VCE VET Animal Care

Program Booklet

Incorporating

ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2)

January 2023

Modification history

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Introduction

VCE VET programs are vocational training programs approved by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCE VET programs lead to nationally recognised qualifications, thereby offering students the opportunity to gain the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE VM), as well as a nationally portable vocational education and training (VET) certificate. VCE VET programs:

* are fully recognised within the Units 1 to 4 structure of the VCE and the VCE VM. VCE VET units have equal status with other VCE studies
* will contribute towards the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)
* function within the National Training Framework.

Program development

This iteration of the VCE VET Animal Care program was implemented in 2022 It must be used in conjunction with the ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package(Release 6) qualification ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2). This program booklet supersedes the previous VCE VET program booklet published in 2022.

VCE VET programs are developed with a reference group of industry and vocational professionals and include a predesignated program structure. Units of competency outside of this structure cannot be delivered as part of a VCE VET program.

Industry overview

Training package

The animal care and management industry can be described as having multiple sectors, such as: veterinary services, animal breeding services, pet and companion animal services, exhibited animal and wildlife operations, and animal behaviour.

The ACM Animal Care and Management training package qualifications allow for considerable flexibility in choice of units of competency so training and assessment can be suited to a wide range of organisations and job roles.

Anticipating future skills needs in the animal care and management industry is crucial to prepare for and meet the new demands of increasing pet ownership and changes in technology in Australia.

Industry specific priority skills that have been identified include working safely around animals (infection control), specialist skills in alternative animal therapies, customer service and using digital technologies.

Qualifications / Packaging rules

Students wishing to be awarded the qualification must successfully complete all required core and elective units of competency. Schools should communicate with their registered training organisation (RTO) partner to ensure the delivery sequence supports this outcome.

For further information, visit the [National Training Register](https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga).

* [ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2)](https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/ACM20121)

Links to a companion volume implementation guide may be provided as a resource for this qualification. For further information, visit [VETNet](https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx).



VCE VET program details

Aims

The VCE VET Animal Care program aims to:

* provide participants with the knowledge, skill and competency that will enhance their training and employment prospects in the Animal Care industry
* enable participants to gain a recognised credential and to make an informed choice of vocation or career path.

Scored assessment

The VCE VET Animal Care program does not offer scored assessment.

VCE VET credit

Students undertaking ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2) are eligible for up to 5 VCE VET units on their VCE (including VCE VM and VPC) statement of results:

* three VCE VET Units at Units 1 and 2 level
* one VCE VET Unit 3 - 4 sequence.

For more information on VCE (including VCE VM and VPC) credit contributions, please refer to the [appendix](#Appendix).

Nominal hour duration

Nominal hours represent the supervised structured learning and assessment activities required to sufficiently address the content of each unit of competency.

Nominal hours are used to determine credit towards the VCE (including VCE VM and VPC) for VET units of competency.

Duplication

When a VCE VET program duplicates or is very similar to another VCE study or VET unit of competency in a student’s program, a reduced VCE VET unit entitlement may apply.

No significant duplication has been identified between the VCE VET Animal Care program and other VCE studies.

Dual enrolments

When students undertake multiple qualifications within a VCE VET program, care must be taken to ensure the students enrol in all the units of competency only once. Credit for a unit of competency can be counted only once towards the VCE (including VCE VM and VPC).

Sequence

Certain units of competency will complement each other, lending to coordinated delivery that minimises content overlap. Units of competency have guidelines for different situations and delivery contexts, and a range of delivery sequences is possible.

The intention of VCE VET programs is to provide students with a qualification that meets industry expectations. The strong advice and assumption of industry bodies is that the quality of the qualification is compromised when foundation training is neglected.

The sequencing of units of competency is determined by the RTO, teacher or trainer; however, it is anticipated that a number of the core units of competency will be undertaken in the first year of the program.

