

SECTION 4: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Vocational education and training (VET) in schools engages students in work-related learning built on strategic partnerships between schools, business, industry and the wider community. VET can be taken as an integral and equal part of the WACE and its completion by the student provides credit towards a nationally recognised VET qualification within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), providing a broad range of post-school options and pathways.

Schools can deliver VET either by becoming a registered training organisation (RTO) or by working in partnership with an external RTO, which provides the appropriate training. Refer to resource on VETinfoNet 'Schools Guide to Partnerships' www.vetinfo.net.wa.edu.au/vet/docs/partnership_in_school_booklet.

VET can be delivered by schools providing they meet Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requirements, including having access to required physical and human resources. The AQTF is the quality system which underpins the national vocational education and training sector and outlines the regulatory arrangements in Australian states and territories. It provides the basis for a nationally consistent, high-quality VET system.

The AQTF *Standards for Registered Training Organisations* outline a set of auditable standards that must be met and maintained for registration as a training provider in Australia. Refer to the registration process in WA via the Training Accreditation Council website, www.tac.wa.gov.au.

Detailed information regarding the AQTF standards is available from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) website http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/nts/aqtf/what.htm.

Training packages

A training package is a set of nationally endorsed standards and qualifications for recognising and assessing skills in a specific industry, sector or enterprise. Training packages describe the skills and knowledge that individuals need to be able to perform effectively in the workplace.

Training packages are reviewed on a regular basis and amendments may impact on the alignment of qualifications and/or units of competency with courses.

The National Training Information Service (NTIS) is the official national register of information on training packages, qualifications, courses, units of competency and RTOs. More detailed information can be found on NTIS website <http://www.ntis.gov.au>.

VET in the WACE

Full and partial AQF qualifications may be attained through three delivery modes:

- VET stand alone programs
- VET integrated within courses
- VET industry specific courses.

A full qualification is a complete AQF qualification from a nationally recognised training package. A partial qualification is one or more units of competency or skill sets from a nationally recognised training package/s. Schools/RTOs are encouraged to consider electives that meet the needs and aspirations of their students. Training package rules must be followed.

School-based traineeships (SBT), school-based apprenticeships (SBA) and school apprenticeship links (SAL) also provide opportunities for students to meet their WACE requirements and complete a full qualification. The VETinfoNet website has information relating to these VET programs and other VET initiatives <http://www.vetinfo.net.wa.edu.au>.

For any VET, students can only be accredited once with a unit of competency. All successfully completed units of competency/qualifications are recorded on the student's statement of results.

VET stand alone program

A VET stand alone program is non-integrated vocational education and training resulting in the achievement of a full or partial qualification from the Australian Qualifications Framework. Delivery and assessment occurs independently from any course curriculum delivery. Students engaging in VET stand alone, resulting in the attainment of units of competency, qualifications or accredited courses listed on the National Training Information Service (NTIS) website <http://www.ntis.gov.au> are awarded WACE unit equivalence as an endorsed program.

VET integrated within a course

VET integrated within a course involves students undertaking one or more VET units of competency concurrently with a course unit. VET qualifications and units of competency that align closely with the syllabus for course units are identified. When suggesting units of competency relevant to each course unit, consideration has been given to providing meaningful pathways for further education, training or employment.

The following courses have some suggested units of competency for integration.

Animal Production Systems	Computer Science	Marine and Maritime Technology
Applied Information Technology	Design	Materials Design and Technology
Automotive Engineering and Technology	Drama	Media Production and Analysis
Aviation	Engineering Studies	Music
Biological Sciences	Food Science and Technology	Outdoor Education
Building and Construction	French	Physical Education Studies
Business Management and Enterprise	Geography	Physics
Chemistry	German	Plant Production Systems
Children, Family and Community	Health Studies	Politics and Law
Chinese	Indonesian	Visual Arts
	Integrated Science	
	Italian	

From 2009, students engaging in VET integrated within a course and who fulfil the assessment requirements of stage 2 or stage 3 courses in their final year must sit the examination to be eligible to achieve the WACE. The exam is based on the course only, units of competency are not considered. However, if these VET studies constitute a full certificate then the student would be exempt from sitting the examination.

VET industry specific course

A VET industry specific course is based on a training package, has course status and an optional exam.

To meet VET industry specific course requirements and achieve course units towards a WACE, students must follow the course structure, attain required units of competency and fulfil work placement requirements as appropriate. Student achievement in a VET industry specific course will be recorded on the statement of results by recognising each unit of competency attained, and if all required units of competency are achieved, then a grade of 'C' will be awarded for the unit.

Each VET industry specific course has an optional exam based on underpinning knowledge and skills of core competencies from the selected training package qualification. The written examination is independent of the competency-based assessment taken during the course and has no relevance to a student's eligibility to receive training package qualifications. If students sit the exam, the exam result is only used to derive the WACE course score as there is no school assessment score.

Once courses and sample examinations are developed, the universities will be able to consider whether scores in these exams could count towards a student's tertiary entrance score.

Students may be required to participate in additional workplace learning of at least 55 hours over two units of a VET course. A 55-hour workplace learning component is awarded one unit equivalent. It should be noted that where it is required and the student does not complete the associated workplace learning component, it will be

SECTION 4: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

determined that the student has not made a genuine attempt to complete course requirements and the student may be awarded 'requirements not met' (RNM) status for the course.

From 2009, the following VET industry specific courses will be available. The most current training packages will be used in course development. Current training packages can be found at www.tpatwork.com.

VET industry specific course	Associated National Training Package
Automotive	Automotive Industry. Retail, Service and Repair (AUR05)
Business Services	Business Services (BSB01)
Community Services	Community Services (CHC02)
Construction	General Construction (BCG03)
Creative Industries (Art)	Visual Arts, Craft and Design (CUV03)
Creative Industries (Media)	Film, TV, Radio and Multimedia (CUF01)
Creative Industries (Music)	Music (CUS01)
Hospitality	Hospitality (THH02)
Information Technology	Information and Communications (ICA05)
Primary Industries	Rural Production (RTE03)
Sport and Recreation	Sport Industry (SRS03)
Tourism	Tourism (THT02)

VET assessment

VET assessment is competency-based. No school assessment mark is awarded for any VET. The Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requires that a competency-based approach to assessment is used and that a record is held by the registered training organisation (RTO) of the competencies achieved by each student. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified assessor under the auspices of an RTO which may be a school, TAFE campus or other VET provider.

A student's performance is judged against a prescribed standard, not against the performance of other students. The purpose of assessment is to judge competence on the basis of performance. A student is judged as either competent or not yet competent. The judgement is made on the basis of evidence which can be in a variety of forms.

All performance criteria need to be met concurrently to demonstrate the achievement of an element of competency. All elements of competency must be achieved to demonstrate the achievement of a unit of competency.

When units of competency are integrated within a course, workplace contexts should be selected to ensure the tasks developed for the course are set in a real or simulated workplace. The course assessment outline shows how AQTF standards and course requirements are met.