

Board Developed and Content Endorsed VET courses for the Higher School Certificate – minimum length and delivery

ACE 6003

Last Updated: 3 September 2021

The minimum length of ‘standalone’ Board Developed and Content Endorsed VET Courses is **120 hours**.

Students who complete only 60 hours of a 120-hour **VET Framework course** or of a **VET Content Endorsed Course** will not be accredited for one ‘standalone’ unit within their pattern(s) of study for Higher School Certificate eligibility. Such students will, however, receive recognition within the Australian Qualifications Framework for units of competency achieved.

Schools delivering **120-hour VET Framework courses** or **Content Endorsed VET Courses** over two years must ensure that students are fully aware of these credentialling implications.

Board Developed Courses and Board Endorsed VET Courses may be delivered by schools, TAFE and private RTOs.

For students undertaking Real Estate licensing units in conjunction with the Business Services Curriculum Framework 240-hour course, the associated VET Board Endorsed Course is 60 indicative hours.

Board Endorsed (BECs) Higher School Certificate courses – categories

ACE 6005

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

There are three categories of Board Endorsed Courses – Content Endorsed Courses (CECs), School Developed Courses and University Developed Courses.

Content Endorsed Courses are developed by NESA to cater for a wide candidature in areas of specific need not served by Board Developed Courses.

School Developed Courses are designed by an individual school, or group of schools, to meet the local needs of a group of students. School Developed Courses require the endorsement of NESA through the School Developed Board Endorsed Course Panel.

University Developed Courses are developed by universities in conjunction with a school or group of schools or school system for the particular needs of high-ability Stage 6 students. They require the endorsement of NESA through the University Developed Board Endorsed Course Panel.

Assessment and Credentialling

Content Endorsed and **School Developed Board Endorsed** Courses, when completed as HSC courses, are not externally examined and have an unmoderated school assessment mark recorded on the Higher School Certificate Record of Achievement. Schools are responsible for ensuring that marks submitted to NESA are aligned to the Stage 6 Board Endorsed Course Performance Descriptions.

Board Endorsed VET Courses are reported without a mark and with the notation Refer to vocational documentation.

Board Endorsed Life Skills courses are credentialled without a mark and with the notation 'Completed'.

In the case of **University Developed Board Endorsed Courses**, the delivering university reports the final assessment of the student's performance directly to the student, in accordance with normal university practice, and also provides a copy to the student's school. The name of the course and its unit value appears on the student's Higher School Certificate Record of Achievement without a mark and with the notation 'Refer to University Documentation'. It is the school's responsibility to withdraw the student from the course if it has not been satisfactorily completed. This should be done no later than the date for the submission of school assessment marks.

Results in Board Endorsed Courses are not eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Diagram of BECs

ACE 6006

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

Board Endorsed Courses (BECs)

Higher School Certificate Board Endorsed Courses (BECs) – Industry-based Learning

ACE 6007

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

Industry-based Learning is a 240-hour (2 unit x 2 years) Stage 6 Board Endorsed Course which is available only for students:

- with an approved school-based apprenticeship or traineeship contract, and
- who are also entered for the appropriate HSC VET course(s) for the formal off-the-job training component of the school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

This course is credentialled without a mark and with the notation 'Completed'.

Proposals for School Developed Board Endorsed Courses

ACE 6008

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

NESA intends that School Developed Board Endorsed Courses explore areas of the curriculum not specifically addressed by the Board Developed Courses. For this reason, NESA will not endorse a course that substantially duplicates the content and outcomes of an existing Board Developed Course. Applications for Stage 5 English, Mathematics and Science courses will not be endorsed.

The **Board Endorsement Panel** will decide, when a course proposal is submitted for endorsement, whether exclusions will apply. Schools will be notified of any exclusions in the letter of endorsement sent by NESA.

Schools wishing to obtain endorsement for Board Endorsed Courses must complete the appropriate forms and submit them to NESA by the due date via *Schools Online* (see School Developed Board Endorsed Courses).

There is also provision for the endorsement of School Developed VET Board Endorsed Courses in industry areas and/or qualifications not already available in existing VET courses (see Board Endorsed VET Courses).

Endorsement – Board Endorsed Courses (general) developed by schools

ACE 6009

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

Courses developed by schools may be endorsed for up to four consecutive years; that is, schools may deliver courses in the years indicated in the letter of endorsement.

To deliver courses beyond this period with a new or existing cohort, schools must submit a new course proposal to NESA via *Schools Online*.

Board Endorsed Courses will not be reported on the Higher School Certificate Record of Achievement unless Board endorsement is current.

Additional application forms, advice on the preparation of proposals and details about endorsement procedures can be found in *School Developed Board Endorsed Courses*.

Content Endorsed Courses

ACE 6010

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

General education Content Endorsed Courses have been developed from exemplary Board Endorsed Courses and issued by NESA. Such Content Endorsed Courses have been adapted by NESA to meet the needs of a wider group of students.

Schools may implement Content Endorsed Courses without seeking NESA approval unless they wish to make changes or additions to the courses. Schools wishing to implement a Content Endorsed Course that has been modified in any way must apply to the **Board Endorsement Panel** using the appropriate form.

Content Endorsed Courses – list of courses

ACE 6011

Last Updated: 30 July 2019

Outlines of the courses listed below may be accessed through the links here or on the NESA website and are available for implementation.

Content Endorsed Courses

- Aboriginal Languages
- Ceramics
- Computing Applications
- Exploring Early Childhood
- Marine Studies
- Photography, Video and Digital Imaging
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies
- Visual Design
- Work Studies

All courses may be studied as 1 or 2 units and as Preliminary and/or HSC courses.
TAFE-delivered VET courses with Content Endorsed status are listed on the website.

