



PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

VET industry specific Year 11 and Year 12 syllabus

National Training Package

AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management (Release 11.0)

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Important information

This syllabus is effective from 1 January 2026.

Users of this syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

VET industry specific courses are updated periodically to comply with the most current national training package release.

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Rationale

The vocational education and training (VET) industry specific Primary Industries course provides students with the opportunity to achieve nationally recognised vocational qualifications under the *Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)* and to gain School Curriculum and Standards Authority (Authority) course unit credit towards the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The course is based on nationally endorsed training packages. It specifies the range of industry-developed units of competency from the relevant training packages that is suitable for the WACE. To meet the 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.

The VET industry specific Primary Industries course provides opportunities for the completion of Certificate I and Certificate II qualifications and for students to access short-term and long-term employment opportunities. Students develop relevant technical, vocational and interpersonal competencies suitable for employment and further training in the primary industries, as well as skills, knowledge and experiences that are transferable to other industry areas.

This course encourages students to engage in a vocational context with senior secondary education, fosters a positive transition from school to work and provides a structure within which students can prepare for further education, training and employment.

Course delivery

VET industry specific courses have the status of an Authority-developed course and enable students to achieve dual accreditation for a nationally endorsed qualification and meet course completion requirements for the WACE.

When considering VET delivery, schools are advised to:

- refer to the VET section of the *WACE Manual*
- contact their school systems/sector representative for information on operational considerations relating to VET delivery options in schools.

VET can be delivered by schools, providing they meet the appropriate VET regulatory requirements. Schools need to become a registered training organisation (RTO) or work in partnership with an RTO for the delivery, assessment and certification of training.

It is the responsibility of the RTO to determine that requirements are met when delivering and assessing VET. This includes ensuring that teachers and trainers have the required qualifications to deliver VET industry specific courses.

VET training and assessment requirements

The VET sector's regulatory arrangements are designed to maintain the standards of nationally recognised training.

In Western Australia, the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) is responsible for quality assurance and recognition processes for RTOs with scope of delivery limited to Western Australia and Victoria, domestic students, and for the accreditation of courses.

For information on how the TAC regulates VET, refer to their website at www.tac.wa.gov.au.

For RTOs in partnership with Western Australian schools, but with scope of delivery not limited to Western Australia or Victoria, quality assurance is regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). Both ASQA and the TAC regulate RTOs using the *2025 Standards for RTOs*.

For information on the *VET Quality Framework* and VET regulation by ASQA, refer to their website at www.asqa.gov.au.

The delivery of training and assessment of VET requires that the assessment be conducted according to the national *2025 Standards for RTOs*, which include the requirements for all training and assessment to be conducted by a suitably qualified trainer and assessor in partnership with an RTO that is scoped to deliver the training and assessment.

For more information on the requirements for training and assessment, refer to the policy guidance and practice guides on the ASQA website at www.asqa.gov.au.

Workplace learning

The Authority-developed Workplace Learning (ADWPL) endorsed program is a mandatory co-requisite for a VET industry specific course. Mandated workplace learning must commence in the same year as enrolment in the VET industry specific course and can be met within the first year of a two-year program. The requirements for mandated workplace learning may be met within one year of a two-year program. Workplace learning time is required for each of the qualifications in this course. The number of workplace learning hours required is specified for each qualification within this course. The work placement must be industry-related and occur while the course units are being undertaken.

Workplace learning is essential for this course as it enables the students to:

- collect evidence towards achievement of units of competency
- develop positive attitudes towards work
- apply skills acquired in an industry context
- develop additional employability skills and knowledge
- actively engage with industry.

Non-completion of any required workplace hours or equivalents may result in a 'requirements not met' (RNM) status for the course hours and will be reflected as a U (Unfinished) notation.

Course content

A VET industry specific course includes a full, nationally recognised AQF qualification and mandatory industry-related workplace learning, and contributes towards the WACE as course unit credit instead of unit equivalence. The most current training packages are used in these courses, which are updated regularly as new versions of training packages are endorsed. Training packages can be accessed at www.tac.wa.gov.au (TGA).

Units of competency

Units of competency for qualifications in the VET industry specific Primary Industries course come from the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

Units of competency specify the standards of performance required in the workplace. They are statements of the skills and knowledge required for effective performance in a particular job or job function as agreed nationally by industry.

Trainers need to refer to the relevant training package for further details of the elements, performance criteria, foundation skills, range of conditions and evidence requirements for specific units of competency. Teachers and trainers should check the RTO's scope of registration before determining which elective units of competency are to be included in delivery and assessment programs. This can be determined during initial discussions when considering a partnership arrangement between the school and RTO.

