VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management

Program Booklet

**Incorporating**

AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture (Release 5)

AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture (Release 3)

AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and
Land Management (Release 3)

January 2020

This program was first implemented
in January 2017

Modification history

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Status | Release Date | Comments |
| 4.0 | Current | January 2020 | New release of AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 4.0. Electives updated in AHC20116 and AHC20416 |
| 3.0 | Superseded | January 2019 | New release of AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0. Electives updated |
| 2.0 | Superseded | January 2018 | Updated program information and advice  |
| 1.0 | Superseded | January 2017 | Original Program |

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Introduction

VCE VET programs are vocational training programs approved by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCE VET programs lead to nationally recognised qualifications, thereby offering students the opportunity to gain both the VCE and a nationally portable vocational education and training (VET) certificate. VCE VET programs:

* are fully recognised within the Units 1 to 4 structure of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and therefore may contribute towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. VCE VET units have equal status with other VCE studies
* may contribute to the satisfactory completion of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)
* function within the National Training Framework.

Program development

This iteration of the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program was implemented in 2017. It must be used in conjunction with the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package (Release 4.0) qualifications AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture (Release 5), AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture (Release 3) and AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management (Release 3). This program replaces the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program published in January 2019 and all subsequent program summaries. This revision to the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program is a consequence of the revision to AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program provides students with the knowledge and skills to enhance their employment prospects in the agriculture, horticulture, conservation and land management industries.

Program information

This program booklet must be read in conjunction with the *VCE VET Program Guide* and the nationally endorsed AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

Industry overview

Training package

The agriculture industry is made up of many different sectors, including for example: Arboriculture, Beekeeping, Beef, Crops, Dairy, Goats, Grains, Horses, Irrigation, Permaculture, Pest Management, Pigs, Poultry, Rural Merchandising and Sheep and Wool

Agriculture and Agribusiness are diverse sectors including both plant and animal based production systems along with supporting Agribusiness enterprises that supply agriculture goods and services. Job roles within the sector range from farmhands, farm business managers and include numerous agricultural service roles. This sector is a leader in the uptake of technology including the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS).

The horticulture, conservation and land management industries are made up of many different sectors, including for example: Viticulture, Floriculture, Landscaping, Nursery, Parks and Gardens, Lands, Parks and Wildlife, Turf Management, Pest Management, Permaculture, Irrigation, Weed Management, Seed Testing, Production and Processing, Composting, Community Coordination, Natural Area Restoration and Indigenous Land Management.

Production Horticulture is a very diverse industry which involves growing and harvesting fruit or vegetables. Production Horticulture businesses produce fresh and dried fruit and vegetables for local markets, processing and exporting. The range of produce is vast and could include many varieties of different fruits, nuts and vegetables. Many production horticulture businesses operate as farms growing vegetables, while others are based on extensive orchards. Some businesses are intensive and grow fruit, vegetables and mushrooms in controlled environments.

Lands, parks and wildlife officers, rangers and managers are involved in the management and maintenance of areas of native and cultural significance. They may be employed by government or non-government organisations. Roles will generally involve a mixture of conservation and restoration tasks as well as tourism, education, construction and pest management.

Qualifications / packaging rules

AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture (Release 5)

Students must achieve eighteen units of competency to gain AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture, including:

* three core units of competency
* fifteen elective units of competency, of which
* a minimum of seven units must be selected from Group A
* the remaining electives may be drawn from Group A, B or C
* a maximum of three units may be selected from Group C.

This qualification provides an entry level occupational outcome in agriculture. Pathways may include employment into roles such as assistant animal attendant/stockperson, assistant farm or station hand, assistant farm or station worker.

For further information, visit <[training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC20116](https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC20116)>.

AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture (Release 3)

Students must achieve fifteen units of competency to gain AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture, including:

* five core units of competency
* ten elective units of competency, of which
* a maximum of two units may be selected from Group B.

This qualification underpins a range of work functions and job roles that can lead to a horticultural trade qualification. Pathways may include employment into roles such as nursery worker, assistant landscaper, assistant parks or gardens worker.

For further information, visit <[training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC20416](https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC20416)>.

AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management (Release 3)

Students must achieve fifteen units of competency to gain AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management, including:

* two core units of competency
* thirteen elective units of competency, of which
* a minimum of four units must be selected from Group A
* the remaining electives may be drawn from Group A, B or C
* a maximum of two units may be selected from Group C.

This qualification provides an occupational outcome in conservation and land management. The qualification enables individuals to select an Indigenous land management, conservation earthworks, lands, parks and wildlife or natural area management context as a job focus or a mix of these. Pathways may include employment into roles such as assistant land management officer, assistant conservation worker, assistant parks and wildlife officer.

For further information, visit <[training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC21016](https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC21016)>.

VCE VET Program details

Aims

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program aims to:

* provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and competency that will enhance their training and employment prospects in the agriculture, horticulture, conservation and land management industries
* enable participants to gain a recognised credential and to make an informed choice of vocation or career path.

Program structure

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program comprises three certificates II with VCE VET credit at Units 1 to 4 level. Certificates II are typically completed over two years.

The identified units of competency in the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program have been selected for recognition purposes and may vary from the qualification packaging rules.

VCE VET Credit

Students undertaking the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program are eligible for up to six VCE VET units on their VCE or VCAL statement of results:

* four VCE VET Units at Units 1 and 2 level
* a VCE VET Units 3 and 4 sequence.

VCE VET credit will accrue in the following order: Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 1 and 2. These units of credit may be accumulated over more than one year.

Nominal hour duration

Nominal hours represent the supervised structured learning and assessment activities required to sufficiently address the content of each unit of competency.

Nominal hours are used to determine credit into the VCE or VCAL for VET units of competency.

Duplication

When a VCE VET program significantly duplicates other VCE studies or VET training in a student’s program, a reduced VCE VET unit entitlement may apply. Credit towards the VCAL may also be reduced due to duplication.

No significant duplication has been identified between the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program and other VCE studies.

Dual Enrolments

Where students undertake multiple qualifications within the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program, care must be taken to ensure students enroll in all the units of competency only once. Credit for a unit of competency can only be counted once towards the VCE or VCAL.

Sequence

Certain units of competency will complement each other, lending to coordinated delivery that minimises content overlap. Units of competency have guidelines on the different situations and delivery contexts, and a range of delivery sequences are possible.

The intention of VCE VET programs is to provide students with a qualification that meets industry expectations. The strong advice and assumption of industry bodies is that the quality of the qualification is compromised when foundation training is neglected.

The sequencing of units of competency is determined by the registered training organisation, teacher or trainer; however, it is anticipated that a number of the core units of competency will be undertaken in the first year of the program.

It should be noted that a student needs to be undertaking or have completed *AHCWHS201 Participate in work health and safety processes* prior to them engaging in Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) aligned to this program.

VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program structure

AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture (Release 5)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal Hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Compulsory units:** |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes | 20 |
| AHCWRK204 | Work effectively in the industry | 20 |
| AHCWRK209 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| **Subtotal:** | **60** |
| **Elective units:** Select a minimum of **15** electives with a minimum of **300 hours**. |
| **Elective Group A:** |
| **Biosecurity** |
| AHCBIO201 | Inspect and clean machinery for plant, animal and soil material | 20 |
| AHCBIO202 | Follow site quarantine procedures | 20 |
| **Broadacre cropping** |
| AHCBAC201 | Assist agricultural crop establishment | 60 |
| AHCBAC202 | Assist agricultural crop maintenance | 40 |
| AHCBAC203 | Assist agricultural crop harvesting | 60 |
| **Chemicals** |
| AHCCHM201 | Apply chemicals under supervision | 30 |
| **First aid** |
| HLTAID002 | Provide basic emergency life support | 8 |
| **Infrastructure** |
| AHCINF201 | Carry out basic electric fencing operations | 40 |
| AHCINF202 | Install, maintain and repair farm fencing | 30 |
| AHCINF203 | Maintain properties and structures | 30 |
| AHCINF204 | Fabricate and repair metal or plastic structures | 60 |
| **Irrigation** |
| AHCIRG220 | Assist with surface irrigation operations | 30 |
| AHCIRG221 | Assist with pressurised irrigation operations | 40 |
| **Livestock** |
| AHCLSK202 | Care for health and welfare of livestock | 40 |
| AHCLSK203 | Carry out birthing duties | 40 |
| AHCLSK204 | Carry out regular livestock observation | 40 |
| AHCLSK205 | Handle livestock using basic techniques | 30 |
| AHCLSK206 | Identify and mark livestock | 20 |
| AHCLSK207 | Load and unload livestock | 20 |
| AHCLSK208 | Monitor livestock to parturition | 30 |
| AHCLSK209 | Monitor water supplies | 20 |
| AHCLSK210 | Muster and move livestock | 25 |
| AHCLSK211 | Provide feed for livestock | 30 |
| **Machinery operation and maintenance** |
| AHCMOM202 | Operate tractors | 40 |
| AHCMOM203 | Operate basic machinery and equipment | 20 |
| AHCMOM204 | Undertake operational maintenance of machinery | 30 |
| AHCMOM217 | Operate quad bikes | 60 |
| **Pest** **management** |
| AHCPMG201 | Treat weeds | 40 |
| AHCPMG202 | Treat plant pests, diseases and disorders | 30 |
| **Tools and equipment** |
| MEM18001 | Use hand tools | 20 |
| MEM18002 | Use power tools/hand held operations | 20 |
| **Work** |
| AHCWRK201 | Observe and report on weather | 25 |
| AHCWRK205 | Participate in workplace communications | 30 |
| AHCWRK206 | Observe enterprise quality assurance procedures | 30 |
| AHCWRK207 | Collect and record production data | 30 |
| TLID1001 | Shift materials safely using manual handling methods | 20 |
| **Elective Group B:** |
| **Artificial insemination** |
| AHCAIS201 | Assist with artificial insemination procedures | 20 |
| **Beekeeping** |
| AHCBEK206 | Assemble and maintain beekeeping components | 25 |
| AHCBEK205 | Prepare and use a bee smoker | 10 |
| **Broadacre cropping** |
| AHCBAC204 | Prepare grain storages | 40 |
| **Dairy** |
| AHCDRY201 | Milk livestock | 30 |
| **Drainage** |
| AHCDRG201 | Maintain drainage systems | 20 |
| **Horse breeding** |
| ACMHBR201\* | Check and treat horses | 40 |
| ACMEQU202\* | Handle horses safely | 100 |
| ACMHBR203\* | Provide daily care for horses | 40 |
| ACMEQU205 | Apply knowledge of horse behaviour | 60 |
| **Irrigation** |
| AHCIRG219 | Assist with low volume irrigation operations | 40 |
| **Livestock** |
| AHCLSK201 | Assist with feeding in a production system | 40 |
| AHCLSK213 | Clean out production sheds | 20 |
| AHCLSK214 | Maintain production growing environments | 30 |
| AHCLSK215 | Carry out alpaca handling and husbandry operations | 30 |
| **Pork production** |
| AHCPRK201 | Care for health and welfare of pigs | 40 |
| AHCPRK203 | Move and handle pigs | 40 |
| AHCPRK204 | Care for weaner pigs | 40 |
| **Poultry** |
| AHCPLY201 | Collect store and handle eggs from breeder flocks | 20 |
| AHCPLY202 | Maintain health and welfare of poultry | 40 |
| AHCPLY203 | Set up shed for placement of day-old chickens | 10 |
| AHCPLY204 | Collect and pack eggs for human consumption | 20 |
| AHCPLY205 | Grade and pack eggs for human consumption | 20 |
| **Production horticulture** |
| AHCPHT201 | Plant horticultural crops | 25 |
| AHCPHT202 | Carry out canopy maintenance | 25 |
| AHCPHT205 | Carry out postharvest operations | 25 |
| AHCPHT214 | Support horticultural crop harvesting | 25 |
| **Shearing** |
| AHCSHG201 | Crutch sheep | 40 |
| AHCSHG202 | Assist in preparing for shearing and crutching | 20 |
| AHCSHG205 | Grind combs and cutters for machine shearing | 20 |
| AHCSHG206 | Prepare handpiece and downtube for machine shearing | 20 |
| AHCSHG209 | Support alpaca shearing operations | 20 |
| **Soil and water conservation** |
| AHCSAW201 | Conduct erosion and sediment control activities | 40 |
| **Soils and media** |
| AHCSOL202 | Assist with soil or growing media sampling and testing | 30 |
| **Pests Management** |
| AHCPMG309 | Apply pest animal control techniques | 60 |
| **Water** |
| AHCWAT201 | Set up, operate and maintain water delivery systems for compost | 40 |
| **Wool** |
| AHCWOL201 | Pen sheep | 10 |
| AHCWOL202 | Perform board duties | 80 |
| AHCWOL203 | Carry out wool pressing | 10 |
| AHCWOL204 | Undertake basic skirting of alpaca fleece | 20 |
| **Elective Group C:** |
| AHCCHM101 | Follow basic chemical safety rules | 10 |
| AHCLSK316 | Prepare livestock for competition | 90 |
| AHCLSK317 | Plan to exhibit livestock | 80 |
| AHCMOM216 | Operate side by side utility vehicles  | 50 |
| AHCNSY203  | Undertake propagation activities  | 30 |
| AHCPCM201 | Recognise plants | 40 |
| AHCPGD201  | Plant trees and shrubs | 20 |
| **Minimum for Units 1 to 4:** | **360** |