VCE VET Animal Care program structure

ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2)

| **Code** | **Unit Title** | **Nominal  Hours** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Units 1 to 4** | | |
| **Compulsory Units:** | | |
| ACMGEN201 | Work in the animal care industry | 30 |
| ACMGEN202 | Complete animal care hygiene routines | 30 |
| ACMGEN203 | Feed and water animals | 40 |
| ACMGEN204 | Assist in health care of animals | 40 |
| ACMSUS201 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| ACMWHS201 | Participate in workplace health and safety processes | 40 |
| BSBCMM211 | Apply communication skills | 40 |
| **Compulsory Units Subtotal:** | | **240** |
| **Elective Units:** | | |
| Select a minimum of **FIVE** electives with a minimum of **133** hours.   * Minimum of **THREE** units from Group A * Maximum of **TWO** units from Group C * Remaining electives may be drawn from Group A, Group B or Group C. | | |
| **Elective Group A:** | | |
| ACMBEH302 | Provide enrichment for animals | 40 |
| ACMGEN205 | Source and provide information for animal care needs | 40 |
| ACMGEN301 | Prepare and present information to the public | 40 |
| ACMGEN309 | Provide basic animal first aid | 40 |
| ACMGEN310 | Provide reception services for an animal care facility | 30 |
| ACMGRM201 | Bath, dry and brush domestic dogs | 30 |
| ACMINF201 | Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines | 60 |
| ACMVET201 | Assist with veterinary nursing reception duties | 40 |
| ACMVET202 | Carry out daily practice routines | 40 |
| ACMVET203 | Assist with surgery preparation | 40 |
| BSBOPS203 | Deliver a service to customers | 40 |
| HLTAID011 | Provide first aid | 18 |
| **Elective Group B:** | | |
| ACMSPE313 | Provide general care of amphibians | 40 |
| ACMSPE314 | Provide general care of birds | 40 |
| ACMSPE315 | Provide general care of common native mammals | 40 |
| ACMSPE316 | Provide general care of domestic dogs | 40 |
| ACMSPE317 | Provide general care of domestic cats | 40 |
| ACMSPE318 | Provide general care of fish | 40 |
| ACMSPE319 | Provide general care of invertebrates | 40 |
| ACMSPE320 | Provide general care of mammals | 40 |
| ACMSPE321 | Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles | 40 |
| ACMSPE322 | Provide general care of rodents and rabbits | 40 |
| **Elective Group C: Imported Electives** | | |
| ACMEQU212 | Handle horses safely | 100 |
| ACMEQU214 | Prepare to work safely around horses | 60 |
| ACMEQU215\* | Provide daily care for horses | 60 |
| ACMEXH308 | Develop husbandry guidelines | 20 |
| AHCBIO301 | Identify and report signs of unusual disease or pest | 50 |
| SIRRMER003 | Coordinate visual merchandising activities | 35 |
| **Minimum Elective Units Subtotal:** | | **133** |
| **Minimum Total for VCE VET Units 1 to 4:** | | **373** |
| **Elective Group D: Introductory Imported Electives** | | |
| May contribute to an additional VCE VET Unit 1. These electives should be considered in addition to the minimum requirements of the ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care. | | |
| ACMGEN101 | Explore job opportunities in animal care and related industries | 10 |
| ACMGEN102 | Approach and handle a range of calm animals | 40 |
| ACMGEN103 | Assist in the care of animals | 40 |
| **Total for VCE VET Unit 1:** | | **90** |

* Unit with a prerequisite unit of competency

Enrolment advice

Transition arrangements

All students commencing training in the VCE VET Animal Care program from January 2022 and beyond will be required to be enrolled in ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2).

VASS industry group

ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Release 2) is included within the **ACM** VASS industry group for credit purposes.

For more information on VASS industry groups, please refer to the [appendix](#Appendix).

Additional information

Consider the following when determining the sequence of a student’s VCE VET Animal Care program:

* Prior to engaging in structured workplace learning (SWL), students must be undertaking or have completed the workplace health and safety unit aligned with the VCE VET program.

Resources

For updates or information relating to VCE VET programs, please refer to:

* the [VCE VET program webpage](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/Index.aspx)
* the [*VCAA* *Bulletin*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/bulletins-and-updates/bulletin/Pages/index.aspx)
* the ‘[Get VET](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/getvet/Pages/Index.aspx?Redirect=1)’ webpage for videos, success stories, flowcharts and posters designed to support teachers in engaging, informing and inspiring students and parents about VET Delivered to Secondary Students.

