

# 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.

### Remember

Your preference list is unique, and no two lists will look the same.

Make sure you list the courses that interest you and your passions or career 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?

If you change your mind, change your preferences. Change of preference is open for most of August until December, in early January and, for emergencies, in between offer rounds until the end of February.

### 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!

## From preferences to offer



Find further instructions for changing your course preferences at: [vtac.edu.au/applying/courses/cop](https://vtac.edu.au/applying/courses/cop)  
All change of preference dates are listed at: [vtac.edu.au/dates](https://vtac.edu.au/dates)

## What is change of preference?

During specified periods (when change of preference is open), you can add, remove or re-order the course preferences in your VTAC course application.

You may want to change your preferences if you change your mind, if course availability changes, or if your results impact your decisions.

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 when change of preference is open.

### 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 if you'd like.

## How to change your course preferences

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

Some courses do not accept new course applications after a certain date, so use VTAC CourseSearch to 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.

## 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 their places.