

Senior Cycle Options

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Senior Cycle Options

- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Applied
- Leaving Certificate
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Leaving Certificate Applied

- Alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate Format
- It is a two year leaving Certificate Programme for students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate Programme with a vocational focus.
- Particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life long learning

Who Should Consider Leaving Certificate Applied

- A student who is reluctant to stay in school and get a leaving Certificate
- Someone who prefers learning by doing.
- Someone who would be motivated by continuous assessment
- Someone who wants to get work experience to help them with their career choice. Opportunity to do 4 different sessions of work experience. One day work experience every week over two years
- Someone who wants to develop skills which will help them in their future career

LCA Subjects

- Vocational Preparation and Guidance
- English and Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- Information and Communication Technology
- Arts Education
- Social education
- Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
- Modern Language
- Leisure and Recreation
- Elective Modules

LCA Assessment

- Work Experience is a significant component of the programme
- There is less emphasis on final examinations as course work is assessed throughout the two years and students gain credits as they go along
- The LCA Leaving Certificate is awarded at three levels:
Distinction/ Merit/ Pass

Opportunities after LCA

- Post leaving Certificate Course Level 5 QQI and then pursue further studies
- Apprenticeship
- Defence Forces
- Employment

Leaving Certificate

- Students study seven examination subjects
- English/ Irish and Maths are studied by all students
- For the purpose of calculating CAO points, a student's best six results are calculated.

New Common Points Scale for Entry into Higher Education from 2017

% Marks	New Grades	Points at Higher Level	Points at Ordinary Level
90-100	H1/O1	100	56
80-89	H2/O2	88	46
70-79	H3/O3	77	37
60-69	H4/O4	66	28
50-59	H5/O5	56	20
40-49	H6/O6	46	12
30-39	H7/O7	37	0
0-29	H8/O8	0	0

NUI MATRICULATION

- Require English, Irish and a *third language* for all courses except Engineering and Science
 - UCD,
 - UCC,
 - NUIG,
 - Maynooth University(exceptions in Business/ Finance Courses),
 - RCSI,
 - NCAD,
 - Shannon College of Hotel Management,
 - Milltown Institute of Theology & Philosophy,
 - Institute of Public Administration,
 - St. Angela's College, Sligo

Subject Choice

- *Using the Qualifax website to find out about subject requirements.*
- **Step 1:** Log onto www.qualifax.ie
- **Step 2:** Select the Guidance Professionals Option
- (across the top of the screen)
- **Step 3:** Select useful tools
- (on the left hand side of the screen)
- **Step 4:** Select minimum subject requirements
- **Step 5:** Select Leaving Certificate Subjects
- **Step 6:** Complete the dialogue box:
 - Show me 3rd level courses which may or may not require the following Subject:
 - Select third level institutions if necessary and press select
- **Step 7:** Follow the guidelines given to you from now on.
- You can look up all Leaving Certificate Examination subjects in this manner to clarify any questions you may have.

Advice on Picking Subjects

- Pick subjects you enjoy as you will do best in them
- If a CAO course has minimum entry requirements make sure to select that subject e.g. DN300 Veterinary Medicine UCD requires Higher Level Chemistry
- Higher Level Irish is a requirement for Primary School Teaching
- Higher Level Maths is a requirement for Engineering Courses in the Universities.
- Research the career are interested in and find out if it has specific entry requirements, courses and colleges have varying requirements

Leaving Certificate Programme LCVP

- The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is a course designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). It is a combination of the established Leaving Certificate and an extra subject called **Link Modules**.
- Students qualify for LCVP depending on their choice of option subjects.

Advantages of LCVP

- Opportunity to go on Work Experience in 5th year
- Do a Career Investigation, CV, Factory Visit, Interview skills etc
- Counted as an 8th Subject for the purpose of calculating points. Equivalent of a H4 and greater than an O1.

Grade	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Useful Websites

- www.cao.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.examinations.ie
- Individual HEI websites

Summary

- Don't choose a subject because your friend is taking it
- Don't choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher
- Choose subjects you are good at
- Choose subjects you need for your chosen career
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers
- Talk to your parents or guardians
- Check out the qualifax.ie website regarding specific subjects
- Choose subjects you **like** and **enjoy**
- Make a balanced choice e.g. Irish, English, Maths, French, a science subject and two other subjects
- Speak to students in 6th Year about the subjects you are interested in
- **Keep your options open** it is very early to be making definite choices there are over 1,400 courses on the CAO alone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Don't panic and best of luck