The Seven Capabilities

The capabilities connect student learning within and across subjects in a range of contexts. They include essential knowledge and skills that enable people to act in effective and successful ways.

The capabilities that have been identified are:

* literacy
* numeracy
* information and communication technology capability
* critical and creative thinking
* personal and social capability
* ethical understanding
* intercultural understanding.

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of the seven capabilities through their learning in the pre-SACE years, and extend this learning through the Personal Learning Plan.

Students select and develop one or more capabilities relevant to achieving their personal and learning goals.

Students review how they developed their selected capability or capabilities, and how this helped to achieve their personal and learning goals.

Literacy

In the Personal Learning Plan, students develop their capability for literacy by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* identifying and developing literacy and communication skills, appropriate to personal and learning goals, further study, pathways, work, and specific workplaces
* choosing and using appropriate language and ways to communicate with a range of people, in different situations and contexts
* interpreting information from a variety of texts (oral, written, and multimodal) to support decisions about personal and learning goals and pathways
* explaining, discussing, and reviewing their personal and learning goals, as well as decisions about the future, using appropriate communication.

Numeracy

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their capability for numeracy by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* identifying and developing numeracy skills appropriate to personal and learning goals, further study pathways, work, and specific workplaces
* interpreting information in diagrams, maps, graphs, and tables
* drawing conclusions to make future decisions based on current trends, in such areas as workforce projections, rates of pay, and workforce demographics
* explaining, discussing, and reviewing their personal and learning goals, and decisions about the future, using numerical representations to support their work.

Information and Communication Technology Capability

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their capability for information and communication technology by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* identifying and developing information and communication technology capabilities appropriate to personal and learning goals, further study pathways, work, and, specific workplaces
* using information about the impact of current and emerging technologies on workforce projections and demographics when planning career choices
* explaining, discussing, and reviewing their personal and learning goals, and decisions about the future, using appropriate technologies.

Critical and Creative Thinking

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their capability for critical and creative thinking by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* identifying and exploring the usefulness of different strategies to achieve personal and learning goals
* posing questions and identifying and clarifying information and ideas
* imagining possibilities and courses of action to achieve personal goals, explore learning directions, and identify work and training opportunities
* making informed decisions about their learning by monitoring, reviewing, and refining their progress towards personal and learning goals
* explaining, discussing, and reviewing their learning and their participation in paid, unpaid, and voluntary work, and its relationship to personal and learning goals
* exploring the place of creativity and innovation in learning, the workplace, and community life
* examining the nature of entrepreneurial enterprise.

Personal and Social Capability

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their personal and social capability by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* identifying and understanding how personal skills, abilities, and achievements relate to personal and learning goals
* developing personal attributes and aptitudes, in areas such as confidence, self-discipline, goal-setting, independence, resilience, initiative, and adaptability
* recognising how community involvement develops an appreciation of diverse perspectives, makes a contribution to civil society, and creates an understanding of relationships
* building interpersonal and intrapersonal skills in areas such as effective communication, working collaboratively, decision-making, conflict resolution, and leadership
* working effectively in teams and handling challenging situations constructively
* building links with others — locally, nationally, and/or globally.

Ethical Understanding

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their capability for ethical understanding by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* understanding how ethical issues and dilemmas arise in personal and public situations
* reflecting on actions and their consequences, in areas such as learning and workplace decision-making
* exploring personal values and various points of view to understand individual and group rights and responsibilities
* considering workplace safety and ethical principles, practices, and procedures
* developing ethical sustainable practices in the workplace and the community.

Intercultural Understanding

In the Personal Learning Plan, students can develop their capability for intercultural understanding by, for example:

* learning about and understanding this capability
* exploring how this capability is relevant to their personal and learning goals
* learning about and developing respect for people’s social and cultural backgrounds, to enable people to live and work together
* developing empathy and understanding by interacting and creating connections with others in a variety of situations
* exploring the concept of global citizenship, including the impact on their roles and responsibilities in future learning and work environments
* developing skills to relate to, and move between, cultures
* acknowledging the social, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of a nation, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies in Australia.