



MOUNT ALVERNIA COLLEGE

Enrolment Information



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Our Story

Mount Alvernia College, a Catholic secondary school for girls, takes its name and spirit from Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the best-known saints in history. It was on La Verna, a beautiful mountain in Italy, that Francis, towards the end of his life, had a mystical experience which left him with wound marks on his hands, feet, and side, similar to those of Jesus at his crucifixion. The Franciscan tradition founded by St Francis and St Clare embraces simplicity, joy, and profound reverence for every person, all of creation, and the Creator of all.

The particular Franciscan vision which still inspires Mount Alvernia College is that of a nineteenth-century English woman, Elizabeth Hayes, an educationalist with particular concerns for the poor and for the education of women. The daughter of an Anglican minister, she learned the value of education from her father, who ran a boarding school for boys on the Island of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands between England and France. After some years as a teaching member of an Anglican Sisterhood, her life's quest led her to embrace the Catholic faith. She joined a Franciscan community in Scotland, and eventually, in 1854, founded her own religious community, known as the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Belle Prairie, Minnesota, USA.

It was in a room of the convent of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters at Kedron (now Delamore Retirement Community) that Mount Alvernia began on 1 February 1956, with an enrolment of ten students and three teaching Sisters. Twelve months later the first brick building in Cremorne Road was opened with 29 students.

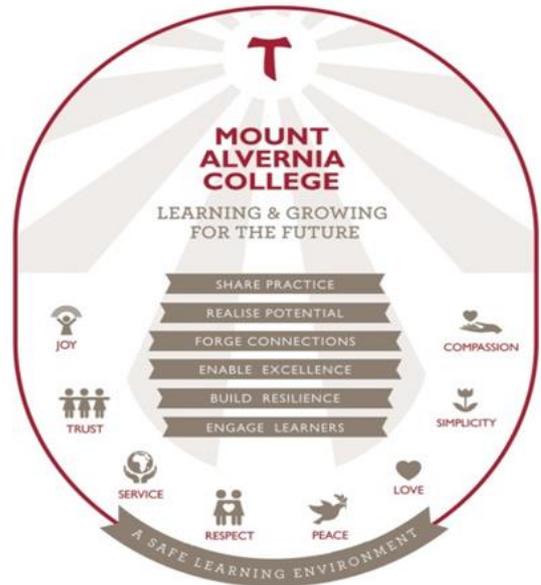
From those humble beginnings, the College has grown to a population of approximately 950 students, 80 teachers, and 50 support staff. We strive for excellence in education through a curriculum that supports students in their intellectual, spiritual, physical, cultural, and social development. In July 2017 sponsorship of the College was transferred to Mercy Partners, a canonical entity within the Church that will sponsor the College into the future.

Mount Alvernia College is a warm and engaging community where students are encouraged to follow their pursuits in academic, sporting, outreach, and cultural activities, all whilst fostering their spiritual faith. Mount Alvernia College exists to provide a contemporary quality education for young women in the Franciscan tradition. As a Franciscan College, Mount Alvernia endeavours to follow, in word and action, the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, in living the values of love, simplicity, and joy.

Curriculum Overview

At Mount Alvernia College we value and promote engagement in learning experiences that enable students to reach their potential. In order for students to achieve their very best academically, personally, and socially, teachers provide learning environments which work towards unleashing student potential in the pursuit of learning and growing for the future. With a specific focus on girls' education, students are engaged through a curriculum that encourages them to have the confidence to take risks in their learning and flourish into confident, capable, and connected young women.

At Mount Alvernia College it is our aim to nurture a culture of learning. The focus on maintaining and strengthening the learning and teaching environment to ensure all members of the community are active learners is considered paramount to our success. We have established and continue to develop programs, learning experiences, opportunities, processes, and physical spaces that ensure a safe and supportive learning environment. By intentionally learning from the past, we focus on the present and ensure that we are enabling our learners to prepare for their future, one that will require a unique skill set. With our Franciscan values overarching all that we do, our Learning and Teaching Framework provides the professional platform for our learning approach and how we implement it within the College.