Time and completion requirements

VET industry specific course units are packaged as either two or four WACE course units, linked to a specified qualification, and only awarded upon the completion of all of the course requirements.

Unlike other WACE courses, VET industry specific course units are paired in both Year 11 (Units 1 and 2) and Year 12 (Units 3 and 4) syllabuses. A student who withdraws from a VET industry specific course after only one semester will **not** receive VET industry specific course units for that academic year.

VET industry specific courses can be delivered over one year or two years.

The number of Workplace Learning endorsed program unit equivalents to be completed varies according to the qualification offered. Students must complete all components of the course before the full allocation of VET industry specific course unit credit can be applied.

Course unit credit

Course unit credit for VET industry specific courses is awarded as 'completed' for each VET industry specific course unit. The achievement descriptor 'completed' contributes in the same manner as a C grade or better for all other WACE course units.

Regardless of the academic year in which a VET industry specific course is completed, WACE course credit is allocated across both Year 11 (Units 1 and 2) and Year 12 (Units 3 and 4). That is, part of the achievement allocation of a VET industry specific course is applied as either retrospective or projected credit, depending on the year in which the course requirements are completed.

If a student does not successfully complete all components of the VET industry specific course, the student is awarded a U (Unfinished) notation for the Year 12 units (Units 3 and 4). Course credit for Year 11 units (Units 1 and 2) for a partially completed Certificate II or Certificate III VET industry specific course may be awarded under the following conditions:

- **Qualification component:** completion of equal to or greater than 110 nominal hours of the VET industry specific qualification
and
- **Workplace learning component:** completion of at least one unit equivalent of the Workplace Learning endorsed program in an industry relevant to the qualification industry area.

If the conditions for Year 11 Units 1 and 2 are not met by the end of an academic year, a U (Unfinished) notation is awarded until such time as these conditions have been met.

If the requirements are not achieved in Year 11, but are subsequently achieved in Year 12, retrospective credit for the Year 11 Units 1 and 2 will be awarded. If a student exits the VET industry specific course at the end of Year 11 and has completed the requirements for Year 11 Units 1 and 2, credit is awarded as 'completed' (has met the C grade standard for a WACE course) and retained by the student for WACE contribution.

Units of competency only contribute towards the WACE once. Therefore, student enrolments in units of competency in VET industry specific course qualifications are enrolled as VET integrated into the relevant VET industry specific course units. VET integrated units of competency do not attract unit equivalence.

Assessment

The assessment of VET industry specific courses must be conducted by a qualified assessor in partnership with an RTO, which may be a school, TAFE, or private training provider, and in accordance with the national *2025 Standards for RTOs*.

All assessment requirements 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.

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. A student who is assessed as competent on all required competencies for the VET industry specific course and completes the mandatory workplace learning requirements as specified is awarded 'completed' for Year 11 Units 1 and 2, and Year 12 Units 3 and 4.

All successfully completed qualifications and associated units of competency are recorded on the student's Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA).

Primary Industries qualifications

AHC10222 Certificate I in Agriculture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge required for individuals preparing for entry-level work in the agriculture and conservation and ecosystem management industries.

They undertake a range of simple tasks under close supervision. The range of technical skills and knowledge is limited.

The qualification is suited to VET programs delivered to secondary school students or learners with no previous connection to the agriculture or conservation and land management industries or relevant employment history.

Job roles

There are no specific job outcomes to this qualification; however, the skills achieved will assist learners to access a Certificate II pre-vocational program or job outcome qualification, or will facilitate entry into an Australian Apprenticeship.

Future pathways

The *Post-Secondary Pathways* document for this course provides an illustration of pathways into higher-level qualifications and career options for students who have undertaken this course. Refer to the relevant VET industry specific course page on the Authority website under the Support Materials heading at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/primary-industries>.

UNIT VEPIF

This VET industry specific course uses the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package as a framework for the achievement of a full AQF qualification. It should be read in conjunction with the training package available at www.training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC10222.

Note: as qualifications and training packages may be updated at various times throughout the year, schools are advised to refer to www.training.gov.au (TGA) to ensure they are delivering the most current version of the qualification. If the qualification has been superseded, it can only be delivered within the transition period.

Students must complete a total of **six** (6) units of competency. These consist of **two** (2) core units and **four** (4) elective units. Core units of competency cannot be substituted.

At least **two** (2) elective units must be selected from the list provided within the packaging rules on TGA. The remaining **two** (2) elective units may be selected from the list of electives provided in the qualification or from units packaged in Certificates I or II in the AHC training package or from any other currently endorsed training package or accredited course.

