



## Registered (R) Units - (FAQ)

### Overview

A Registered (R) Unit is a learning experience designed to develop capabilities for students in years 11 and 12. The Board recognises that students participate in learning that takes place outside of the formal structured learning program that exists in colleges. R units are delivered by the home college and/or conducted in partnership with external organisations. The partnership activity requires a formal agreement with an external organisation. The activity will meet the goals and content descriptions of an approved R unit.

### 1. What are the key features of R units?

- R units are organised under 5 areas:
  - college-based
  - work exploration
  - cultural
  - sport and recreation
  - community service
- Units reflect common knowledge, skills, and understandings in an area.
- R units are registered in values 0.2, 0.5 and 1.0 unit.
- R units greater than 1.0 are registered in multiples of 1.0.
- Key features of the R unit template include:
  - electives
  - title
  - student group
  - goals
  - content descriptors
  - suggested activities
  - assessment criteria
- Colleges adopt R units and electives for which they write a program of learning. The program of learning must meet the minimum requirements for a 0.2, 0.5 and 1.0 R unit.
- The program of learning does not need to be submitted to the OBSSS.
- A new generic R unit or elective may be developed providing that it does not duplicate content in existing registered units/electives. There is a process for developing new units. Refer to the policy and procedures for R units.
- Colleges adopt the R unit and electives.
- The R unit and elective title will be recorded on the academic record.
- A maximum of 5 standard units from R units can contribute to the minimum unit requirements of 17 units for the award of the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.
- For a T package, a maximum of 2.0 R units can contribute to the minimum requirements of 20 units.

## **2. How do I evaluate an activity in the context of an R unit?**

The following questions should be asked when assessing an activity for possible R Unit credit.

- a) Is the activity a learning experience?
- b) What is the goal of the learning?
- c) Which unit content descriptions address the goal of the activity?

Once the answers to these questions are established, select the appropriate R unit, and then develop a program of learning. Ensure that the program of learning meets the minimum hour requirements for the type of R unit (0.2, 0.5, and 1.0) and addresses unit goals and content descriptions.

## **3. Are all content descriptors of equal importance?**

It depends on the activity. Teachers can customise their program of learning to meet their own student needs, adding additional content descriptions if desired or emphasising some over others.

## **4. How closely do we have to follow the assessment criteria?**

The purpose of an R unit is to recognise the time a student engages in a learning experience. Evidence needs to be kept of hours involved in learning which relates to the goals. Teachers can use their professional judgement to determine whether a student has met additional assessment criteria.

## **5. Our college historically gave students an R unit for blood donation. Can I still award students an R unit for blood donation?**

Given that an R unit is a learning experience, blood donation could be one experience in a suite of activities that addresses the goals and content descriptions of the Community - Service R unit and which together meet the minimum number of hours required for a 0.2, 0.5 or 1.0 R unit. Alternatively, you can still donate blood without being given an R unit if there is no development of knowledge and skills.

## **6. A student learns an instrument outside school. Can these hours count towards an R unit?**

R units are delivered by a college or in partnership with an external organisation. A partnership is a formal arrangement between the college and the organisation. If no such written agreement, outlining the activity and signed by the principal, exists, outside tuition does not qualify. (An agreement between a parent and tutor does not count.)

## **7. A student plays for a community football club, represented the ACT at a carnival interstate and has been recognised by the Academy of Sport. Does this student qualify for an R unit?**

Assuming that there is no formal agreement between the college and community football club, the student does not qualify for an R unit.

## **8. Can Questacon schools training program count?**

Yes, as the college facilitates students' engagement in this program. The elective would not be called Questacon. The unit would be called Extension program – Science.

**9. Can VET qualifications that have been awarded by an external Registered Training Organisation (RTO) count as R units?**

Yes, but only if the number of hours studied is less than 27.5 hours. If the study is more than 27.5 hours, this training would appear under E courses. The R units are called: Training Program – Bar Service RSA, Training Program – Clubstart or Training Program – White Card and Asbestos Awareness.

**10. If a student has been in a class for a semester and has attended and participated regularly, but did not submit 70% of the assessment or did not meet 90% attendance requirement, can I give them an R unit?**

Yes, as long as the Content Descriptors and Assessment Criteria of the R unit have been completed the student can be given an R unit called Class Participation – elective, where the elective is the name of the subject being studied, from the elective list.

**11. A student has done 20 hours in Student Representative Council and 10 hours as a youth mentor. What R unit can be given to the student?**

Both activities can be described as demonstrating student leadership. The student has done 30 hours, which meets the requirement for a 0.5 unit (27.5 hrs) but is not enough for a 1.0 unit (55 hrs). The student could therefore be awarded a 0.5 R unit Leadership – Student Leadership Group.