Supplementary advice is available for scored VCE VET programs on the relevant VCE VET program webpage.

Non-scored program

The VCE VET Animal Care program does not offer scored assessment. A student who achieves a Units 3 and 4 sequence may be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR.

The increment is awarded by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Further information can be found on the VTAC website:

* the ATAR explained: <[www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/](https://www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/)>
* calculating your aggregate: <[www.vtac.edu.au/atar-scaling-guide-2022.html#item-3](https://www.vtac.edu.au/atar-scaling-guide-2022.html#item-3)>
* study groupings: <[www.vtac.edu.au/atar-scaling-guide-2022.html#item-4](https://www.vtac.edu.au/atar-scaling-guide-2022.html#item-4)>.

Increments for a VCE VET Program Non-Scored Units 3 and 4 sequence will be calculated using 10% of the fourth study score of the primary four.

Structured workplace learning

The VCAA has determined that structured workplace learning (SWL) is an appropriate and valuable component of all VCE VET programs. SWL involves on-the-job training in which students are required to master a designated set of skills and competencies related to VCE VET programs.

SWL complements the training undertaken at the school/RTO. It provides the context for:

* enhancement of skills development
* practical application of industry knowledge
* assessment of units of competency, as determined by the RTO
* increased employment opportunities.

The VCAA strongly recommends that students undertake a minimum of 80 hours of SWL for the VCE VET Animal Care program. SWL should be spread across the duration of the training program.

The VCAA mandates SWL under the following situations:

* where a period of work placement is mandated for the award of the qualification, or
* where the Assessment Conditions from a Unit of Competency contains a statement regarding the requirement to demonstrate skills in a workplace.

Check the unit of competency for information on Assessment Conditions: <[training.gov.au/Home/Tga](https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga)>.

Further details regarding SWL, the SWL Portal and the Department of Education and Training SWL Manual is available on online: [<www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/careers/work/Pages/structuredlearning.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/careers/work/Pages/structuredlearning.aspx)>.

The SWL Manual outlines roles and responsibilities of the student, parent, employer and principal; procedures and guidelines for placing students in the workplace; and relevant policy and legislation. The manual also has a link to Ministerial Order 55 and the SWL Arrangement form.

SWL Recognition

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) recognition involves the development and maintenance of the Workplace Learning Record (WLR) by the student. The work placement must be in an industry area aligned to the VET certificate drawn from the VCE VET Animal Care program. The completion of the WLR is a requirement for recognition by the VCAA for VCE and VCAL credit.

The VCE VET Animal Care program offers SWL recognition. Further details are available at: <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/swl-vet/Pages/SWL-recognition.aspx](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/swl-vet/Pages/SWL-recognition.aspx)>.

Workplace health and safety

Schools/RTOs must ensure that workplace health and safety (WHS) issues are fully addressed in the training program.

The principal is responsible for ensuring the school meets its responsibilities for students in SWL arrangements.

Where the student will be employed under an SWL arrangement, the principal must be satisfied that the student is undertaking training in the WHS unit of competency before the arrangement can be entered into.

Students must be informed of the significance of work-related hazards. They must understand the need for, and the nature of, workplace risk controls such as safe working procedures and the use of personal protective clothing and equipment.

Schools must also be satisfied, through their review of the acknowledgment provided by employers on the SWL Arrangement form, that the workplace in question and the activities proposed will not expose a student to risk during their structured work placement.

Employers must view their duty of care towards students as essentially no different from that owed to their employees. They must understand that students cannot be expected to possess the judgment or maturity to undertake any task that presents potential risk. This means that no student may be exposed at any time to dangerous plant machinery, equipment, substances, work environments or work practices.

On the first morning of their placement, students should be introduced to their supervisor and provided with a formal induction to the workplace. This will include first aid, emergency and incident reporting arrangements.

