TRANSITIONING TO UNIVERSITY for
YEAR 12 VCE STUDENTS

What do I need to remember to be successful in my first year of Uni?

- Attend orientation and transition activities – that way I can find out about support and advisory services available to me!
- Seek assistance to learn expectations of my lecturers – I will have to learn about tertiary essay writing, using sources, avoiding plagiarism, and managing my time, etc.
- Ask for help – no one will necessarily be offering any!
- Be an independent learner – my lecturers and tutors will not be reminding me about deadlines!
- Take charge of my own learning – no one will be checking up on me to see if I am keeping up with work or assignments!
- Organise my time effectively – there are no bells to remind me where to be!
- Classes may be much larger than what I have been used to at school – I will receive less individual attention!
- Making friends is important – building new friendship groups will help me cope and help me stay motivated!
- I will be learning new skills that will be critical for my success – I will have to learn important research and referencing skills!

Useful Apps:
Download the following free apps from iTunes and Google Play –

LOST ON CAMPUS: find every tutorial room, lab, lecture theatre, coffee shop, car park, bus stop, even the nearest vending machines and free microwaves on campus - http://lostoncampus.com.au/

FAIR: an app designed by the University of Melbourne to walk you through a series of common scenarios that can lead to breaches of academic integrity (like plagiarism), with advice on what to do and why it matters - http://uomfair.info/
Useful links to Victorian university support services:

Australian Catholic University
http://students.acu.edu.au/information_for/new_students/help_with_study

Deakin University

Federation University of Australia
http://federation.edu.au/future-students/study-at-feduni/student-support/student-futures-program

La Trobe University
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/students/learning

Monash University

RMIT University
http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=4anfktw008zrz

Swinburne University

University of Melbourne
http://services.unimelb.edu.au/finder

Victoria University
http://www.vu.edu.au/campuses-services/student-support
**University Terms:** When students are looking into university study, they often come across words or terms they are unfamiliar with. So, here are a few of the more commonly used terms to help students understand what is being talked about!

**Associated Degree** - an associate degree is generally a two-year qualification that is made up of two-thirds of a bachelor degree, and may be offered by both TAFEs and universities. Students often use this as a stepping stone to the full Bachelor Degree.

**Assumed knowledge** – refers to subjects the university recommends or prefers a student to have studied at school before starting the course

**ATAR** – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank – the figure used by UAC and VTAC to calculate the entrance ranking for a university course

**Bachelor Degree** – the award/qualification a student gains when they have completed studies in an undergraduate course, which takes between 3 or 4 years of full-time study. This is the traditional starting point of a university qualification.

**Bridging Course** – an introductory course to help students achieve the preferred entry level to a degree, e.g. a bridging maths course for students who do not have the preferred maths but need it to access a course

**Census Date** – the last day a student can withdraw from their university course and not owe fees

**Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP)** – a student’s enrolment in a university degree for which the Commonwealth government makes a contribution towards the cost of that student’s education (formerly known as a HECS place)

**Credit** – if a student has previously studied – perhaps at TAFE – and has Recognised Prior Learning (RPL), the student may be able to receive credit for a subject or subjects in their course. Also often referred to as *Advanced Standing*.

**Double degree** – a student can choose to complete a double degree – this integrates studies in two degrees resulting in an award of two degrees, usually after a minimum of 4 years of study. Often also referred to as *Combined Degrees*.

**Defer** – a student may choose to delay starting their course. Deferring an offer of a place might mean delaying for 6, 12, 18 or 24 months. Deferment ensures the student is guaranteed their place in their selected course

**Elective** – a subject that is not core to the degree and is often from another faculty, e.g. a commerce student might choose psychology (from the Arts Faculty) as an elective
**Faculty** – a department within a university devoted to a particular area of study – so, Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Science

**HECS-HELP** – a loan scheme that assists students with a CSP place to pay their contribution. Students may choose to pay their fees upfront and receive a 10% discount, or choose to defer payment via the HECS-HELP loan scheme

**Honours** – many Bachelor degrees offer a fourth year – called an Honours year. The Honours year allows students to further focus on a particular an area of interest. The Honours year can either be integrated into a 4-year Bachelor degree or be offered as a separate year after completion of a 3-year Bachelor degree

**Lecture** – a period of teaching given by a lecturer to a large group of students in a lecture theatre; can often be as many as 300 students in a lecture

**Major study** – an area within a course that allows in-depth study in a particular field. More than one major may be allowed in some courses

**Minor study** – a grouping of subjects allowing a broader understanding of a few subjects, with less emphasis on in-depth study

**Prerequisite** – a set of conditions – usually a completion of a subject – that must be met before enrolment in a subject or course is allowed.

**Transcript** – this is the university academic record each student receives, like a school report

**Tutorial** – a period of teaching given to a small group of students – involving discussion and participation

**UAC** – Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) – all students wishing to study at universities in ACT and NSW must apply online through UAC

**Undergraduate** – a student studying at university for a first level degree, e.g. a Bachelor degree

**VTAC** – Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) – all students wishing to study at universities Victoria must apply online through VTAC

**Workplace learning** – practical training in a workplace, such as internships or practical work experience. This is a hands-on experience – some universities call it *Industry Based Learning* or *Work Integrated Learning*