Block Credit Recognition Review

Discussion Paper - Proposed Revised Models

The VCAA VET Unit is seeking feedback from Schools, RTOs and other stakeholders regarding the proposed models for Block Credit Recognition.

Students who undertake Vocational Education and Training (VET) or Further Education (FE) qualifications that are not included in the suite of approved VCE VET programs and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships may be eligible for credit towards their VCE through block credit recognition. VCAL credit is based on the same principle.

Note: Qualifications that provide credit into the VCE or VCAL through b​lock credit recognition appear on the VASS with the certificate type 'VFE'.

The following models have been developed as alternatives to the current recognition guidelines. Please review the models and provide feedback via the online survey.

The Models

Each proposed model offers a variety of methods of credit calculations with overarching principles that:

* Provide greater clarity with concise rules and instructions
* Ensure VCE VET Programs are the default option
* Limit the amount of credit for all Block Credit Qualifications
* Ensure available credit does not exceed that which is available for similar VCE VET Programs.

Model 1 – UNIT LEVEL (Based on Current Practice)

Credit toward the VCE and VCAL is determined by the AQF level at which the units of competency/modules (UoC/Ms) are recognised and the nominal hours of training completed.

The following guidelines apply:

* Attainment of UoC/Ms at AQF level II provides credit at Units 1 and 2 level.
* Attainment of UoC/Ms at AQF level III or above provides credit at Units 3 and 4 level.
* 90 nominal hours of training is required for each VCE Unit.
* The award of credit will take into account issues of duplication with other VCE studies or VCE VET programs and other VET undertaken by the student.

Where available, a Units 3 and 4 sequence will be awarded on satisfactory completion of 180 nominal hours at AQF level III, according to the guidelines above.

Credit is capped at a maximum of 2 x Units 3 and 4 sequences per qualification.

Model 2 – QUALIFICATION LEVEL

Credit toward the VCE and VCAL is determined by the AQF level of the qualification and the nominal hours of training completed.

The following guidelines apply:

* Certificate II qualifications provide credit at Units 1 and 2 level only.
* Certificate III qualifications provides credit at Units 1,2, 3 and 4 level.
* Certificate IV and above qualifications, approved by the VCAA, will provide credit up to a maximum of 2 x Unit 3 and 4 sequences towards the VCE or 4 credits towards the VCAL.
* 90 nominal hours of training is required for each VCE Unit.
* The award of credit will take into account issues of duplication with other VCE studies or VCE VET programs and other VET undertaken by the student.

A Units 3 and 4 sequence will be awarded on satisfactory completion of 360 nominal hours from an AQF level III qualification, according to the guidelines above.

Credit is capped at a maximum of 2 x Units 3 and 4 sequences per qualification.

Model 3 – CERTIFICATE COMPLETION

Credit toward the VCE and VCAL is determined by completion of a qualification.

The following guidelines apply:

* Certificate II qualifications provide 2 units of credit - Units 1 and 2 level only.
* Certificate III qualifications provide 4 units of credit. Units 1 and 2, one Unit 3 and 4 sequence.
* Certificate IV or Diploma level qualifications provides 4 units of credit. 2 x Unit 3 and 4 sequences
* The award of credit will take into account issues of duplication with other VCE studies or VCE VET programs and other VET undertaken by the student.

Apprenticeship qualifications would be approved with a slightly different model of credit available at Units 1-4 based on an accumulation of hours for partial completion.

Model 4 – VFE CREDIT LIST

Credit toward the VCE and VCAL is determined by the VCAA and each qualification has defined credit.

The nominal hours would determine the volume of credit according to a defined list developed by the VCAA. The list of approved VFE credit courses would be published each year.

The following guidelines apply:

* Certificate II qualifications provide credit at Units 1 and 2 level only, accept for pre-apprenticeships and high needs qualifications which may be determined as providing Units 1 and 2, plus one Unit 3 and 4 sequence.
* Certificate III qualifications provide credit based on the size and complexity of the training. Typically credit would accrue at Units 1 and 2, plus one Unit 3 and 4 sequence.
* Certificate IV or Diploma level qualifications provide credit based on the size and complexity of the training and factor in pathway qualifications. Typically credit would be 2 x Unit 3 and 4 sequences
* The award of credit will take into account issues of duplication with other VCE studies or VCE VET programs and other VET undertaken by the student.

Where available, a Unit 3 and 4 sequence will be awarded on satisfactory completion of Certificate III qualifications, according to the guidelines above.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL – CROSS CERTIFICATE CREDIT

Where students complete VCE VET UoCs to a level that does not qualify them for a VCE credit at Unit 1 (e.g. 90hours) the UoCs would be accumulated under a VCE VET X Unit.

For example:

* 80 hours from Hospitality and 40 hours from Kitchen Operations = 0 VCE Units under the current credit guidelines.
* Under this Cross Certificate Credit proposal the credit would = 1 VCE Unit.

This would be applied across all qualifications and certificate types (VES, VFE, NAP). It will provide equity between VCE and VCAL enrolments and will only apply at Unit 1+2 level, and be applied to the credit Models 1,2 or 4. (This would not apply to Model 3 – Certificate Completion)