ONE COLLEGE – Three Schools

Within the College we have three Schools that take their inspiration from the spirituality of Francis of Assisi, Clare of Assisi, and Elizabeth Hayes whose life and writings inform our tradition. We hold at the heart of all we do relationships – relationship with God, with education, with others, and with ourselves.

Francis School Curriculum (Years 7 & 8)

With each student's need as the focus, the curriculum is structured around our clear focus on community and coming together from many different places. All learning areas within the curriculum are connected, ensuring that students are provided with the grounding of knowledge and skills in all areas to allow them to build a strong foundation for their studies. The students in the Francis School are also introduced to the College Growth Mindset and Grit program to empower them to achieve their full potential and assist them to thrive in their

learning and development. With further consideration of the types of skills that our students will need in this, the 21st century, a strong focus on the skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking is central.

Clare School Curriculum (Years 9 & 10)

In Year 9 students complete a course of study which provides a balanced education, subject units of particular interest, and an increased flexibility with choice of elective subjects to give them the opportunity to achieve and succeed. The aim in Year 10 is to provide students with the opportunity to gain the skills needed for their future and make informed and wise decisions when selecting a course of study for Years 11 and 12.



Elizabeth Hayes School Curriculum (Years 11 & 12)

Mount Alvernia College offers two pathways with diverse options within each: University Direct or Vocational Pathway.

All students are working towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

Students may be eligible for a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of their senior schooling. Students who do not meet the QCE requirements can continue to work towards the certificate post-secondary schooling.

University Pathway via Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

The calculation of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be based on a student's:

- best five General subject results; or
- best results in a combination of four General subject results plus an Applied subject result or a Certificate III or higher VET qualification.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) has responsibility for ATAR calculations.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Pathway

Certificate Courses

Mount Alvernia College offers opportunities for students to undertake certificate courses registered under the Australian Qualifications Framework, both at school and off campus.

Successful completion of Certificate courses can articulate to a wide variety of further study options, including directly leading into Certificate IV and Diploma courses, which may in turn be used to gain university entrance.



	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Years 11 & 12
Core Subjects	Religious Education Australian Curriculum Areas English Mathematics Science Humanities Health and Physical Education	Religious Education Australian Curriculum Areas English Mathematics Science Humanities Health and Physical Education Digital Technology <i>(1 semester)</i>	Religious Education Australian Curriculum Areas English History Mathematics Science Health & Physical Education	Religious Education Australian Curriculum Areas English / English Literature Mathematics – General or Methods	Essential English, English, or Literature Essential Maths, General Maths, or Maths Methods Study of Religion, Religion and Ethics, Religion Meaning and Lie
Electives or Immersions	Compulsory Term Time Subjects: The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Drama • Music Business and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics and Business • Design Technology • Digital Technology Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian • Japanese Curriculum Support	Students elect three of these for study for 1 semester: The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Music • Visual Art • Media Art Business and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics and Business • Design Technology • Digital Technology Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian • Japanese STEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM Extension Curriculum Support	Students elect four semester-based subjects from any of the following areas (three if studying a language) The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Art • Media Arts • Music • Drama Business and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics and Business • Design Technology • Digital Technology • Food Technology Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography • Legal Studies Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese • Italian STEM STEM Extension Curriculum Support	Students elect year-long subjects from any of the following areas and must choose a Science: The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Film and Television • Music • Visual Art Business & Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma in Business • Design • Digital Solutions • Accounting and Economics • Cert II in Workplace Practices Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Technology • Cert I Hospitality • Cert II Sport and Recreation • PE Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • Geography • Legal Studies • Modern History Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian • Japanese Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology / Psychology • Chemistry / Physics 	Students elect three to four subjects from any of the following areas: The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Music • Visual Art • Media Arts in Practice Business & Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting • Certificate III Business • Diploma in Business • Design • Digital Solutions • Economics • Certificate III in Events Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian • Japanese Health and Physical Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education • Food & Nutrition Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • Geography • Legal Studies • Modern History Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Psychology

Religious Education

Mount Alvernia is a Catholic College and has, as its primary reason for existence, education in the spiritual and religious facets of the lives of our students. The education of our students in religious and spiritual areas draws deeply on the Catholic tradition and is inspired by Franciscan tradition.