The student should be given an orientation tour of the workplace and any excluded areas or activities should be pointed out. Students should be instructed to report without delay anything they feel may be unsafe. They should be encouraged to ask for help or further instruction if they are not sure of the correct way to carry out any task.

Close supervision of students undertaking SWL is essential. Supervisors nominated by the employer must understand all requirements for safely managing the student’s activities. Supervisors must understand that a student may not fully grasp information or instructions the first time they are told. They should encourage students to ask for help if they have forgotten or if they experience difficulty in putting information into practice.

The WorkSafe Victoria website makes available useful resources: <[www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/)>.

Appendix

Credit arrangements

VASS industry group

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| VCE VET program | VASS industry group |
| VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Ecosystem Management |  |
| * Certificate II in Agriculture | AHC |
| * Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management | AHC |
| * Certificate II in Horticulture | AHC |
| VCE VET Animal Care |  |
| * Certificate II in Animal Care | ACM |
| VCE VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology |  |
| * Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology | MST |
| VCE VET Applied Language |  |
| * Certificate II in Applied Language | GEN |
| * Certificate III in Applied Language | GEN |
| VCE VET Automotive |  |
| * Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation | AUR |
| VCE VET Building and Construction |  |
| * Certificate II in Building and Construction Pre-apprenticeship | CPC |
| * Certificate II in Construction Pathways | CPC |
| VCE VET Business |  |
| * Certificate II in Workplace Skills | BSB |
| * Certificate III in Business | BSB |
| VCE VET Cisco |  |
| * CISCO CCNA v7 | ICT |
| VCE VET Civil Infrastructure |  |
| * Certificate II in Civil Construction | RII |
| VCE VET Community Services |  |
| * Certificate II in Active Volunteering | CHC |
| * Certificate II in Community Services | CHC |
| * Certificate III in Community Services | CHC |
| * Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care | CHC |
| VCE VET Creative and Digital Media |  |
| * Certificate II in Creative Industries | CUA |
| * Certificate III in Screen and Media | CUA |
| VCE VET Dance |  |
| * Certificate II in Dance | CUA |
| * Certificate III in Dance | CUA |
| VCE VET Electrical Industry |  |
| * Certificate II in Electrotechnology Studies (pre-vocational) | UEE |
| * Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start) | UEE |
| VCE VET Engineering Studies |  |
| * Certificate II in Engineering Studies | MEM |
| VCE VET Equine Studies |  |
| * Certificate III in Equine Studies | ACM |
| VCE VET Furnishing |  |
| * Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways | MSF |
| VCE VET Hair and Beauty |  |
| * Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics | SHB |
| * Certificate II in Salon Assistant | SHB |
| * Certificate III in Beauty Services | SHB |
| * Certificate III in Make-Up | SHB |
| VCE VET Health |  |
| * Certificate II in Health Support Services | HLT |
| * Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance incorporating: * Certificate III in Health Services Assistance | HLT |
| VCE VET Hospitality |  |
| * Certificate II in Hospitality | SIT |
| * Certificate II in Kitchen Operations | SIT |
| * Certificate II in Cookery | SIT |
| VCE VET Information and Communications Technology |  |
| * Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies | ICT |
| * Certificate III in Information Technology | ICT |
| VCE VET Integrated Technologies |  |
| * Certificate II in Integrated Technologies | ICT |
| VCE VET Laboratory Skills |  |
| * Certificate III in Laboratory Skills | MSL |
| VCE VET Music |  |
| * Certificate II in Music | CUA |
| * Certificate III in Music (Performance) | CUA |
| * Certificate III in Music (Sound Production) | CUA |
| VCE VET Plumbing |  |
| * Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship) | CPC |
|  |  |
| VCE VET Small Business |  |
| * Certificate II in Small Business (Operations/Innovation) | BSB |
| VCE VET Sport and Recreation |  |
| * Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation | SIS |
| * Certificate II in Sport and Recreation | SIS |
| * Certificate III in Sport and Recreation | SIS |
| VCE VET Visual Arts |  |
| * Certificate II in Visual Arts | CUA |
| * Certificate III in Visual Arts | CUA |

VET credit arrangements

Accruing credit in one certificate

Students may accrue two VCE VET units of credit at Units 1 and 2 level by completing 180 nominal hours in a certificate II or III qualification. Students may further accrue a VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence by completing an additional 180 nominal hours in the same certificate provided that it is drawn from:

* a VE1 – VCE VET qualification that provides a Unit 3–4 sequence
* a VE3 – Other VET qualification at a certificate III level.

