, online forums, submission of assignments, and the delivery of some course material.

* Vocational Education & Training: includes courses at Institutes of TAFE, agricultural colleges, private training organisations, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships

ENROLMENT

SCHOOL

An enrolment form is submitted by your parents/ guardians prior to your entry into high school.

Once you enrol at your high school you remain enrolled until you leave or graduate.

The school keeps track of your course enrolment and can provide advice on subject choice.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

You apply for a place in a course. On acceptance into a course by the VET provider, you must complete and submit an enrolment form for specific subjects/units.

You will need to enrol in subjects/units every semester or every year if you are doing a course for 12 months or longer.

You are responsible for keeping track of your course enrolment and keeping your personal details current. This is usually done online. A course adviser can help if you seek assistance.

UNIVERSITY

You apply for a place on a course. After receiving an offer from the university, you are responsible for accepting that offer. You then enrol in specific subjects/units for that program/course.

You will need to enrol in subjects/units every semester or every year.

You are responsible for keeping track of your course enrolment and ensuring your personal details are current. This is usually done online. A course adviser can help if you seek assistance.

CLASSROOM

SCHOOL

The school year is 36 weeks long. Subjects can run across the full year, there may also be shorter classes offered by your school.

You usually spend 20–25hrs in class between the hours of 8.30am–3pm, Monday to Friday.

Teachers carefully monitor all class attendance.

Classes generally have about 25 students.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Courses can be as short as one day or as long as two years.

If you are an internal student studying full-time you can expect to spend 12–16 hours each week in lectures or tutorials between 8am–9pm, Monday to Friday.

Teachers may not formally take the roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attend. Failure to attend a practical session can lead to a grading of not competent.

Classes usually have about 30 students.

UNIVERSITY

The academic year is divided into separate 12-week semesters, usually with a week at the end for exams preparation, followed by exams. There are also shorter, more intense courses from 2–6 weeks in duration.

Classes and practical sessions can be held from as early as 7.30am or as late as 9.30pm, on any weekday, depending on the level, delivery mode and nature of the course.

Attendance in lectures is not monitored, but attendance at tutorials and practicals is monitored. Failure to attend a minimum number of tutorials or practicals can lead to a subject failure.

Lectures may have 100 students or more. Tutorials and practicals usually have about 20–30 students.

SCHOOL

- Teachers check your completed homework.
- Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.
- Teachers remind you of any incomplete work.
- You may need to study outside of class as little as 0–5 hours a week.
- Study and revision tasks are often set by the teacher throughout the school year.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Trainers often don't check required reading, but will often base their assessment on the tasks given.
- Trainers may not be aware you are having difficulty until it comes time to assess your competence. It is advisable to approach them if you do not understand class material or task requirements.
- Trainers may not remind you of incomplete work but often you will not pass the module until it is completed.
- Depending on the course you are doing, you will need to spend approximately 5 hours a week in additional study.
- You will need to determine and plan your own revision tasks, as well as plan and manage your own study time.

UNIVERSITY

- Lecturers and teaching staff don't check required reading. However, tutorial discussions, assignments and exams usually require that you have read and can reference the required readings.
- Lecturers and teaching staff are helpful, but expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance. It is advisable to approach them if you do not understand class material or task requirements.
- Lecturers may not remind you of incomplete work. You will receive assessment penalties for late assignments if you do not have permission for an extension.
- You need to study at least 1–2 hours outside of class for each hour in class, e.g. 16 hours of class time may require up to 32 hours of private study.
- You will need to determine and plan your own study and revision tasks. It is advisable to use a weekly study planner and a semester planner.

STUDY EXPECTATIONS

SCHOOL

You generally need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to know about them.

You are expected to read short specific amounts of material, e.g. a book chapter.

Writing tasks may not require referencing or acknowledging information sources.

You are expected to reproduce what you are taught, or to solve the kinds of problems you are shown how to solve.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

You regularly need to review class notes and text material, and practise skills.

You may be required to read, understand and demonstrate material. In some courses there are substantial amounts of required reading.

Always reference or acknowledge information sources, including the internet.

You are expected to competently demonstrate knowledge or complete a task using the skills and information provided in the course.

UNIVERSITY

Concepts and ideas can be more complex and difficult to understand. You may need to review lecture notes and other study material regularly.

You will have extensive reading lists. You will also be required to read additional material from books or journal articles for your assignments.

Universities have strict policies about plagiarism, which is using someone's work as your own. This includes the internet and other students' work. Always reference your information sources.

You are expected to analyse information, compare and contrast different theories, or apply new information to solve new kinds of problems.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR DISABILITY

SCHOOL

High schools are advised of the learning needs of students with disability by their previous school or by parents/guardians.

The provision of support is based on an assessment of your support needs carried out by your teachers, the Department of Education and your parents/guardians.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Disclosure of disability is required if you seek reasonable adjustments. You will need to provide a Health Practitioner Report from a medical practitioner, psychologist or other accredited health specialist.

The provision of support is based on a Health Practitioners report and personal negotiations between you, the disability practitioner and the trainers.

UNIVERSITY

Disclosure of disability is required if you seek reasonable adjustments. You will need to provide a Health Practitioner Report from a medical practitioner, psychologist or other accredited health specialist.

The provision of support is based on a Health Practitioners report and personal negotiations between you, the disability practitioner and university staff.

Acknowledgement: This resources was amended from: What's the Difference between high school and post-secondary education and training, ADCET.
For further information: adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability

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www.stepsndco.com.au