



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dylan Evans who received his graduate certificate at the recent TAFE SA Awards Ceremony at the Middleback Theatre. Dylan has completed his Certificate II in Construction Pathways. The Samaritan College community is proud of you Dylan and your achievements, well done.

Dylan was part of the Doorways2Construction program run at Samaritan College.



How to choose the Right Career Path

If you're feeling unsure about what you want to do after school, you're not alone. Choosing a career can feel like a massive decision, but the good news is that you don't have to have it all figured out just yet. The key is to explore, stay open to opportunities, and take small steps toward discovering what excites you.

1. **Start with What You Enjoy** Think about the subjects or activities you naturally enjoy. Do you love working with people? Solving problems? Being creative? Your interests can give you clues about careers that might suit you. Tip: Try out a career quiz or explore the Career Tools platform to discover careers that match your interests.
2. **Test the Waters** You don't have to commit to a career straight away — test things out! Look for work experience, casual jobs, volunteering, or online courses to see what sparks your interest. Example: If you think you might enjoy marketing, try running a social media page for a local business or club to see if you enjoy it.
3. **Talk to People in the Industry** One of the best ways to learn about a career is to hear from people already in the field. Career expos, networking events, or even a simple chat with a teacher, parent, or career advisor can give you insights into different job options. Try This: Reach out to professionals on LinkedIn or ask your career advisor about mentorship opportunities.
4. **Keep an Open Mind** Many careers today didn't exist 10 years ago — think about jobs in AI, social media, and sustainability! The workforce is always changing, so stay flexible and focus on building skills like communication, adaptability, and problem-solving. Fun Fact: The average person changes careers 5-7 times in their lifetime, so your first job won't be your last!
5. **Don't Stress — Your Career Journey is a Process** It's okay if you don't have all the answers right now. The most important thing is to take small steps, stay curious, and learn as you go. Every experience — whether it's a part-time job, volunteering, or a short course — helps you figure out what you like (and don't like).

Skills for Work: The power of portfolios

When applying for jobs or university courses, you might find you're asked to submit a portfolio alongside (or instead of) a resume or your academic results. But what exactly is a portfolio, and why does it matter? In this blog, we'll explore everything you need to know about portfolios, and provide some tips so you can start building your own right away.

What is a portfolio?

In simple terms, it's a collection of your best work and achievement - a showcase of your skills, accomplishments, and experiences that allows others to gain insights into your abilities.

Why are portfolios useful?

Portfolios are great because they provide a broader understanding of your capabilities beyond traditional grades and test scores. They allow universities and potential employers to assess your potential based on real work you've undertaken.

Different types of portfolios

Portfolios come in two primary forms: physical and digital, and each has its advantages.

Physical portfolios

As you might have guessed, these are tangible collections of your work and achievements. They can take the form of a physical binder, folder, or even a custom-made presentation book. They're well-suited for artistic and industrial disciplines, where the physical presence of your work matters, such as fine art, architecture, or fashion.

Digital portfolios

Digital portfolios, on the other hand, are virtual collections of your work and accomplishments, presented through online platforms or websites. They allow you to showcase multimedia content, including documents, images, videos, and interactive elements. They're highly versatile and are particularly valuable for fields that emphasise technology and digital skills, such as web development, graphic design, or digital marketing.

Which one should I choose?

The decision to create a physical or digital portfolio depends on your goals and the industry you're targeting. Physical portfolios can create a lasting impact in visual and hands-on fields, where the tactile experience matters. On the other hand, digital portfolios offer convenience and accessibility, making them ideal for showcasing tech-savvy skills and reaching a broader audience online. And there's nothing wrong with having one of each either!

Who might ask for a portfolio?

- Portfolios are sometimes requested by universities during the admissions process, especially for creative or specialised programs, or for alternative entry pathways (including early entry).
- In the professional world, industries such as design, marketing, media, technology, and engineering may require them when evaluating candidates for roles. And even if not explicitly asked for, having one can make you a more attractive candidate and set you apart from the competition.

