VCE VET Animal Studies

Program Extract

Incorporating

ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies (Release 1)

July 2018

This program is for implementation from July 2018.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

VICTORIA State Government

Modification history

Version	Status	Release Date	Comments
1.0	Replaced	July 2018	Original Program

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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 both the VCE and a nationally portable Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate. VCE VET programs:

- are fully recognised within the Units 1 to 4 structure of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and therefore may contribute towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. VCE VET units have equal status with other VCE studies
- may contribute to the satisfactory completion of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)
- function within the National Training Framework.

Program development

The VCE VET Animal Studies program is for implementation from 2018 and must be used in conjunction with the ACM Animal Care and Management training package. This program replaces the VCE VET Animal Studies program published in November 2011 and all subsequent program summaries. This revision to the VCE VET Animal Studies program is a consequence of the revision to the ACM10 Animal Care and Management training package.

The VCE VET Animal Studies Program Extract must be used in conjunction with the nationally endorsed ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package (Release 1) and ACM Implementation Guide (Release 1). The training package provides details on each unit of competency, the qualification packaging rules and assessment requirements.

The VCE VET Animal Studies program provides students with the knowledge and skills to enhance their employment prospects in the animal care and management industry.

Program information

This program extract must be read in conjunction with the *VCE VET Program Guide* and the ACM Animal Care and Management nationally endorsed training package.

Transition arrangements

Arrangements for continuing students

Students enrolled in ACM20110 Certificate II in Animal Studies, can continue in ACM20110 to complete their training in 2018. No new students may enroll in ACM20110 Certificate II in Animal Studies from 2018 and beyond.

Students commencing in 2018 and beyond

All students commencing a VCE VET Animal Studies program in 2018 and beyond must comply with the requirements outlined in this extract.

Industry overview

Training package

The Animal Care and Management industry can be described as having five sectors: veterinary services, animal breeding services, pet and companion animal services, captive wildlife operations and hunting and trapping.

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 due to 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 including animal rehabilitation, physiotherapy and acupuncture, large animal rescue, horse education, customer service and management using digital technologies, and animal surveillance technologies.

Qualifications / packaging rules

ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies

Students must achieve twelve units of competency to gain ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies, including:

- eight core units of competency
- four elective units of competency of which
  - two units must be selected from Group A
  - two units must be selected from Group A and /or Group B, or any currently endorsed Training Package or accredited course.

This qualification provides an introductory overview of skills that can be applied in animal care and management. It includes skills in animal care, hygiene routines, nutrition, behavior, wellbeing, handling and health and safety of animals. This qualification reflects the roles of individuals who undertake mainly routine work. Typical occupational outcomes at this level are: animal care attendant, animal shelter attendant, kennel attendant, pet shop attendant and assistant dog groomer. Animal care and management, especially animal welfare has relevance to a number of sectors, including agriculture, racing, sport and recreation, medical research, local government and conservation.

VCE VET Animal Studies program details

Aims

The VCE VET Animal Studies program aims to:

- provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and competencies that will enhance their employment prospects in the animal care and management and related industries
- enable participants to gain a recognised credential and to make an informed choice of vocation or career path.

Structure

The revised VCE VET Animal Studies program comprises a certificate II with VCE credit at Units 1 to 4 level. This certificate is typically completed over two years.

The identified units of competency in the VCE VET Animal Studies program have been selected for recognition purposes and may vary from the qualification packaging rules.

Qualifications

ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies

The Certificate II in Animal Studies comprises 12 units of competency: eight compulsory units and a minimum of four elective units. Students may choose electives from a variety of sector specific units, including infection control, biosecurity, veterinary nursing, equine and horse breeding.

VCE VET Credit

On successful completion of the VCE VET Animal Studies program, students will be eligible for:

- the award of ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies
- up to two VCE units at Units 1 and 2 level
- a VCE Units 3 and 4 sequence.

VCE VET units accrue in the following order: Unit 1, 2, 3, 4 and may be accumulated over more than one year.