We strive to help meet the spiritual needs of our students, to provide them with positive experiences of the Catholic faith, and to foster their knowledge and daily application of Christianity. The traditions of students other than Catholic who choose to attend Mount Alvernia are respected and add a richness to our classes. The examination of other faith traditions is seen as important to the wholistic education of our young women.

Religious Education is compulsory at all year levels. In Years 7 and 8, Religious Education is taught as part of Core Studies and, in Year 9s and 10, it is a discrete. These are all based on the RE curriculum validated by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Students in Years 11 and 12 currently study either Study of Religion or Religion and Ethics.

No attempt is ever made to assess the faith or belief of students, but the concepts taught are formally assessed.

Outside the classroom, we encourage the community to action their faith:

- The community is involved in whole-college Masses and liturgies, class liturgies, reflection days, prayer experiences, and celebrations of special feasts.
- Social action and advocacy call our whole community to take up and carry on the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. We give particular support to Franciscan and other Catholic community organisations such as Catholic Mission, Caritas, and the St Vincent de Paul Society, together with a multitude of awareness-raising activities.

In the College, we hope to foster a climate of respect for every person, of reverence for God and all of creation, of affirmation and using our gifts for others, and of the challenge to become good people who live in relationship with God and others.



Cocurricular Program

Mount Alvernia's cocurricular program is an important and exciting part of college life. It is designed with the aim of further enhancing the experience of a Mount Alvernia education. It provides opportunities for all of our students to develop their confidence, and to grow intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually. Combined with our academic program, our cocurricular activities help ensure that all our students have a balanced approach to their education and have opportunities to reach their full potential, no matter where their individual talents lie. There are a wide variety of opportunities available across academic, mission and community, cultural, and sport areas.

Academic Opportunities

Academic cocurricular activities allow students an opportunity to participate in enrichment and enhancement activities and competitions in a wide range of learning areas and intellectual pursuits.



- Debating
- STEM Program
- The *Big Science* Competition
- Chemistry Competition
- Mathematics Team Challenge
- Science Olympiads in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology
- ICAS Mathematics, English, and Australian Geography Competitions
- International Arts Education Week
- High Achievers Success Group
- Women in Engineering Conference
- Brisbane Science Festival
- Thinking Science Program
- *Read like a Girl* Events and Program
- Phenomenal Females
- Year 8 Readers Cup
- Mt A Book Club
- Writers' Club
- Mt A and Padua Junior and Senior Book Clubs



- State Honours Ensemble Program at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music
- Composer-in-residence for Music Extension students
- *Creative Generation* Excellence in Visual Art Awards
- Live theatre viewings
- Masterclasses and workshops with theatre and drama professionals
- Student Art Show



Mission and Community Opportunities

Mount Alvernia College community outreach offers a wide variety of programs through which our community can embrace Franciscan spirituality and support those within and beyond the college gates.



- Outreach Committee
- Liturgy Committee
- Student Advisory Council
- Food Friends and Faith Youth Group
- Delamore Retirement Community Outreach
- Prep Outreach with St Anthony’s School for Francis School
- Samaritans Outreach for Clare School
- Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp for Elizabeth Hayes School
- Vinnies School Sleepover for Clare and Elizabeth Hayes Schools



- SVDP Christmas Hampers
- Mercy Community Connect with *Small act...Big Impact* Program - Holy Rosary Laundry Services
- Zonta Pine Rivers Partnership – assembling birthing kits and Z Club
- Caritas Ks Women’s Walk
- RSL Liaison Program
- Mt A Spirit Squad
- Welcome Committee



Cultural Opportunities

Mount Alvernia has an extensive choral and instrumental music program and a variety of other cultural cocurricular opportunities is available to students. The annual Cultural Festival, held at the end of Term 3, is a highlight of the cultural life at the College.



