

CARYL TABRA

VISION SCIENCE/OPTOMETRY

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, French, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, Psychology Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Youth Ministry
- Year 12: English, French, Biology, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics.



Why did you choose these subjects? I chose French and Psychology because I was interested in these subjects which made it easier to be motivated to study for them. I chose Methods because ever since Year 10 I knew that I could drop this subject later on if I found it too hard but I couldn't pick it up down the track if it was a prerequisite for a course that I may be interested in.

I decided to continue with Methods until Year 12 because it did turn out to be a prerequisite for some of the courses I was looking at. I chose to do Further Mathematics as well as Methods because I knew I had a solid maths foundation and it would make this subject easier to pick up in Year 12. I chose to do Chemistry but then later swapped it for Biology in Year 12 because I've always enjoyed science subjects and I knew I wanted to work in an allied health, science, or a medical field.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? I was quite indecisive about which 2 subjects I wanted to pick up in Year 12 after finishing Units 3 + 4 Psychology in Year 11 and dropping Chemistry, so I made use of the resources available to me such as the Senior Course Guide and the VCAA website. I used these to look at the subject structure and overview as well as past exams to see which subjects I would like more or which would suit my learning style more. I also talked to my Learning Mentor, the College Career Adviser and teachers of the subjects I was considering.

What is your course like? My course is an accelerated Bachelor degree and a Master's degree combined into one course. They've accelerated this course by having 3 trimesters a year and 1 trimester in the fourth year. This means I'm at university all year long (even in the summer) but I get to finish a few years earlier! My course can be a bit full on at times but it's really interesting. We have seminars where we work through questions on the theory we've learnt in class. For our practicals, we sometimes get to dissect eyeballs, study cells, bones and muscles. They also teach us the content and test us on it through 'Team Based Learning' and 'Problem Based Learning' where we work in groups to combine all the theory we've learnt and work through problems as if we were presented with a patient.

What do you love about your course? I like that there's about 80 students in my course in my year level, so it's not too big but not too small either. I like that it's the same cohort for the next 3.5 years and I will get to know these people really well! I'm also loving the content I'm learning in my subjects, which is awesome because I don't get any electives and they're all chosen for me already! Most importantly, I like that the next 3.5 years of my life is set out in which subjects I will be learning and that there is a profession waiting for me at the end of my course.

Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course: Wednesday's are my busiest days this trimester: I wake up around 9 am, prepare for a prac or study for a little bit beforehand, go to a 2 hour lecture, lunch, go to a 2 hour prac, then another hour length lecture in the afternoon, dinner, study at night. Other days I might have a seminar instead of a prac.

What have been some of the highlights of your course so far? I really enjoy the practicals we do. We dissected a bull's eye the other day which was pretty cool!

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course? Having a solid science and maths background has really set me up for my course.

- **Mathematical Methods:** Having studied methods has prepared me for the physics/maths related subjects in my course. I never thought I'd need to use geometry or circular trigonometry in my life again, yet here I am! The content I learnt in Methods has become a foundation for the new content I'm learning in my course.
- **Biology and Chemistry:** Same goes for Biology and Chemistry. It's the same concept being taught, just more in depth.
- **Further Mathematics:** Doing Further Mathematics was a good decision as we sometimes have to deal with data and statistics, and measures of central tendency which is covered in Further.
- **English:** And obviously, English is essential as a few of my assignments are still essays or reflective journals on group work.

What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals? 'Do whatever your heart desires' – Antoinette Morrison, 2012, probably. But also to stay motivated, work hard and to always try your best.

What advice can you offer students considering studying the course: Go to open days, check out the university, talk to the people currently studying the course you are interested in. Doing work experience would be beneficial as well as the job outcomes of this course is limited to certain fields; practise or research. Work experience would enable you to see if working in practise is where you would like to be someday.

Course: Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry, Deakin University, Geelong, <http://bit.ly/29CbK4H>