Nominal hour duration

Nominal hours are determined by the Victorian State Training Authority (Department of Education and Training), they reflect the anticipated time taken to deliver and assess the outcomes of a unit of competency excluding unsupervised delivery or the time taken for repeated practical application of skills.

Nominal hours are used to determine credit into the VCE or VCAL for VET units of competency.

Duplication

When a VCE VET program significantly duplicates other VCE studies or VET training in a student's program, a reduced VCE unit entitlement may apply. Credit towards the VCAL may also be reduced due to duplication.

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

Credit for a unit of competency will only be counted once towards the VCE or VCAL.

Sequence

Certain units of competency will complement each other, lending to coordinated delivery that minimises content overlap. Units of competency have guidelines on the different situations and delivery contexts, and a range of delivery sequences are 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 following considerations should be used in determining the sequence of a student's VCE VET Animal Studies program:

- The sequencing of all other units of competency is determined by the registered training organisation; however, it is anticipated that a number of the core units of competency will be undertaken in the first year of the program.
- It should be noted that a student needs to have commenced or completed *ACMWHS2001 Participate in workplace health and safety processes* prior to engaging in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) aligned to this program.
- *AHCHBR203 Provide daily care of horses, has a* prerequisite *ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behavior*. This means that an individual must be competent in the prerequisite unit of competency before undertaking any assessment in the unit containing the prerequisite.
- *ACMVET201, ACMVET202 and ACMVET203 units of competency* have specific assessment conditions and new performance evidence.

Safety

This program may involve potential hazards associated with working near or handling animals. It is the responsibility of the school and the RTO to ensure that duty of care is exercised in relation to the health and safety of all students during training.

The *User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* has been designed to assist assessors, trainers, registered training organisations (RTOs) and enterprises to deliver equine training. It aims to provide detailed information on safety and risk management when interacting (handling and/or riding) with horses. This guide can be accessed at: <vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/download.aspx?url=https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Public%20Documents/CV.1705.SafetyInEquineTrainingUserGuide.201711.pdf>.

Using animals for educational purposes may require approval from the Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee. To determine whether approval is required for your teaching activity, and for further information about teaching with animals, visit: <www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/Pages/animals>.

VCE VET Animal Studies program structure

ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies

Code	Unit Title	Nominal Hours
Units 1–4		
Compulsory:		
ACMGAS201	Work in the animal care industry	30
ACMGAS202	Participate in workplace communications	20
ACMGAS203	Complete animal care hygiene routines	30
ACMGAS204	Feed and water animals	40
ACMGAS205	Assist in the health care of animals	40
ACMGAS206	Provide basic first aid for animals	30
ACMWHS201	Participate in workplace health and safety processes	40
ACMSUS201	Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices	20
	Subtotal:	**250**
Electives: Select **a minimum of four** electives: Electives must comprise: • **two** units from Group A • **two** units from the remaining electives Group A, or from electives in Group B		
	Minimum nominal hours for Units 1 to 4:	**360**

Group A		
ACMGAS207+	Provide reception services for an animal care facility	30
ACMGAS208	Source information for animal care needs	40
ACMGAS209	Provide information on companion animals, products and services	40
ACMGAS210	Prepare for and conduct a tour or presentation	30
ACMINF301#	Comply with infection control policies and procedures in animal care work	60
ACMVET201	Assist with veterinary nursing reception duties	30
ACMVET202	Carry out daily practice routines	40
ACMVET203	Assist with surgery preparation	40
HLTAID003	Provide first aid	18