Board Endorsed VET Courses

ACE 6012

Last Updated: 11 October 2021

This rule is affected by changes made to RoSA and HSC rules and requirements in 2021.

Find these amendments in our COVID Changes for 2021.

There is provision for the endorsement of Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed Courses in industry areas and/or qualifications not already available in existing VET courses in the HSC curriculum.

VET Board Endorsed Courses include a range of types of courses that can be delivered by a variety of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). These include VET Content Endorsed Courses (VET CECs), TAFE NSW Content Endorsed Courses and VET Board Endorsed Courses.

VET Board Endorsed Courses are dual accredited with access to AQF VET qualifications and Board Endorsed HSC unit credit. VET Board Endorsed Courses do not contribute towards the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

VET Board Endorsed Courses are based on national industry training packages. They include entry-level qualifications that align to industry competency standards packaged into HSC courses. They may include a work-placement component. In some circumstances, courses based on VET accredited courses may be endorsed.

Course descriptions for all Board Endorsed VET Courses are available on the NESA website.

Each course description provides a range of information including NESA course name(s) and number(s), HSC course requirements (including any work-placement requirements), HSC course structure and any exclusions.

VET Board Endorsed Courses

ACE 6014

Last Updated: 2 April 2019

VET Board Endorsed Courses are developed by schools in partnership with school systems, RTOs, TAFE NSW or private providers and endorsed by NESA.

Once a course has been endorsed, additional schools (in partnership with an RTO with the scope to deliver the qualification) may apply for endorsement to offer the course.

If there are any changes to the course, the school is required to submit a new application for a Board Endorsed VET course.

Further information about the endorsement of VET Board Endorsed Courses, including criteria for endorsement, application processes, procedures and closing dates, are found in the *Guidelines for Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed Courses*.

Requirements for provision of VET courses for the Higher School Certificate – delivery by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) other than schools or TAFE

ACE 6015

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

The following guidelines are intended to provide guidance to schools and training organisations regarding provision of HSC VET courses by Registered Training Organisations other than schools or TAFE. They should form the basis of formal contractual arrangements between schools and Registered Training Organisations.

Guidelines

1. These guidelines apply to **Registered Training Organisations** contracted by government or non-government schools to deliver accredited VET courses as part of the NSW Higher School Certificate. Schools delivering VET courses, and TAFE NSW institutes and colleges delivering courses for the Higher School Certificate are not included in this definition.
2. *The Education Act 1990* precludes any institution other than a government school, registered and accredited non-government school or TAFE college from offering the Higher School Certificate. **Registered Training Organisations** may, however, on behalf of schools, deliver VET courses or parts of courses that contribute to the Higher School Certificate. Courses/course components delivered by RTOs for the Higher School Certificate must meet the requirements of NESAs.
3. **NESA** is required either to develop or to endorse all courses for the Higher School Certificate. In addition, VET courses for the Higher School Certificate must either be based on endorsed Training Packages or nationally accredited VET courses. **RTOs** can only enter into arrangements to deliver a VET course for the Higher School Certificate where the course has been developed or endorsed by NESAs for Higher School Certificate purposes.
4. All VET Higher School Certificate courses must be delivered by an RTO. The **RTO** must have current registration and it must be within the RTO's scope of registration to deliver the particular course or course component. **Schools** should confirm the RTO's registration on the National Training Register.
5. **The school** retains overall responsibility for monitoring course delivery and for duty of care while students are participating in courses conducted by an RTO. **The school** is also responsible for providing information to NESAs for assessing, reporting and credentialling of the course.

University Developed Board Endorsed Courses

ACE 6016

Last Updated: 29 March 2019

The criteria for the endorsement of University Developed Board Endorsed Courses are consistent with those for any new courses developed or endorsed by NESA.

University Developed Board Endorsed Courses in the HSC Course Proposal Guidelines outlines these criteria. This document contains essential advice for universities, school systems and schools wishing to initiate a university level course that:

- assists in providing for the needs of high ability students in Stage 6
- contains a body of knowledge and a degree of rigour appropriate to Stage 6 and beyond
- does not overlap significantly in content with existing Board Developed Courses, and
- adds to the current flexible pathways to the Higher School Certificate and university study.

If the university, school system and/or school(s) consider that the proposed course may meet the criteria for the endorsement of University Developed Courses, the institution(s) involved should apply to the UDBEC Panel on the official form which is available in the Guidelines on NESA's website.

Applications will be considered by the NESA UDBEC Panel which will make recommendations concerning endorsement to NESA.

Applicants should note that projects developed in one subject are not to be used either in full or in part for assessment in any other subject.

HSC assessment of VET Board Endorsed Courses

ACE 8099

Last Updated: 2 April 2019

Schools enrolling students in TAFE delivered BECs will need to liaise closely with the TAFE colleges concerned regarding assessment requirements, and ensure that students are made aware of the specific requirements for these courses.

In particular, schools should liaise with the TAFE colleges regarding the provisions for non-completion determinations and the issuing of warnings to students. TAFE reports directly to NESAs on student achievement in these courses.

Schools enrolling students in VET BECs delivered by RTOs other than schools or TAFE colleges should:

- refer to the guidelines in ACE 6015 Requirements for provision of VET courses (see Related Topics below)
- see VET Board Endorsed Courses
- All VET course proposals, including proposals for courses to be delivered by TAFE or other providers outside the school must be submitted for NESAs endorsement annually using the forms and procedures in that document.