Denison College provides the opportunity for students to select from a very wide range of curriculum offerings to meet the diverse needs of the students in our schools. These choices are detailed in the Denison College Senior Studies Guide, which is issued to all Year 10 students in July of their School Certificate year. This guide is their curriculum handbook for all of Stage 6.

Course selection includes:
- Forty-five (45) Board Developed Courses,
- Eight (8) VET courses delivered at school,
- Sixteen (16) VET courses delivered at TAFE,
- Two (2) VET Board Endorsed Courses delivered at TAFE,
- Seven (7) content endorsed courses delivered at school, as well as
- Life Skills courses.

Denison College Principal Kathleen Compton writes:

**Broad Curriculum and Supportive Timetable Structures**

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- Life Skills courses.

**Timetable Innovation**

The two campuses are located in Bathurst about 6 kilometres apart with TAFE only about 2.5 kilometres from Bathurst High. This convenient location has enabled Denison College to develop an innovative partnership to deliver a shared senior curriculum.

The timetable is arranged on 8 lines. Lines 3 and 4 (delivered in double period time slots) as well as Lines 7 and 8 are shared across the two campuses. Shared TAFE classes are conducted on Wednesday afternoon (Line 8) and Thursdays (see Schools Industry Links) as well as on Line 4 for the delivery of Automotive and Sports Coaching.
Bathurst High and Kelso High students work together in over 45 shared courses on these lines (3, 4, 7 & 8) as well as in shared courses at TAFE. There are over 80 students studying a course at another campus. They travel by bus and enjoy all the benefits and facilities of not only their home campus, but also the host campus.

This flexible structure means students have a variety of course options. Examples include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Home Campus</th>
<th>Host Campus</th>
<th>TAFE</th>
<th>Distance Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student A</td>
<td>All courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student B</td>
<td>4 courses</td>
<td>1 course</td>
<td>1 course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student C</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td>2 courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student D</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 courses</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denison College arranges free bus travel between campuses on Lines 3 & 4 and TAFE on Line 4.

**Schools Industry Links Program**

This innovative program combines school, Bathurst TAFE and local area industry in providing additional training and work placement in Metal and Engineering and Hospitality.

Students study their VET course at school, additional competencies at TAFE and complete 1 day per week work placement in local industries while they are completing the Preliminary Course and the Higher School Certificate.

Outcomes for students include:
- Increased skill levels
- Increased employability skills
- Sustained experience in a range of work places
- Enhanced opportunity in gaining an apprenticeship when they leave school.

Outcomes for industry include:
- Wider choice of work ready employees
- Higher skilled entry level employees
- Insurance covered by DET
- No cost to industry.

This program has been featured in a number of DET publications for the raised school leaving age. See: [https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/newsbuzz/yr2010/mitchell_report.pdf](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/newsbuzz/yr2010/mitchell_report.pdf)

**Individualised Support for Students**

**Subject Selection Process in a Multi-campus College.**

Denison College of Secondary Education comprises two Year 7-12 campuses, Kelso High and Bathurst High, with a shared senior curriculum. The college offers over 90 courses for study in the senior years and works in association with Western Institute – TAFE NSW which offers 30 TAFE delivered courses in Stage 6.

There is a very strong and highly personalised transition program, *Future Directions*, for students moving from Year 10 into Year 11. It has been highly successful and has the following key features:

- The *Senior Study Guide* incorporating the *Career Planning Guide* provides details of the courses offered on all campuses, including TAFE NSW, as well as an indication of future pathways to careers and tertiary study. The guide is published commercially and made widely available in the Bathurst community.
All students wishing to study at Denison College are asked to submit an application form which includes questions on their proposed subject choices, their career goals as well as their current attitude to study and progress in Year 10.

All students attend the *Future Directions Evening* conducted at Charles Sturt University. Students and parents are given a formal overview of the college structure in Stage 6 and then gain further advice at the faculty booths staffed by both campuses. TAFE NSW, Charles Sturt University and Central West Group Apprentices also have booths at the event.