Where a qualification includes enough nominal hours, further units of credit may be available.

Accruing credit across multiple certificates

Students may accrue two or more VCE VET units of credit at Units 1 and 2 level by completing a minimum of 180 nominal hours across multiple certificate II or III qualifications. From 2024, students may further accrue a VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence by completing an additional 180 nominal hours in one certificate provided that it is drawn from:

* the same industry group as at least one certificate from the student’s first 180 hours of VET
* a VE1 – VCE VET program that provides a Unit 3–4 sequence
* a VE3 – Other VET qualification at a certificate III level.

Accruing credit in a VE2 – SBAT

Students may accrue two VCE VET units of credit at Units 1 and 2 level by completing 180 nominal hours in a traineeship or apprenticeship. Students may further accrue a VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence by completing an additional 180 nominal hours in the same VE2 – SBAT provided that it is drawn from:

* a VE2 – SBAT qualification that provides a Unit 3–4 sequence.

From 2024, where a student accrues their initial VCE VET units of credit at Units 1 and 2 level from a VE1 – VCE VET program or a VE3 – Other VET qualification, the next 180 hours they complete in a VE2 – SBAT will provide a VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence provided that it is drawn from:

* a VE2 – SBAT qualification that provides a Unit 3–4 sequence.

VCE VM credit arrangements

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. The VCE VM will give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

For information on credit arrangements, please refer to [VCE Vocational Major (VM)](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/Pages/AboutVCEVocationalMajor.aspx).

VPC credit arrangements

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is an inclusive Year 11 and 12 standards-based certificate that meets the needs of a smaller number of students who are not able or ready to complete the VCE (including the VCE VM). It provides an enriched curriculum and excellent support for students to develop the skills, capabilities and qualities for success in personal and civic life.

For information on credit arrangements, please refer to [Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/VPC/Pages/AboutVPC.aspx).

‘Get VET’ resources

Discover the wide range of VET courses available to secondary school students in Victoria. Explore these helpful ‘Get VET’ resources, including videos and success stories, and talk to the relevant teachers or coordinators at your school to assist you on the right pathway.

* VET Fast Facts
* How VET is different
* What you get from VET
* How VET can prepare you for the future
* What a VET pathway looks like
* 7 questions to ask yourself
* Which VET are you?
* VCE VET programs
* Structured Workplace Learning
* School-based apprenticeship or traineeship
* Other VET qualifications
* Get a taste of VET careers and training
* Where to find out more about VET
* Resources
* Hear what VET students say
* Hear what VET teachers say
* Career pathway posters

For more information, please refer to [‘Get VET’](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/Pages/AboutVCEVocationalMajor.aspx).

VCE VET program chart

The [VCE VET program chart](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vet/GetVET/resources/VCE-VET-program-chart.pdf) provides a list of all VCE VET programs and shows if they can be undertaken as scored or non-scored. The chart also shows if a program offers Units 1 and 2 and/or a Unit 3–4 sequence.

Scored assessment

Some VCE VET programs are scored and offer a scored Unit 3–4 sequence. The study score calculated from the scored Unit 3–4 sequence may contribute to a student’s ATAR as one of the primary four studies or as two available (and permissible) increments.

The scored Unit 3–4 sequence must be delivered and assessed in a single enrolment year. Students are strongly advised against undertaking the scored Unit 3–4 sequence without first completing Units 1 and 2 because Unit 3–4 sequences are not designed for standalone study.

Study score

To be eligible for a study score students must:

* satisfactorily complete all the units of competency required in the scored Unit 3–4 sequence
* be assessed in accordance with the tools and procedures specified in the *VCE VET Scored Assessment Guide* and program-specific assessment plan templates published annually on the VCAA website
* undertake an examination during the end-of-year examination period, based on the underpinning knowledge and skills in the compulsory units of competency in the scored Unit 3–4 sequence, and in accordance with the current examination specifications.