Code	Unit Title	Nominal Hours
Group B		
ACMSPE301	Provide basic care of amphibians	40
ACMSPE302	Provide basic care of birds	40
ACMSPE303	Provide basic care of common native mammals	40
ACMSPE304	Provide basic care of domestic dogs	40
ACMSPE305	Provide basic care of domestic cats	40
ACMSPE306	Provide basic care of marine fish	40
ACMSPE307	Provide basic care of freshwater fish	40
ACMSPE308	Provide basic care of marine invertebrates	40
ACMSPE309	Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates	40
ACMSPE310	Provide basic care of mammals	40
ACMSPE311	Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles	40
ACMSPE312	Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits	40
Imported electives (a maximum of two units)		
ACMHBR203*	Provide daily care for horses	40
ACMEQU205	Apply knowledge of horse behaviour	60
MSL973004	Perform aseptic techniques	40
MSL973007	Perform microscopic examination	40
SIRRMER003	Coordinate visual merchandising activities	35
AHCBIO302#	Identify and report unusual disease or plant pest signs	50
ACMCAS307	Provide companion animal hydro-bathing services	40
ACMGAS302	Provide enrichment for animals	40
	Minimum elective subtotal:	**113**
	Minimum Total VCE VET program:	**363**
Introductory Electives Group Units of competency that form the 'Introductory electives group' below may contribute to the VCE VET program at Units 1 and 2 level. They should be considered in addition to the minimum requirements of the Certificate II in Animal Studies.		
ACMGAS101	Investigate job opportunities in animal care and related industries	10
ACMGAS102	Catch and handle a range of quiet animals	40
ACMGAS103	Assist in the care of animals	40

Notes:

* The pre-requisite unit of competency for this unit is *ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour*

\# Training Package Skill Set *ACMSS00012 Preventative Biosecurity Skill Set* (2 units)

\+ Specified work periods

ATAR Contribution

Students who receive a Units 3 and 4 sequence for VCE VET Animal Studies will be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR (10% of the average of the primary four scaled studies).

The increment is awarded by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Further information about the ATAR is available on the VTAC website:

- Study rules: <www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-rules>.
- Study groupings: <www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-groupings>.

Note: From 2019, increments for unscored VCE VET programs will be calculated using 10% of the lowest study score of the primary four. The policy change is outlined in the *VTAC Gazette* Nov–Dec 2017: <www.vtac.edu.au/files/pdf/publications/gazette/VTAC_Gazette_Nov-Dec_2017.pdf>.

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

Structured Workplace Learning

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) provides students with the opportunity to integrate practical on-the-job experience and learnings in industry with nationally recognised VET undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL. It provides the context for:

- enhanced skill development
- practical application of industry knowledge
- assessment of units of competency, and
- enhanced employment opportunities.

The VCAA recommends a minimum of **80 hours** of SWL over the duration of the VCE VET Animal Studies program.

Further information on SWL arrangements is available on the VCAA and Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) websites:

- <www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vet/swl>.
- <www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/careers/work/Pages/structuredlearning>.

Note: a student needs to have commenced or completed *ACMWHS2001 Participate in workplace health and safety processes* prior to engaging in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) aligned to this program.

SWL Recognition

Structured workplace learning recognition (SWLR) involves the development and maintenance of the workplace learning record (WLR) by the student and accessed at school. The completion of the WLR is a requirement for recognition by the VCAA for VCE and VCAL credit. The VCE VET Animal Studies program offers SWLR. Further details are available on the VCAA website: <www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vet/publications/swlr/recognition>.

Additional information

For updates or information regarding this program, refer to:

- the VCE VET Animal Studies program page on the VCAA website: <www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vet/programs/animalstudies/animalstudies>.
- the *VCAA Bulletin* page: <www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/correspondence/index.aspx>.

Pathways

The VCE VET Animal Studies program allows learners to move upwards and across AQF levels and industry sectors. The VCAA recommends study at the lower levels to develop industry foundation skills before moving to higher level qualifications.

The Animal Care and Management Industry can be divided into five sectors: veterinary services, animal breeding services, pet and companion animal services, captive wildlife operations, and hunting and trapping.

Animal care and management, especially animal welfare has relevance to a number of sectors, including agriculture, racing, sport and recreation, medical research, local government and conservation.

