



COURSE PREFERENCES EXPLAINED

Once you have created a VTAC account and completed your VTAC profile, you can start applying for courses.

You can save your course application and come back at any time.



What are course preferences?

Course preferences are the list of courses that you would like to study. You should always list your course preferences in the order you would most like to study them.

You can list up to eight course preferences on your VTAC application.

How do preferences work?

By applying through VTAC, you will receive the highest offer available to you in each offer round based on your list of course preferences.

For example, if all the courses on your preference list are willing to make you an offer, you would only receive an offer from your highest preference because it was at the top of your list. The lower preference courses will be offered to other applicants. This is why it's important to always list courses in the order you would like to study them, not the order you think you would get into the courses.

Listing course preferences

List your courses in the order you want to get into them. As shown in this table, you should always list your dream course at the top of your preference list, and then work your way down to other preferred courses, pathway courses and alternative courses that allow you to meet your future goals.

Preference rank	Preference reasoning
1	My dream course
2	My second best course choice
3	My third choice based on institution or course studies
4	My fourth choice based on institution or course studies
5	A pathway option into my dream course
6	Another pathway option into my dream course
7	Another pathway course or a course similar to my dream course
8	Another pathway course or a course similar to my dream course

Tips for listing your course preferences

- Check that you meet the essential requirements and admission criteria for each course you list.
- Only list courses you would be happy to study.
- Always list the course you most want to do at the top.
- Include some 'pathway courses' in your list too.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many offers can I receive?

You can receive a maximum of one offer per round. If you do not receive an offer in the first round, you may still receive an offer in later rounds.

What if my ATAR doesn't meet the lowest Selection Rank from the previous year?

Still list your dream course as your first preference! Remember, the lowest selection rank from last year may not be the same this year. Many courses consider a range of factors in addition to the ATAR. These factors can include subject or equity scheme adjustments.

What if I change my mind?

You can make changes to your preference list even after you submit your application. Change of preference is open throughout the application cycle and in between offer rounds. Check the VTAC website for key deadlines.

Will institutions ignore my application if I don't put them first?

No! Preference listings are only used by VTAC to determine which course you want the most.

Course authorities don't make selection decisions based on where you've listed the course on your preference list. They will look at all applicants who have listed the course, regardless of what preference number it is.

Why can't I receive an offer from all my preferences?

You will only receive an offer for the highest course that wishes to make an offer. You won't find out about any lower preferences, because those places have already been offered to someone else. This is why it is important to list your preferences in the order you most want to do the courses.

CHANGING YOUR PREFERENCES

If you change your mind about the courses you have listed, including after you receive your ATAR and VCE results – don't worry, there's still time to change your preferences!

Steps from preferences to offer

Through your VTAC application, you **list your preferences** in the order you want to get into them.



VTAC will make your results and application available to the institutions you have added to your preference list.



Course authorities from the **institutions advise VTAC** of the offers they wish to make.



VTAC will send you an email with the offer for the highest course on your preference list that makes you an offer.



The **institution will email you enrolment instructions** for your offered course.



You will then choose to accept, reject or defer the offer. VTAC recommends to **accept the offer** as it does not reduce your chances of subsequent offers.

What is change of preference?

During specified periods you can add, remove or re-order the course preferences in your VTAC course application.

You may want to change your preferences if you have changed your mind about which course you most want to study, if a new course has become available and you would like to add it to your preference list, or if a course you had applied for has been cancelled and you want to replace it on your preferences list.

There is no cost involved in changing your preferences. As long as you have paid your course application processing fee, you can change your preferences as many times as you like within the specified periods.

How to change your course preferences

To change your course preferences, log in to your VTAC account and follow the prompts. You can add, remove or re-order your preferences using the up and down arrows.

Some courses do not accept new course applications after a certain date, so check the course description and selection criteria carefully for any new courses you want to add.

You will also need to make sure you meet the requirements for any new courses you add. If you have missed a selection requirement deadline, contact the institution to see if you can still apply.

Remember

Always list your courses in the order you want to study them the most, and understand that when change of preference is open between each offer round, you have the option of changing your list of course preferences.

Find step-by-step instructions for changing your course preferences at: vtac.edu.au/applying/courses/cop
All change of preference dates are listed at: vtac.edu.au/dates

When can I change my preferences?

Straight away

Once you've applied, you can keep doing this as many times as you like, free of charge, until the closing date.

After your ATAR is released

After you get your ATAR, you will have a short amount of time to change your preferences. Finalise your preferences at this point to maximise your chance to receive the offer you want.

After offers come out

You can also change your preferences between offer rounds. However, keep in mind some courses may already have filled all of their places.