- Franciscan Colleges Instrumental Programme, including the following music ensembles:
 Bands: Intermediate Concert Band, Intermediate Big Band, Wind Ensemble, Senior Concert Band, FCIP Rock Band,
 Strings: Intermediate Strings, Senior Strings, Chamber Strings, Symphony Orchestra
- Choral Program: Mount Alvernia Voices, Performance Chorale, Showcase Chorale



- Private Vocal and Piano Tuition
- Queensland Catholic Colleges Music Festival
- *Brisbane Sings*



- Cultural Festival
- Theatresports
- Drama Shakefest
- Musical
- Art Club
- Sound Club



- Anime Club
- Harmony Day
- iCentre Unplugged
- Lunchtime performances
- Queensland Symphony Orchestra Visit
- Masterclasses and workshops in the classroom with professional practising artists
- Art X extension activities in Visual Art making
- World Challenge Vietnam



Sporting Opportunities

Sport plays an important part in the life of a Mount Alvernian. The emphasis of our sporting program is on participation, cooperation, team spirit, and having fun. Students of all abilities are involved, and there are opportunities for talented students to be selected for district, regional, and state teams. A variety of competitive, recreational, and fitness-based activities are offered.



The college teams participate in the Catholic Secondary Schoolgirls Sports Association (CaSSSA) in the following sports:

- AFL
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Hockey
- Indoor Cricket
- Netball
- Swimming
- Touch Football
- Tennis
- Volleyball



In addition, interschool teams compete in other school-based competitions in the following sports:

- Triathlon
- Futsal
- Rugby 7s



Recreational and fitness-based activities are available to all students and include:

- Run Club
- Bootcamp sessions
- Gym fitness



Resources and Facilities

Over the past ten years, the College has undergone a major transformation. Building on the Anthony Wing, completed in 2008, the College provides state-of-the-art facilities in the following areas:

- La Verna Building contains sixteen General Learning Areas. With flexible walls, doors, and furnishing, La Verna provides for 21st century learning styles in a bright, well-lit environment.
- Anthony East Wing contains the College Reception, Student Reception, and offices for Counsellors, Pastoral Guardians, the College Leadership Team, and the Student Enrichment and Advancement Centre. The teaching and support staff areas are on the top floor of this wing.
- Anthony West Wing contains three state-of-the-art, commercial kitchen facilities where students can learn.
- The renovated and refurbished Anthony Wing now contains six science laboratories. The biology lab has access to the rooftop terrace to carry out experiments.
- The Carceri has been relocated to La Foresta – the garden – and the stones that depict the life of Francis can be easily seen through the Carceri windows. This room is designed to create a place of contemplation and quiet.
- La Foresta is designed to be both a working garden and a place for reflection. It features our olive grove, orchard, herb and vegetable garden, and chicken coop. It also features the ‘ruins’ of the original classroom, which is used as an outdoor classroom and performance space.
- La Cucina is our college canteen and café, open for breakfast, morning tea, and lunch. Most food is prepared in-house using fresh ingredients from ethical sources or from our own produce.
- Located in the heart of the College, the Mount Alvernia iCentre is a beautiful space which offers students the opportunity to research, read literature, experiment with new media and technologies, and access professional staff for support. The iCentre space is flexible and designed to meet a range of learning styles so that students may work quietly and independently, can meet to conference in groups, or can relax with a good book.
- Our San Damiano Centre includes the hall, which features a rock-climbing wall, music rooms, drama room, stage, and sound and lighting booth; art rooms; oval; multi-purpose courts; and pool. This is where Assemblies, Masses, and community gatherings are held, as well as musicals, drama performances, and sporting activities.



