

SECTION 6: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6.1 General information

Vocational education and training (VET) in schools engages Year 10 – 12 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.

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. Detailed information regarding the AQTF standards is available at http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/nts/aqtf/what.htm.

The AQTF 2007 *Essential Standards for Registration* outlines 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 at www.tac.wa.gov.au. Schools can deliver VET either by becoming a registered training organisation (RTO) school or by working in partnership with an external RTO, which provides the appropriate training. Refer to resource on VETinonet 'Schools Guide to Partnerships' at www.vetinfonet.wa.edu.au/vet/docs/partnership_in_school_booklet.

Students in Year 10, 11 and 12 can have VET qualifications contribute towards the WACE as course units when completed through VET industry specific courses. VET units of competency can contribute to unit equivalence as endorsed programs if completed as VET stand alone.

6.1.1 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 at <http://www.ntis.gov.au>.

6.2 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 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 at <http://www.vetinfo.net.det.wa.edu.au>.

6.2.1 VET stand alone programs

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

6.2.2 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 that align closely with the syllabus are identified in the introduction to the course and specific units of competency that provide meaningful pathways for further education, training or employment are suggested at the end of each relevant course unit.

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

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

Students engaging in VET integrated within a course, and who fulfil the assessment requirements of Stage 2 or Stage 3 course units in their final year, must sit the relevant course examination. The examination is based on the content of the relevant course units only. The VET units of competency are not examinable when delivered in this integrated way but are assessed through VET assessment processes.

6.2.3 VET industry specific courses

A VET industry specific course is based on a national training package and is accredited by the Curriculum Council.

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 any work placement requirements. Student achievement in a VET industry specific course is recorded on the statement of results by recognising each unit of competency attained, and if the full qualification is completed, then a grade of 'C' is awarded for each of the course units allocated to the course program.

Each VET industry specific course may have an optional examination based on underpinning knowledge and skills from the Council compulsory units of competency taken from the selected training package. The written examination will be independent of the competency-based assessment taken during the course and will have no relevance to a student's eligibility to receive training package qualifications. If students sit the examination, only the examination result is used to derive the WACE course score, as there is no school assessment score. Whether examinations for VET industry specific courses are held will be jointly negotiated between the schools offering these courses and the Council.

Workplace Learning course units or unit equivalents from any of the three endorsed workplace learning programs can be used to meet the workplace learning requirement. Where a student does not complete the associated workplace learning component if it is required, it may be determined that the student has not made a genuine attempt to complete course requirements and the student may be awarded 'unfinished' (U) status for the course.

The following VET industry specific courses are available in 2009. The most current training packages have been used in their development. Current training packages can be found at www.ntis.gov.au/.

VET industry specific course	Associated National Training Package
Automotive	Automotive Industry, Retail, Service and Repair (AUR05)
Business Services	Business Services (BSB07)
Community Services	Community Services (CHC02)
Construction	General Construction (BCG03)
Creative Industries (Art)	Visual Arts, Craft and Design (CUV03)
Creative Industries (Media)	Screen and Media (CUF07)
Hospitality	Tourism, Hospitality and Events (SIT07)
Information Technology	Information and Communications (ICA05)
Primary Industries	Rural Production (RTE03)
Tourism	Tourism, Hospitality and Events (SIT07)

In 2010, the following VET industry specific courses are also available. The most current training packages are used in their development. These can be found at www.ntis.gov.au/

VET industry specific course	Associated National Training Package
Creative Industries (Music)	Music (CUS09)
Sport and Recreation	Sport Industry (SIS08)

6.3 VET assessment

6.3.1 Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requirements

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, TAFEWA 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 against the AQTF standard. 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.

6.3.2 Integrated delivery requirements

If the units of competency are delivered through the 'VET integrated within a course' mode, the assessment outline required for the course unit should show how both the AQTF standards and course requirements are being met.

6.3.3 Reporting achievement

The Curriculum Council recognises the achievement of units of competency and qualifications listed on the National Training Information Service (NTIS) website. All successfully completed units of competency/qualifications are recorded on the student's statement of results. For any VET, students can only be accredited once with a unit of competency.

6.3.4 School responsibility

Schools are required to implement and maintain data that verifies and records details of VET programs undertaken by students. Schools are also responsible for the management of human and physical resources required for the delivery of the programs.

It is the responsibility of the RTO to notify the school of a student's achievement. The school then advises the Curriculum Council of the student's achievement through electronic data transfer arrangements. Before achievement data is uploaded, principals are required to sign a 'VET and endorsed programs achievement' declaration form. The form asks principals to certify that all achievements have been validated.

Processes for the monitoring, recording and reporting of VET achievement should be included in the school's assessment policy.