A study score for a scored VCE VET program is based on evidence from two sources: coursework tasks and an examination (or end-of-year performance examination where applicable). The assessment of three VCE VET coursework tasks does not replace the qualification assessments. Both tend to be complementary and may be integrated. Tasks may be designed with both assessment purposes in mind.

For further information on scored assessment, including an overview of study score assessment, advice regarding the development of coursework tasks, and integration of study scores with competency assessment, please refer to the [*VCE VET Scored Assessment Guide*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vet/publications/VETScoredAssessmentGuide.pdf).

For more information on study scores and ATAR contributions, please refer to [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)](https://www.vtac.edu.au/).

ATAR contribution

Please note that for a Unit 3–4 sequence to be eligible it must come from one certificate enrolment on VASS. Where credit has accrued across multiple certificates, an ATAR contribution may not be available.

For more information on study scores and ATAR contributions, please refer to [VTAC](https://www.vtac.edu.au/).

Scored VCE VET program

Students wishing to receive an ATAR contribution for a scored VCE VET program must undertake scored assessment for the purpose of achieving a study score.

This study score can contribute directly to the ATAR, either as one of the student’s best four studies (the primary four) or as a fifth or sixth study increment.

Where a scored Unit 3–4 sequence is used as an increment, the increment will be calculated using 10% of the scaled score.

Where a student elects not to receive a study score, no contribution to the ATAR will be available.

For more information on study scores and ATAR contributions, please refer to [VTAC](https://www.vtac.edu.au/).

Scored VCE VET program with an additional   
non-scored stream

Some scored VCE VET programs include both a scored and a non-scored Unit 3–4 sequence.

Where a non-scored Unit 3–4 sequence is undertaken, a student may be eligible for a fifth or sixth study increment. Fifth or sixth study increments are calculated using 10% of the fourth study score of the primary four.

For more information on study scores and ATAR contributions, please refer to [VTAC](https://www.vtac.edu.au/).

For more information on VCE VET programs with scored and non-scored Unit 3–4 sequences, please refer to the [VCE VET program chart](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vet/GetVET/resources/VCE-VET-program-chart.pdf).

Non-scored VCE VET programs and all other VET

Some VCE VET programs do not offer scored assessment. A student who achieves a Unit 3–4 sequence from a non-scored VCE VET program may be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR.

All other VET, including school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (VE2 – SBATs) where the certificate offers a Unit 3–4 sequence, may contribute towards a student’s ATAR as a fifth or sixth study increment.

Increments from a non-scored Unit 3–4 sequence or a Unit 3–4 sequence from all other VET are calculated using 10% of the fourth study score of the primary four.

For more information on study scores and ATAR contributions, please refer to [VTAC](https://www.vtac.edu.au/).

For more information on whether a Unit 3–4 sequence is available in a certificate, please [contact the VET Unit](mailto:vet.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au).

Please note that for a Unit 3–4 sequence to be eligible it must come from one certificate enrolment on VASS. Where credit has accrued across multiple certificates, an ATAR contribution may not be available.

Structured Workplace Learning

The VCAA has determined that Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is an appropriate and valuable component of all VCE VET programs. SWL involves on-the-job training, during which students are required to master a designated set of skills and competencies related to VCE VET programs.

SWL complements the training undertaken at the school/RTO. It provides the context for:

* enhancement of skills development
* practical application of industry knowledge
* assessment of units of competency, as determined by the RTO
* increased employment opportunities.

SWL should be spread across the duration of the training program.

The VCAA mandates SWL under the following situations:

* where a period of work placement is mandated for the award of the qualification
* where the assessment conditions from a unit of competency contain a statement regarding the requirement to demonstrate skills in a workplace

For more information, please refer to the [National Training Register](https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga).

For more information on SWL, the SWL Manual and the SWL portal, please refer to the [Department of Education](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/structured-workplace-learning/policy).

SWL recognition

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) recognition involves the development and maintenance of the Workplace Learning Record (WLR) by the student.