Resources and facilities are being constantly upgraded, and the College is well supported in this approach by parents and by the activities of the Parents and Friends Support Network (P&FSN).



Parent-College Links

The College is committed to a close partnership with parents in the education of their daughters, strongly encouraging parental engagement. The growing body of evidence supports that, when schools and families work together, children have a far better likelihood of not only being successful in school but in life as well.

Communication is a key to strong partnership and the College facilitates this through both formal and informal means. Our formal communication channels include:

- Weekly electronic newsletters to parents containing information on events and activities in the College
- Continuous electronic feedback on each assessment task in a timely manner after completion
- Formal end-of-semester reports on student progress and achievement, twice throughout the year
- Twice-yearly parent/student/teacher conferences for discussion about individual student progress; opportunity for further discussion is available on request at any time
- Mount Alvernia Parent and Friends Support Network
- Parent Information Evenings
- Open Classrooms, particularly for Francis and Clare Schools, once per year.

One example of parent and staff communication is the *Welcome to Secondary School* information evenings for Year 7 parents. This program occurs during Term 1 and assists parents to become familiar with the requirements of secondary school in the Mount Alvernia context. It provides valuable information and the opportunity to connect with key staff and other Year 7 parents at this critical transition point.

A further opportunity for all year levels is the Home Room Evening which occurs during Term 1 of the new school year. This program allows parents and their daughters to interact with House Guardians, Home Room Teachers, and other members of their group, establishing important connections that will continue throughout their time at the College.

The Parents and Friends Support Network is an important avenue for parents to meet others in the college community. The aim of this group is to ensure parents have input and interaction, in collaboration with the College Leadership Team, in all aspects of college life. This college community group contributes significantly to the holistic development of the young women in our care.

Student Support Services

Student Enhancement and Advancement Centre

The College has a Student Enhancement and Advancement Centre that organises and runs assistance programs for students at all levels. This includes enrichment programs as well as assistance for students with learning difficulties. Students who need help with study methods and organisational skills such as time management are also assisted.

College Counsellors

Two qualified school counsellors are available to provide personal counselling for students and their parents. The Counsellors work closely with Home Room Teachers and Pastoral Guardians to help ensure that all students feel comfortable and happy at school, and are able to access all the educational and social opportunities provided by the College.

The Counsellors are available to conduct parent interviews on issues related to their daughter, and also conduct a regular series of parent evenings on topics of interest and relevance to each year level.

Career counselling, advice, and information are also available to students and parents throughout their years at Mount Alvernia.

English as a Second Language

A specialist English as a Second Language teacher is available on a part-time basis to provide support to students from a non-English speaking background.

Pastoral Care

The entire student body is divided into six Houses: Belle Prairie, Greccio, Perugia, Rieti, Spoleto, and Villa Spada. Within these Houses students are divided into nine Home Room groups, each of which has a teacher responsible for the general welfare and organisation of students in the particular group. Our vision is that all members of the Mount Alvernia College community feel safe, appreciated, and nurtured. The Home Room is the place where this vision becomes reality and helps our girls to grow. Through relationships, prayer, dedication, and the simple life, the whole person is nourished and nurtured for good.

The personal development program is structured so that there is a specific theme for each year level. It aims to deal with topical issues related to age and stage of development.

There are six Pastoral Guardians who oversee their respective year levels and work closely with the Home Room Teachers to ensure that each student feels known, cared for, and supported.

Junior and Senior Study

The iCentre is open for Senior Study from 4.00 to 6.00pm Monday to Thursday for students in Years 10, 11, and 12. Junior Study is held Tuesday to Thursday afternoons from 3.15 to 4.30pm for interested students in Years 7 to 9.

Financial Information

Mount Alvernia is an independent Catholic college and, as such, is responsible for its own financial management and control. The College has three main sources of funding:

- * Commonwealth Government;
- * State Government; and
- * Parents and supporters of the College.

School fees are essential to the operation of the College and ensure that a quality, comprehensive curriculum, supported by modern facilities and equipment, can be provided to each student.