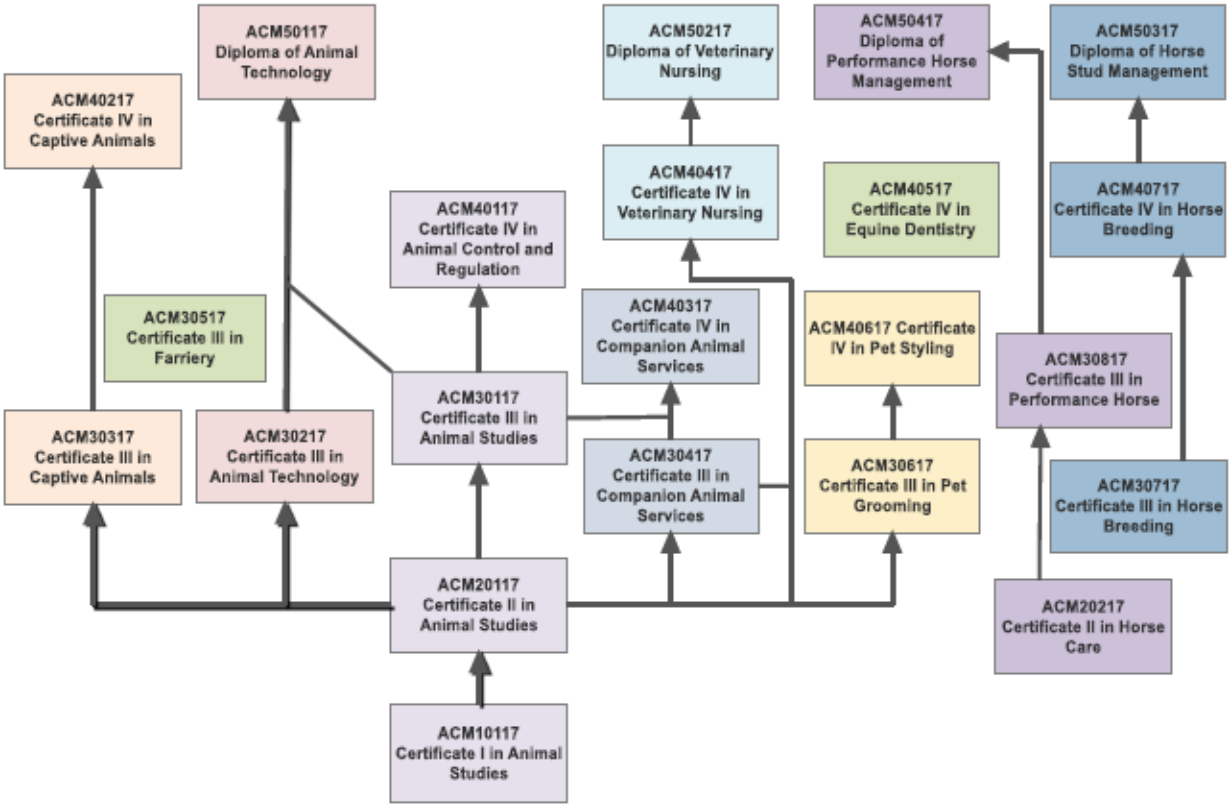

Diagram sourced from, the *ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Implementation Guide*, Release 1, p. 29.

Appendix: Sample programs

Sample 1: Certificate II in Animal Studies

The program allows for:

- two VCE units at Units 1, 2 level
- a VCE Units 3 and 4 sequence
- completion over two years of ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies.

Year 1: ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies

Code	Unit Title	Nominal Hours
Compulsory		
ACMGAS204	Feed and water animals	40
ACMGAS202	Participate in workplace communications	20
ACMGAS203	Complete animal care hygiene routines	30
ACMWHS201	Participate in workplace health and safety processes	40
Electives		
ACMVET201	Assist with veterinary nursing reception duties	30
ACMVET202	Carry out daily practice routines	40
	Total for Year 1:	**200**

Year 2: ACM20117 Certificate II in Animal Studies

Code	Unit Title	Nominal Hours
Compulsory		
ACMGAS201	Work in the animal care industry	30
ACMGAS205	Assist in the health care of animals	40
ACMGAS206	Provide basic first aid for animals	30
ACMSUS201	Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices	20
Electives		
ACMSPE304	Provide basic care of domestic dogs	40
ACMGAS209	Provide information on companion animals, products and services	40
	Total for Year 2:	**200**
	Total for Sample Program:	**400**