The work placement may be in an industry area aligned to a VCE VET program, an SBAT or any other VET qualification. It may also be in an industry area that does not align to a VET qualification that a student is undertaking. A student who is not undertaking a VET qualification may also undertake a work placement.

The completion of the WLR is a requirement for recognition by the VCAA for VCE (including VCE VM and VPC) credit.

For more information on SWL recognition, please refer to [Structured Workplace Learning](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/swl-vet/Pages/Index.aspx).

Workplace health and safety

Schools/RTOs must ensure that workplace health and safety (WHS) is fully addressed in the training program.

The principal is responsible for ensuring the school meets its responsibilities for students in SWL arrangements.

Where the student will be employed under an SWL arrangement, the principal must be satisfied that the student is undertaking training in the WHS unit of competency before the arrangement can be entered into.

Students must be informed of the significance of work-related hazards. They must understand the need for, and the nature of, workplace risk controls such as safe working procedures and the use of personal protective clothing and equipment.

Schools must also be satisfied, through their review of the acknowledgement provided by employers on the SWL Arrangement form, that the workplace in question and the activities proposed will not expose a student to risk during their structured work placement.

Employers must view their duty of care towards students as essentially no different from that owed to their employees. They must understand that students cannot be expected to possess the judgement or maturity to undertake any task that presents potential risk. This means that no student may be exposed at any time to dangerous plant machinery, equipment, substances, work environments or work practices.

On the first morning of their placement, students should be introduced to their supervisor and provided with a formal induction to the workplace. This will include first-aid, emergency and incident reporting arrangements.

The student should be given an orientation tour of the workplace, during which any excluded areas or activities should be pointed out. Students should be instructed to report without delay anything they feel may be unsafe. They should be encouraged to ask for help or further instruction if they are not sure of the correct way to carry out any task.

Close supervision of students undertaking SWL is essential. Supervisors nominated by the employer must understand all requirements for safely managing a student’s activities. Supervisors must understand that a student may not fully grasp information or instructions the first time they are told. They should encourage students to ask for help if they have forgotten instructions or if they experience difficulty with putting information into practice.

For more information, please refer to [WorkSafe Victoria](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/).

VCE Season of Excellence

The VCE Season of Excellence is a five-month annual festival showcasing the outstanding work of senior secondary students from Victorian schools. The VCE Season of Excellence presents work created by VCE (including VCE VM and VPC) and VET students in design, technology, research, multimedia and cinematic, and visual and performing arts through exhibitions, screenings and performances supported by educational talks, forums and panel discussions, catalogues, programs and online material.

The annual VCE Season of Excellence comprises 12 concerts (Top Class and Top Acts), two exhibitions (Top Designs and Top Arts), a research presentation program (Top Talks) and multiple screenings of short films (Top Screen) presented at Melbourne’s major cultural venues from February to June.

Works on show are by a representative sample of outstanding students from the previous year, for the benefit of current students and teachers.

The VCE Season of Excellence is a cross-sectoral project, involving students from government, Catholic and independent schools. Staff from the three sectors are on audition and selection panels. The aim of the VCE Season of Excellence is to provide a benchmark for VCE assessment and curriculum by showcasing exemplary student work and associated education programs.

The VCE Season of Excellence audition and selection panels comprise state reviewers and assistant state reviewers for visual arts studies, the chief assessors and assistant chief assessors for performing arts studies, subject association representatives where appropriate, and regional teacher representatives. Regional teacher representatives are appointed every two years through SSMS. VCAA Notices to Schools and the VCAA *Bulletin* advise when vacancies are available on panels.

The VCE Season of Excellence directly supports the VCAA’s goal to support high-quality education, recognise student achievement and best practice for teaching, and encourage students to move into allied work areas and further study.

For more information, please refer to [VCE Season of Excellence](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/events-and-awards/season-of-excellence/Pages/Index.aspx).

VCAA professional learning

The VCAA offers a range of professional learning opportunities for principals, teachers and school administration staff.

For more information, please refer to [VCAA professional learning](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/professional-learning/Pages/index.aspx).