As a Franciscan college, we are committed to maintaining fees and other costs to parents at a moderate level. Decisions about uniforms, activities, and required student equipment are made with this in mind.

Fees are determined by the College Board, are invoiced annually in January, and may be paid annually, quarterly, or monthly. Special payment arrangements can be negotiated with the College Business Manager. Payment options include BPAY, credit cards, cheque, and cash. If paying school fees by instalment, a direct debit or credit card facility is also available. Variations of fee conditions are available to families where genuine need exists and are determined by the Principal or Business Manager.

Additional costs may be incurred if students participate in optional activities offered by the College.

Enrolment Policy

Please refer to this [online](#).

Enrolment Procedure

Step 1 - Making an Application

Application for enrolment at the College is via the online portal on the college website.

Closing date for applications is the last Friday of January in the year your daughter is in Year 4. A non-refundable application fee of \$250 is payable on lodgment of an *Enrolment Application Form* to cover administration costs. The application should also be accompanied by copies of the following documents as outlined in the application form:

- Birth Certificate;
- A copy of the most recent school report;
- NAPLAN results;
- Baptismal, Confirmation, and Eucharist Certificate (if Catholic) or a letter from pastor or religious leader (if non-Catholic);
- Specialist reports, education plans, and school learning support assessments;
- Visa documentation (if your daughter was not born in Australia); and
- Any relevant Court Orders.

Enrolments will not be processed unless this documentation is complete. Receipt of the *Enrolment Application Form* will be acknowledged in writing.

Step 2 - Interview

All offers of places in the College will be made subject to a place being available, consideration of the information contained in the *Enrolment Application Form*, and a successful interview with a member of the College Leadership Team. Interviews will generally take place in Term 1 of your daughter's Year 4. Parents will be contacted to arrange a suitable interview time.

Step 3 - Offers of Placement

Offers of placement will be made in writing in Term 1 of your daughter's Year 4, with the acceptance date being in late March. On confirmation of enrolment, a holding deposit of \$750 is payable. This deposit will not be refunded if you subsequently cancel the enrolment of your daughter prior to her commencement at the College. The holding deposit will be retained by the College, and will be refunded when all fees and charges have been paid upon the completion of Year 12. If the student leaves the College prior to completion of Year 12, the deposit will not be refunded unless one term's notice in writing has been provided.

Step 4 – Payment of Term 1 Fees

As part of their commitment to your child attending Mount Alvernia College, parents/care-givers will be invoiced one semester's tuition fees in advance in May prior to the year of commencement at the College. This will be due and payable by 1 July of that year. If this fee in advance is not paid at that time, the student's place can be offered to another applicant. The balance of the first year's fee will be invoiced in January of the year of your daughter's commencement at the College and will be payable under the College's normal terms and conditions of payment.

Step 5 – Parent Information Evening

A Parent Information Evening is held in Term 4 of your daughter's Year 6. Parents will receive a package with all the information required to start school, including uniforms and the procedures for Student Orientation Day and the new school year.

Step 6 – Student Orientation Day

Student Orientation Day is held in Term 4 of your daughter's Year 6. This day provides time for your daughter to be introduced to her student mentor, to meet in class groups with Year 7 and Home Room teachers, and to become familiar with the layout and facilities of the College.

Step 7 – Waiting List

An application for enrolment lodged after the application close date will be placed on the waiting list in order of date of receipt of application of enrolment form and application fee. Applicants on the waiting list are interviewed as places become available. In the event that this occurs, parents will be contacted in writing to arrange a suitable interview time.

Applications for Other School Years

Applications for enrolment can be lodged at any time for other years. Enrolment is subject to interview with the Principal and places being available for the required year level. A non-refundable application fee of \$250 is payable on lodgment of an *Enrolment Application*, to cover administration costs. The application should also be accompanied by copies of the documents as outlined in the *Enrolment Application Form*.



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RTO NUMBER: 41391

Please note: information contained in this booklet is subject to change.