

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

For Students 19+

Duration: One year full-time (approx. 10 hours in college per week + private study)

Entrance requirements: GCSE English and maths at grade 4 or above; or

Functional Skills English and maths at Level 2; ideally evidence of previous study at equivalent to Level 2; evidence of ability to study at level 3 (level 2 qualifications or equivalent desirable). See separate details about our Preparation for Access package of courses offered in the year preceding enrolment on Access to help you gain the necessary entrance qualifications

Diplomas currently offered:

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Health Studies & Social Care Professions)

Mandatory subject: Health Studies plus two options chosen from Biology, Psychology and Sociology

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Nursing & Healthcare Professions)

Mandatory subjects: Biology and Health Studies plus one optional subject chosen from Psychology and Sociology

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Social Sciences)

Choose subjects from Biology, Business Studies, Criminology, Forensics*, Psychology, Sociology

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Business Studies)

All Business Studies units are mandatory. Please see separate details.

Choose from subjects below in line with the required mandatory and optional subjects available. All students will also take units on Essay Writing, Critical Thinking and Independent Academic Study.

Biology

This course aims to encourage the development of an interest in, and enthusiasm for, biology through the development of scientific skills and knowledge. The 7 units cover cells, tissues and organs, musculoskeletal system, blood & circulation, digestion & the liver, homeostasis, microbiology and immunity and reproductive biology for healthcare. The range of topics covered have been selected to ensure that you are well prepared for nursing and other allied healthcare professions.

Criminology

The study of crime is intended to enable you to assess critically the causes of criminality and society's responses to it. Criminology is a contemporary subject and so you will be able to refer to current events as part of the discussions. You will be referred to and use both classic and contemporary studies of crime as a way of framing your thoughts and ideas. We will adopt a case-study approach where you will learn about notorious criminals from the recent past and then look at the theory and methodology of the subject as well as introducing you to the criminal justice system.

Forensics

This course will help you understand crime scenes and how to gather and use various types of evidence. You will also be introduced to forensic terminology and a range of processes for investigating evidence. From this you will be able to develop case files from scene of crime documentation, witness statements and laboratory analysis forms. You will also learn how to prepare a case for court.

Health Studies

In Health Studies we aim to explore a wide range of issues connected to our health. These include social policies and health inequalities, diet and lifestyle, and the role of complementary medicine. You will undertake research and case studies on chosen health issues and conditions, both individually and in groups.

Psychology

Psychology is about understanding people. You will learn how to apply research methods to issues that concern Psychologists. After an introductory unit we investigate topics such as biopsychology, the psychology of health and psychology and therapy. You can look forward to stimulating discussion in class and a variety of individual assignments.

Sociology

By applying the methods of enquiry used by Sociologists, we try to analyse critically aspects of our society such as education, mass media, religion and poverty, and learn how to use sociological research methods to do this. In this way we hope to gain a greater understanding of the nature of the society we live in. There is a strong emphasis on discussion in class.

Business Studies

This course offers a comprehensive range of units to ensure that your studies provide you with a good understanding of the nature and context of business, the legal and financial aspects of sound business practice, aspects of communication, social media and marketing, as well as business planning and setting up a small business.

Alongside these subject specific units you will also take units in Academic Skills, including an extended independent study on a business topic of your choice.

Assessment

Tasks are varied across all subjects and may include experimental work, research essays, case studies, presentations and examination. The course is **credit based** and to gain your Diploma you will need to pass all 60 credits from the range of units you take. This will vary according to which Diploma you enrol on, and further information is given at interview and at the start of the course. Details for each subject are also given in the Access Information Pack.

WHEN TO APPLY

Interviews are held from October of the previous year until June of the year you wish to start the course. The course intake is currently in September each year. Please apply as early as possible, since the course is popular. We do operate a waiting list, so you may be informed of a vacancy nearer to the start of the course, but will need to ensure that you have applied for, and received confirmation of, your Advanced Learner Loan if applicable, before the course starts.

CHILD CARE

There is a nursery on site at St Vincent College for babies and young children. You should apply for places directly to the nursery, but not until your place on an Access to HE Diploma is confirmed. Places may be funded for students 19-23 years on benefits, and applications for support with funding may also be considered from all students on the Access to HE Diploma courses. Funding also applies to other approved nurseries that you may wish to use.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Some support for your studies (eg books, stationery, and travel) is available for most students 19-23 years on benefits. There may also be bursary support for all students, including those applying for Advanced Learner Loans.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

You will be able to consult our Careers and Progression Team for impartial advice about University or careers, and Access tutors will offer guidance with UCAS applications.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE YOU?

In recent years our Access students have gone on to a range of universities to study subjects such as Criminology, History, Midwifery, Nursing, Paramedic Science, Politics, International Relations, Social Work, Sports Development, Teaching, Childhood and Youth Studies, Sociology and Psychology.

COURSE FEES (2019-20): 19+ years currently £3000 for whole course, whether full or part-time if you take out an Advanced Learner Loan. Students who are **18 years** are fully funded.

If you wish to pay your own fees the college can provide you with a payment plan. You will need to pay 25% on enrolment, followed by 3 further payments over a 6-month period.

Some students 19-23 years are exempt from fees, for example those on income-based benefits, or if this is your first full Level 3 qualification. Students aged 19 years and above are eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan, including those on Means Tested Benefits. Contact College Support Services for more details.

Please note:

This information is based on funding for 2019/20, which may be subject to change for 2020/21.

To contact us: St Vincent College, Mill Lane, Gosport PO12 4QA

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