What to include in a portfolio

To create an impactful portfolio, regardless of its form, you should try to include the following elements:

- Your best work: Choose samples that showcase your skills and achievements most effectively.
- Reflections: Add brief explanations or reflections on each piece, highlighting what you learned or gained from the experience.
- Recommendations: If possible, include letters of recommendation from teachers, supervisors, or mentors.
- Resume: Attach a resume that outlines your experiences and accomplishments.
- When selecting work samples for your portfolio, consider the specific requirements and expectations of the job or course you're pursuing. For example, if you're applying for a graphic design position, focus on showcasing your design projects, visual communication skills, and proficiency with design software.

Start building your portfolio

If you're in high school and want to start building your portfolio, you can follow these steps:

- Identify your passions: Determine your interests and strengths to create a portfolio that aligns with your goals.
- Gather your work: Collect your best pieces, certificates, and awards that showcase your skills and achievements.
- Seek feedback: Share it with teachers, mentors, or friends to gain valuable insights and improve your presentation.
- Keep updating: As you progress, continue adding new accomplishments and works.

Building a portfolio is an ongoing process of growth and refinement. As you gain new skills, finish new projects, or receive feedback, continuously update and improve it. Regularly reassess the relevancy and impact of your work samples and make adjustments as needed.

A system map is a representation of the elements that comprise an organisational system. It provides a summary of critical relationships; it illustrates what the stakeholders of the organisation are working together to create and a repository for organisation learning.



VET/SACE/Careers SYSTEM MAP



KEY SUPPLIERS

- Catholic Education South Australia (CESA)
- TAFE / University of South Australia
- Government Agencies
- Education Providers
- Local Businesses

KEY INPUTS

- CESA Strategic Plan
- Samaritan College Strategic Plan
- Teaching and Learning Handbook
- Samaritan College School Improvement Plan

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- CESA Staff
- Schools Inclusive Education Coordinator
- Samaritan College Staff
- Samaritan College Board
- Aboriginal Education Officer

KEY CLIENTS

- Samaritan College Students
- Catholic Education South Australia
- Staff
- Parent/Caregiver

PURPOSE:

Our VET/SACE/Careers program aims to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to excel in their chosen career paths. By integrating vocational education and training (VET) with the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), we provide a comprehensive and practical learning environment.

OUR VISION:

At Samaritan College we nurture family-like connections to guide the moral character that prepares students for success in learning and life.

WE VALUE:

FAITH – WISDOM – COMPASSION

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Staff – Student	Staff – Staff
Student – Student	Staff – Key Suppliers
Staff – Parent/Caregiver	Student – Key Suppliers

KEY PROCESSES

KEY PROCESS MEASURES

Aboriginal Education Strategy	Aboriginal Student SACE Achievement and Destination
Children's and Student's Disability Policy	SACE Achievement, Destination and NCCD Data.
Enrolment Policy	Attendance and Achievement
VET Policy	SACE Completion and Certificate Completion Rate
Student Pathways Strategy	SACE/ATAR Achievement and Destination
Teaching and Learning	Achievement Data Moderation

KEY OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

- Increase in SACE eligibility and completion for all including priority groups
- Increase in A and B bands for all students
- Increase in student attendance
- Retention of SACE completion.
- Successful development and implementation of Careers Education for students from 7 – 12.
- Students securing apprenticeships (school based, traineeships)
- Increased grade bands in External assessments (Exam and externals)
- Engagement in moderation

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- SACE Eligibility, Completion and Achievement
- Academic Achievement
- Destination Data – intended pathway (University, TAFE, Apprenticeships and Employment).
- Grades holding for school based and external assessments.

Apprenticeships & Traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships are a Vocational Education and Training (VET) pathway and/or qualification level. An apprenticeship or traineeship can set you apart and be the start of a great career. You'll be working for an employer who mentors you in all aspects of learning a trade. At the same time, you'll attend TAFE or another government-approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to complete the formal training program. Upon successful completion, you'll receive a nationally recognised qualification. Plus, you'll get on-the-job work experience and income, as well as references and industry contacts. The availability of an apprenticeship or traineeship depends entirely on employers, so it's going to be up to you - just like if you were finding and applying for a job vacancy. Sometimes approaching the employer first is the only way you'll be successful.

