



## Review of C and E Course Classifications FAQ

### Overview

The purpose of the Review is to examine existing Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) curriculum, assessment and moderation policies and procedures for C and E Courses, to determine if changes are required to meet the future needs of students pursuing a VET pathway, whilst at the same time meeting BSSS legislative requirements.

### Is the BSSS removing the opportunity for students to pursue a VET pathway in senior secondary?

No. The ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) recognises the value of vocational education, and the contribution of VET to quality education and enhanced transitions to work and further education.

### What are the changes?

C and E Course classifications will be superseded by the BSSS External VET Credit Unit Classification. The BSSS External VET Credit Unit classification refers to recognition of Training Packages that are not integrated into BSSS courses.

### Do schools have flexibility to provide students with a VET pathway?

Yes. Schools may deliver a BSSS A/T/M/V or A/M/V courses integrating a Training Package (Option 1), providing the school is an RTO with scope, qualified staff, and resourcing to support the Training Package. Alternatively, a school may address the needs of students wishing to pursue a competency only pathway as an RTO with scope, qualified staff, and resourcing to support the Training Package. (Option 2).



### Can school-based RTOs deliver a VET Training Package that is not integrated into a BSSS course?

Yes. Education sectors/school-based RTOs will have flexibility to deliver BSSS A/T/M/V or A/M/V courses integrating a Training Package OR exercise their RTO status and deliver a VET Training Package.

### When do the changes to the delivery of VET courses take effect?

The Board envisages a two-to-three-year transition period for the changes to be fully implemented. The C and E Course classifications will be superseded by the External VET Credit Unit classification by the end of 2023. The redevelopment of C Courses currently not available as A/T/M/V or A/M/V courses will occur in 2022 and be available for delivery from 2023.

### **What do schools need to do now?**

For schools delivering BSSS A/T/M/V or A/M/V courses with integrated VET Training Packages, no action is needed.

Should schools decide to deliver a VET Training Package not integrated into a BSSS course, they will need to consider processes and procedures for certifying students, aligned with *Standards for RTOs 2015*. Students completing these courses may apply for recognition on the BSSS Senior Secondary Certificate as External VET Credit Unit/s. School-based RTOs delivering a VET Training Package not integrated in a BSSS course must also consider the management of Training Packages updates, AVETMISS capability, and the provision of certificates.

### **Will students be disadvantaged?**

No. At a system level, the BSSS will maintain access to VET Training Packages that are currently available. Schools have autonomy to select the courses and options for delivery of VET to address the needs and interests of their students and community. Transition arrangements will be put in place so that students are not disadvantaged as a result of the changes.

### **What are the benefits for students?**

VET courses will continue to contribute to the awarding of the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. Access to current Training Packages will still be available.

On a practical level, when VET is embedded in A/T/M courses, students are still able to complete a course, without dependence on VET recognition. This course design safeguards students ensuring that their package is not at risk when there are changes in circumstances, such as in trainers or RTO scope.

The benefit for students undertaking BSSS A/T/M/V or A/M/V courses integrating a VET Training Package is that these courses also focus on the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values for diverse pathways for further learning, work, and participation in society. The courses are designed to equip students with the ability to communicate, innovate, think critically and creatively, problem solve, work collaboratively and independently, and prepares them to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Students develop social and personal capabilities, and ethical and intercultural understandings.

### **How do the recommendations incorporate feedback from public consultation?**

Feedback was strongly supportive of the provision of VET in senior secondary schools. Following public consultation, the draft recommendations were revised and redeveloped to offer options in the delivery of VET in support of school autonomy.

The options enable school leaders to address students' needs and interests, make decisions based on staffing and school resources, access flexible options to provide vocational education, and maintain current programs should they decide to do so.

### **How will schools be supported with the change?**

The BSSS will develop Professional Learning opportunities on A/T/M/V and A/M/V courses integrating a VET Training Package to support school leaders, build teacher capacity, and strengthen confidence to deliver these courses. These workshops will be developed in partnership with highly accomplished teachers and industry, to identify best practice and encompass strategies to support teachers.

### **How will BSSS External VET Credit Units (formerly C and E Courses) be recognised on the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate?**

This is yet to be determined. Underpinned by the Board's legislative framework it is envisaged that the two Board advisory committees, the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Assessment and Certification Committee (ACC), will examine research on the recognition of external VET in certifying senior secondary students in other jurisdictions, consult with experts and deliberate based on the ACT context.