One week later all applicants submit an expression of interest, indicating the course they wish to study. Timetable lines are drawn up on the basis of these expressions of interest.

One week later all students, accompanied by their parents, attend a personalised interview with college staff to discuss in detail their career aspirations and subject selection now embedded into the timetable structure.

Some students may need further interviews to resolve any subject choice problems and then all students receive confirmation of their course placements.

Tours of the campuses are also conducted for new enrolments as well as for key community businesses.

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**Transition Mentors**

Individualised support is also provided through the Transition Mentors, which are new positions in 2010.

- **0.2 College Staffing - (0.1 at each campus) to support Stage 6 students**
  - **Bathurst High Campus** - initial focus on monitoring and improving attendance
    
    Outcomes to date include:
    - Enhanced focus on attendance by staff, students and families
    - Improved record keeping
    - Support for students
    - Attendance records already show improved attendance for some students.

  - **Kelso High Campus** – initial focus on supporting students to enhance results
    
    Outcomes to date include:
    - Student handbook developed
    - Meeting with selected group of students in Year 11 and Year 12
    - Follow up meetings with Year 12 students to evaluate performance in HSC mid course exams
    - Student response has been very positive, with students requesting to be included in the program.

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**Anywhere, Anytime!**

Denison College is providing online assistance to students so that they can get ahead, catch up, consolidate! [www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle](http://www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle) is a shared site with many Western Region schools participating.

Current Stage 6 courses include:

- English Studies
- Community and Family Studies
- VET Retail,
- VET Construction
- VET Business Services
- Catching up Mathematics
- Prior Learning Mathematics
- Prior Learning Science
- Prior Learning English
- General Mathematics is being developed.

Courses can be accessed in class or out of class, hence “Anywhere, Anytime”.

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There is also a wide range of course material available for other Stages, with more being developed all the time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Courses available</th>
<th>Courses being developed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NAPLAN: Language Conventions, NAPLAN: Numeracy, NAPLAN: Reading, Mathematics</td>
<td>NAPLAN Writing, Music, Information &amp; Software Technology, History, Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ESSA</td>
<td>Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NAPLAN: Language Conventions, NAPLAN: Numeracy, NAPLAN: Reading</td>
<td>NAPLAN Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>NAPLAN courses</td>
<td>COGS units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>i.extend</td>
<td>Aboriginal Literacy – Narrative, Girri Girri Sports Academy, Anti-bullying</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently 64 schools subscribe to the Denison College moodle site, including 24 high schools, 24 primary schools and 14 central schools from around Western Region and beyond.

To date we have had a total of 848734 logs on the site. This includes the period from May 2008 to May 2010. This shows the total of the page views across all the courses on the site. The site records the number of logs each day. For example: Monday 10th May 2010 6554 records, Monday 9th November 2009 3699 records. (See the usage graphs on the next page for more detail.)

![Your School Can Join Denison College’s Moodle](image)

You can browse our site with our guest login.

Go to [www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle](http://www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle) (or Google ‘Denison College’) and log in with:

Username: weconnect

Password: connect101.

Your school is welcome to join us in this exciting online adventure. To find out how you can make this happen, go to [www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle](http://www.denisoncollege.nsw.edu.au/moodle) and click the link at the bottom left of the page for details.

Would you like to share what’s happening with curriculum at your school?

Please contact sheridan.wilkins@det.nsw.edu.au

Brought to you by the Secondary Curriculum team: Denis Armstrong, Jane Cavanagh, Sheridan Wilkins and Jane Shirriff.
Following are some examples of graphs that indicate page views for specific courses, demonstrating usage for specific dates.

**Year 7 NAPLAN Numeracy**

![Graph of Year 7 NAPLAN Numeracy](image)

**Ixtend class (Regional Virtual Opportunity Class) 11th May 2010**

![Graph of Ixtend class](image)

**Year 12 CAFS**

![Graph of Year 12 CAFS](image)

Interestingly, note the usage in the period of April 2 to April 18 - the Easter holidays - clearly learning is occurring “Anywhere, Any time”.