

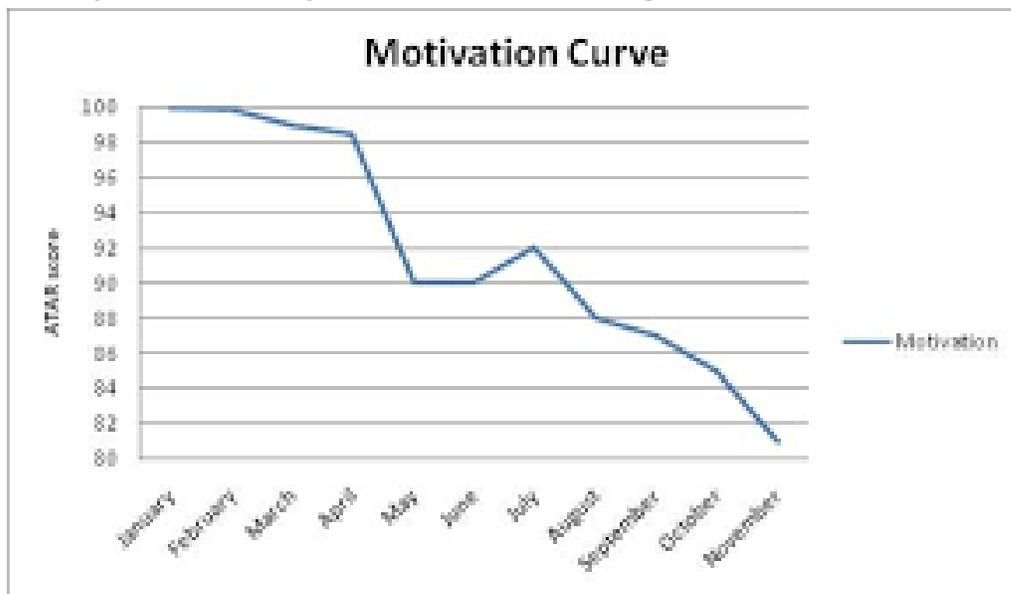
How to get an ATAR of 99+

In VCE obtaining over an ATAR of 99, is a challenge! You have to be in the top 1% of students in Year 12. However, it is not impossible to obtain an ATAR of above 99, you do not have to be “super-smart” either. Obtaining a 99+ in your VCE requires

- motivation,
- commitment,
- positive thinking
- self-belief.

I have seen many exceptionally bright students not obtain an ATAR of 99 + because they had poor self-image and a lack of motivation.

In VCE there is something that I always call the “motivation curve”. This is a graph of what happens to students throughout their year 12 study. It looks something like this:



It generally doesn't matter what the ATAR score is that students are striving for – there is generally a negative gradient in expectations. Why does this curve occur? The VCE year is a marathon not a sprint. A lot of VCE students simply work too hard, with too much passion at the beginning of the year and then

cannot cope with the demands of their VCE. This causes the ATAR score to drop throughout the year.

So how will this help you achieve an ATAR of 99 and above?

The key is in the **motivational** levels and **attitude**. This generally directly affects how much work you will be able to put into VCE.

Just remember VCE will be a whole lot easier and tolerable if you stay positive and empowered throughout your entire year... not just at the start of your VCE journey.

In the VCE to obtain results you must **work hard!** No matter what people say (the classic example is bragging about how little they spent studying) don't believe it! Most high achievers in VCE did work, they did put in the hours, they were absolutely committed to their studies which opened up the gates of their VCE success.

Developing the proper VCE study skills is essential in VCE. To learn some excellent study habits, you may want to attend some study skill seminar or simply read some articles on the topic.

It has been found by scientists that **acquiring a new habit takes only about 28 days of conscious effort** and then the skill will occur automatically. Therefore, it should be never too late to develop positive study skills!

A high-achiever is **up to date with their homework;**

High-achievers get VCE tutoring, **but they do not substitute tutoring with studying.** Applying the theory to the question is the ultimate link that will make you a top VCE student.

High achievers **tend not to blame their teachers or school** for their learning. They understand that there are many ways to study, and they do not only rely on one stream. High achievers are more independent learners that search for answers when they are unsure.

They work to understand – not recite! They know that understanding is the key to memorising, high achievers are always curious about their subject and enjoy knowing more as this helps them understand their VCE subject.

Finally, to summarize:

To maximise your chance of receiving a 99 and above for your ATAR you should;

1. Develop excellent study skills.
2. Stay committed and know what you want and WHY.
3. Persist, even when times get rough.
4. Aim to understand topics, not memorise, this will cause you to remember!
5. Work hard and effectively.
6. Keep motivation levels high and consistent, throughout the year, not matter how tough.