[Browse industries](#) with a bright future in South Australia.

traditional vs. school-based

Traditionally VET was delivered outside of schools, meaning that students would have to leave school before embarking on this pathway. These days, there are more options available and many schools offer School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs). They're an excellent way to get a head start in your career while you're still at school.

SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIPS

You can usually start a School-Based Apprenticeship in Year 10, 11, or 12, combining the final 2 or 3 years of school with:

- some school work,
- your formal training (either in the classroom or online), plus
- paid part-time work where you'll get the hands-on part of your training and receive mentoring (hours per week required can vary by state).

You could complete some of your trade training while you're still at school, then once you leave you'll go into the second and subsequent years of training full-time - usually with the same employer.

Choose from a large range of industries and careers, and all paid, part-time, on- and off-the-job training you do will contribute to your high school leaving certificate.

Your wage will vary depending on your year of training, the type of apprenticeship you are doing, and the industry or occupation. It also includes super, workers' compensation, and any other entitlements or requirements set independently by the Fair Work Commission.

SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEESHIPS

School-Based Traineeships can be completed in full during your final years at school.

This means you could leave Year 12 with:

- a high school certificate,
- a VET qualification,
- a Certificate of Proficiency,
- paid experience in a workplace, or
- some training arrangements can even contribute towards your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). So if you think uni might be in your future too, then find out which programs offer this option.

You'll have qualifications, work experience, and references to add to your resume, which could be a huge advantage in helping launch your career.

You may even be lucky enough to get a job with the employer who you did your traineeship with. SBATs are available in a large range of industries and occupations.

If you're undertaking a SBAT, you'll be working part-time. In all cases, any on- and off-the-job training you do will contribute to your high school leaving certificate.

Apprentice Profile



Name: Rex Harris

Field: Plumbing and Gasfitting

Where: McMullen Trades

What do I like about this apprenticeship?

What I like about my apprenticeship is that my tradesmen let me do lots of learning by doing some of the work, rather than being on the broom all the time. We also all get along together. McMullen Trades also offers other trades within the same business, meaning that when work gets slow within my specific trade, there could be a lot of work to be done within the others, which can lead you to learn skills within

other trades such as Plumbing and Carpentry.

What made me want to do an apprenticeship?

I decided to do a trade because I found doing bookwork and studying wasn't for me so I went for more of the hands on side of learning of getting a trade of my likings. I still get my SACE at the end of the year.

Discover SAPOL Program - Work Experience

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is pleased to offer the Discover SAPOL Program, a four-day work experience opportunity for Year 10-12 students considering a future career with SAPOL.

Participants will attend presentations, engage in interactive problem-solving activities, take part in role-play sessions, and meet SAPOL specialists. They will also complete a group project to present to their peers.

We will be conducting a four (4) day work experience program, between the times of 9.30 am – 3.30 pm and the dates are as follows:

Program Dates:

Course 1: Tuesday, 17 June – Friday, 20 June 2025

Course 2: Tuesday, 1 July – Friday, 4 July 2025

Course 3: Tuesday, 16 September – Friday, 19 September 2025

Course 4: Tuesday, 7 October – Friday, 10 October 2025

The 2025 application process now requires recommendations from career counsellors or teachers. Students are required to complete a digital form and submit it to their career counsellor or teacher, who will then submit the application on their behalf through an online submission system.

We will provide instructions on the full submission process by Friday, 4 April 2025.

If you are interested please let Mr Sheedy know (sean.sheedy@samaritan.catholic.edu.au)

SACE Appointments

If you or your son/daughter are wanting to meet with me to discuss all things SACE, VET, Careers and/ or Work Experience, please feel free to make an appointment by contacting the College (8645 8568) or emailing sean.sheedy@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

A large portion of the information contained within the Careers News has been provided by third parties. Samaritan College does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children.