What is the TVET Accounting Pathway?

TVET Accounting Pathway is a 2 unit Board of Studies developed course designed for HSC students, run at TAFE colleges in NSW. It counts towards a student’s Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Students also receive a TAFE Statement of Attainment.

Why do it?

For the “real world”

Almost every position in every career these days requires you to look at and interpret financial data at some point: managing your own business, figuring out how much cash is available, preparing or reading a budget. This course introduces students to understanding “the numbers”.

You don’t have to want to be an accountant, but it could help you get well paid part time work during other studies. The course is relevant to all careers, consisting of 8 nationally recognised units of competency.

Most TVET Accounting teachers have accounting degrees and experience in “real world” accounting roles that ensure their teaching is always illustrated by practical examples.

To take the pressure off in year 12

In most TAFE colleges, the majority of the TVET accounting course (70% of the final mark) is completed in year 11. The major state-wide exam is done in November of year 11, not year 12.

Year 12 study consists of locally assessed computer subjects (MYOB and Microsoft Office) with class tests and no external exams. Some colleges even offer or flexibly delivered computer subjects, keeping time commitments to TAFE study in year 12 to a minimum.

Check with your local college TVET Coordinator for details.

For university preparation

All university students doing a business degree do a basic accounting subject in their first year, and many find this a tough subject. By doing it at a reasonable pace at TAFE first, you’ve got a start on your degree! There are also accounting subjects in many other courses in management, hospitality and real estate to name a few.

To kick start your accounting career

If you are planning a career in accounting, there’s no better start than this course... and it’s a well paid industry with many skills shortages. In many areas our students are becoming “employees of choice”.

Would you like to be paid to study? Accounting firms often offer full time paid employment and study support (cadetships) to successful applicants who wish to do some of their Business Degree part time. During 2008 many TVET classes have had visits by the Institute of Chartered Accountants and CPA Australia, and students have attended cadetship information nights and spoken with potential employers. Many past TVET Accounting students have secured well paid cadetships straight out of school.

For those not wanting to go on to University, TAFE offers Certificate IV, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in Accounting. By completing TVET Accounting Pathway you have already completed eight units of these courses – almost a whole semester’s work. And you’ll be given
credit transfer for the units you’ve completed in years 11 and 12. You’ll be able to get a role as an Accounts Clerk, Payroll Clerk, or assistant accountant after TAFE.

As a “back up plan”

Wanting to do a business degree but worried you won’t get the ATAR for the university you’d like? Many of our mainstream TAFE students complete an Advanced Diploma in Accounting and go on to University, receiving up to 18 months advanced standing on a degree (depending on the University and grades achieved), and save thousands of dollars in HECS-HELP in the process.

This option is open to any TAFE student. But if you start a TAFE qualification now by doing TVET Accounting, you’ve got a head start. You can complete a full time Advanced Diploma in 18 months (normally two years), and still get into a good University – with credits for your TAFE studies and without a high ATAR.

Using TAFE resources

TAFE campuses have libraries, internet access, research data bases, counsellors who also have career information, job placement offices, disabilities support and basic education (Maths, English and Computer technology) assistance. All of these services are free to TAFE students. As an Accounting Pathway student you have free access to all of these services and can borrow books with your TAFE card.

In addition, you’ll be networking with students from other schools every week, which can broaden your approach to many school subjects.

Accounting Pathway mark calculation

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total mark</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Method of assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Accounting pathway stage 1</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Computer accounting (MYOB)</td>
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<td>Business computing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Course data

In 2009 there were 497 HSC students attempting the HSC Accounting course. 15.29% of these students achieved a Band 6 result (compared to 13.98% in Economics), and 30.18% achieved a Band 5.

Need more information?

- Ask your school careers adviser
- Speak to your local TAFE college TVET Coordinator
- Refer to the TAFE NSW TVET Course Information website