The Certificate I in Agriculture completed in this course results in the achievement of **two** (2) Year 11 course units. Completion of 55 hours of work placement (equivalent to **one** (1) ADWPL endorsed program unit equivalent) is compulsory to meet course requirements and must be from industry-related placement/employment relevant to the job outcome at this level.

AHC20122 Certificate II in Agriculture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for general job roles in rural and regional Australia and supporting job roles in agriculture, including livestock production, cropping or in the case of mixed farming workplaces, both cropping and livestock. Note: students undertaking this qualification must do so under circumstances that ensure all training and assessment is conducted on a working farm and/or at an agricultural college. The Certificate II in Rural Productions with an Agriculture focus is an alternative for students who are unable to access immersive training and assessment on a working farm and/or at an agricultural college.

Job roles

Job roles vary across different industry sectors and may include:

- assistant animal attendant/stockperson
- assistant farm or station hand/worker/labourer
- assistant farm fencing contractor
- farm machinery worker
- jillaroo/jackaroo
- saleyard livestock worker.

Depending on the units selected, individuals can be employed not only in agriculture but also other rural regional sectors.

Individuals with this qualification carry out routine tasks under supervision where the work is predictable and structured with limited judgement requirements.

The qualification is suited to VET programs delivered to secondary school students or learners with no previous connection to the agriculture industry or relevant employment history.

Future pathways

The *Post-Secondary Pathways* document for this course provides an illustration of pathways into higher-level qualifications and career options for students who have undertaken this course. Refer to the relevant VET industry specific course page on the Authority website under Support Materials for the current year at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/primary-industries>.

Units VEVPIA and VTVPIA

This VET industry specific course uses the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package as a framework for the achievement of a full AQF qualification. It should be read in conjunction with the training package available at www.training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC20122.

Note: as qualifications and training packages may be updated at various times throughout the year, schools are advised to refer to www.training.gov.au (TGA) to ensure they are delivering the most current version of the qualification. If the qualification has been superseded, it can only be delivered within the transition period.

Students must complete a total of **sixteen** (16) units of competency. These consist of **four** (4) core units and **twelve** (12) elective units. Core units of competency cannot be substituted.

Elective units must ensure the integrity of the qualification's Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) alignment and contribute to a valid, industry-supported vocational outcome. Elective units must consist of a minimum of **six** (6) units from elective Group A or B and the remaining **six** (6) must be selected from electives listed in Groups A, B or C, or any currently endorsed Training Package or accredited course. Electives from Group C can only be selected where required as a prerequisite.

The Certificate II in Agriculture completed in this course results in the achievement of **four** (4) course units (two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units). Completion of 110 hours of work placement (equivalent to **two** (2) ADWPL endorsed program unit equivalents) is compulsory to meet course requirements and must be from industry-related placement/employment relevant to the job outcome at this level.

AHC21216 Certificate II in Rural Operations

This qualification provides an occupational outcome for industries and agencies in rural and regional Australia.

Job roles

This qualification provides an occupational outcome in agriculture, horticulture and conservation land management and at least one and up to three other related industries.

Depending on the units selected, individuals will be able to seek employment not only in rural industries but also other industry sectors, such as local government, tourism, hospitality, transport, construction, information technology and metals.

Future pathways

The *Post-Secondary Pathways* document for this course provides an illustration of pathways into higher-level qualifications and career options for students who have undertaken this course. Refer to the relevant VET industry specific course page on the Authority website under the Support Materials heading at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/vet-industry-specific/primary-industries>.

Units VEVPIA and VTVPIA

This VET industry specific course uses the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package as a framework for the achievement of a full AQF qualification. It should be read in conjunction with the training package available at www.training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC21216.

Note: as qualifications and training packages may be updated at various times throughout the year, schools are advised to refer to www.training.gov.au (TGA) to ensure they are delivering the most current version of the qualification. If the qualification has been superseded, it can only be delivered within the transition period.

Students must complete a total of **fifteen** (15) units of competency. These consist of **three** (3) core units and **twelve** (12) elective units. Core units of competency cannot be substituted.

Elective units must consist of a minimum of **seven** (7) units from Certificate II in the AHC endorsed training package. A maximum of **five** (5) additional units may be selected from units aligned to Certificates II or III from up to three other currently endorsed training packages or accredited courses. Selected units must be relevant to job outcomes in AgriFood industries.

The Certificate II in Rural Operations completed in this course results in the achievement of **four** (4) course units (two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units). Completion of 110 hours of work placement (equivalent to **two** (2) ADWPL endorsed program unit equivalents) is compulsory to meet course requirements and must be from industry-related placement/employment relevant to the job outcome at this level.

