



## Vocational, Education & Training (VET), Open Access College (OAC) and Part Time Students

Senior students at Samaritan College have the option of choosing and then studying a range of Vocational Education & Training (VET) courses. These are course that come with national accreditation and recognition.

At Samaritan these VET courses can take on a variety of forms:

1. VET courses run by Samaritan on site and on the normal school timetable (i.e. Kitchen Operations)
2. VET Courses run by the local TAFE and require some attendance during school time to TAFE or can include the TAFE trainer coming to the college (in some cases Samaritan students may do these courses in conjunction with Edward John Eyre High School (EJEHS) students and may actually be required to attend EJEHS on occasions
3. VET courses run online by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that does not require any or little off-site attendance
4. VET courses done by an RTO that may require the student to attend training in places other than Samaritan, EJEHS or Whyalla TAFE. This can include in Port Augusta, Adelaide or other towns.

### ENROLLING

Any student thinking about studying any VET course, both on or off site, must discuss this first with the senior staff leader responsible for VET.

Depending on the course, it may mean reducing their load or 'dropping' a subject to accommodate the extra workload required for the VET course plus the fact that VET courses do actually contribute to a student's SACE and, if they choose, their ATAR for university entrance.

Some courses may require students to attend another site at a time when their 'favourite' subject is on at school.

Some courses may also require students to complete an enrolment form at EJEHS (this is simply an administration requirement and doesn't change the fact the student remains a Samaritan student).

For other VET courses, not run by Samaritan, it normally requires the student to enter an enrolment agreement with the relevant organisation i.e. TAFESA.

**It is the students' responsibility to enroll at TAFESA and/or EJEHS or any other third party RTO.**

All of the above reasons makes it so important that the student meet with Subject Selection staff prior to enrolling in a VET course.

### PAYMENT

In short, students/families pay for the VET course.

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In many cases however, the government pays for the course on behalf of the student (referred to as the Training Guarantee for SACE Students – TGSS). Most of these courses fall into #2 above. This means there is normally little or no cost for the student if the course is under the TGSS. EJEHS courses are often covered by the TGSS too but not always. Open Access College (OAC) courses do come at a cost and this is passed on to the families.

Or in this case of #1 above, Samaritan College has already paid for the course because it is a regular school subject offered at school by a Samaritan teacher. The student has already 'paid' for this course through their regular school fees.

For courses that are not offered by Samaritan or not funded by TGSS through TAFE and other RTOs (in most cases these fall into #3 and #4 above), it is the responsibility of the student to pay for the course. These are normally courses run by other training organisations or OAC.

There are 2 exceptions where Samaritan College may choose to partially contribute to the cost of the VET course.

1. Where the chosen VET/OAC course means the student actually 'drops' a subject (or two) of regular subjects in lieu of the fact he/she is studying a VET course. (VET can still contribute very nicely to SACE completion and ATAR scores).

When a **Year 11 student** does drop a subject in lieu of studying VET, the college will reduce the usual annual school fee by 1/7<sup>th</sup> per subject dropped. Parents/student can then use this reduction in school fees to help pay for the course.

For example, if the school fees were \$4900 per year and a student chose to study Cert II in Vet Science online, the school would reduce school fees by \$700. In theory, the student or family uses this \$700 reduction to help pay the VET costs.

For a **Year 12 student**, if he/she drops one subject in lieu of VET or other study, the college will reduce the usual annual school fee by 1/5<sup>th</sup> per subject dropped.

2. Financial hardship – as with many aspects of schooling, there may be a case where the college assists the student or family to help pay for the course. This is done on a case by case basis and students/families need to apply to the senior staff leader responsible for VET. In these instances where families assist students to pay for a course, there will be significant counselling involved as to whether it is an appropriate course. Regrettably, fees are rarely refunded by RTOs should a student withdraw before he/she has completed the course. The college may reserve the right to re-charge the fees for any financial assistance where the student has chosen not to finish the course.

For anything that falls outside of the above criteria, the student/family should consult with the senior staff leader responsible for VET or Deputy Principal before proceeding further. This could include VET

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courses that require students to drop more than 1 subject i.e. significantly reduce their contact time at Samaritan.

As a guide, should a student drop more than 1 subject per semester, he/she still needs to:

- Wear Samaritan uniform when on site
- Follow all College rules
- Attend the Year 11/12 Retreat
- Religious Education, Research Practices, Research Project, English or Maths are not negotiable as a subject that can be 'dropped'. (RE is not a subject as such at Year 12 but there are other Religious Education requirements i.e. House Masses)

Attendance at Formal, Graduation, Sports Days etc will be at the discretion of the Principal depending on how significant the enrolment remains at Samaritan. For example a student who only studies one subject at Samaritan and does the rest through TAFESA and EJEHS would not normally attend the Samaritan Formal or Graduation.

### **Part time Students**

In some cases, Samaritan Year 11 and 12 students may choose to complete a subject at EJEHS or Open Access College (OAC) or have already 'enough' SACE credits that they don't need a full load of subjects in Year 11 or 12.

In this case, many of the above listed guidelines apply for part time students, as well as our VET students.

In particular, refer to the sections on:

- Enrolling at EJEHS is the responsibility of the student
- Reducing subjects i.e. what you can and can't reduce
- Reduction of fees (substitute OAC in place of VET/RTO for example)
- Wearing of uniform at Samaritan etc
- Attendance at Retreat, Year 12 RE Seminars
- Attendance at Formal (in some cases the student is more an EJEHS student than Samaritan. Normally this student would not attend our Formal).

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