Notes

\* these units have prerequisite units of competency

AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture (Release 3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Compulsory units:** |
| AHCPCM201 | Recognise plants | 40 |
| AHCPMG201 | Treat weeds | 40 |
| AHCPMG202  | Treat plant pests, diseases and disorders | 30 |
| AHCSOL202 | Assist with soil or growing media sampling and testing  | 30 |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes | 20 |
| **Subtotal:** | **160** |
| **Elective units:** Select a minimum of **10** electives with a minimum of **200 hours**. |
| **Elective Group A:** |
| AHCARB201 | Apply a range of treatments to trees | 30 |
| AHCCHM201 | Apply chemicals under supervision | 30 |
| AHCINF203 | Maintain properties and structures | 30 |
| AHCINF204 | Fabricate and repair metal or plastic structures | 60 |
| AHCIRG215 | Assist with low volume irrigation operations | 40 |
| AHCIRG217 | Assist with pressurised irrigation operations | 40 |
| AHCLSC201 | Assist with landscape construction work | 30 |
| AHCLSC202 | Construct low-profile timber or modular retaining walls | 50 |
| AHCLSC203 | Install aggregate paths | 20 |
| AHCLSC204 | Lay paving | 30 |
| AHCLSC205 | Install tree protection devices | 20 |
| AHCMOM202 | Operate tractors | 40 |
| AHCMOM203 | Operate basic machinery and equipment | 20 |
| AHCMOM204 | Undertake operational maintenance of machinery | 30 |
| AHCMOM211 | Operate side by side utility vehicles | 30 |
| AHCMOM212 | Operate quad bikes | 60 |
| AHCNSY201 | Pot up plants | 20 |
| AHCNSY202 | Care for nursery plants | 30 |
| AHCNSY203 | Undertake propagation activities | 30 |
| AHCNSY204 | Maintain indoor plants  | 20 |
| AHCPCM202 | Collect, prepare and preserve plant specimens | 30 |
| AHCPGD201 | Plant trees and shrubs | 20 |
| AHCPGD202 | Prepare and maintain plant displays | 35 |
| AHCPGD203 | Prune shrubs and small trees  | 35 |
| AHCPGD204 | Transplant small trees  | 20 |
| AHCPGD206 | Conduct visual inspection of park facilities  | 20 |
| AHCTRF201 | Assist with turf construction  | 30 |
| AHCTRF202 | Prepare turf surfaces for play  | 40 |
| AHCTRF203 | Renovate grassed areas  | 30 |
| AHCWRK201 | Observe and report on weather | 25 |
| AHCWRK204 | Work effectively in the industry  | 20 |
| AHCWRK205 | Participate in workplace communications  | 30 |
| AHCWRK206 | Observe enterprise quality assurance procedures  | 30 |
| AHCWRK207 | Collect and record production data  | 30 |
| AHCWRK208 | Provide information on products and services | 60 |
| AHCWRK209 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| FWPFGM2207 | Undertake brushcutting operations | 40 |
| FWPHAR2206 | Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher | 30 |
| MEM18001C | Use hand tools | 20 |
| MEM18002B | Use power tools/hand held operations  | 20 |
| SIRRINV002  | Control stock  | 35 |
| SIRRRTF001 | Balance and secure point-of-sale terminal  | 20 |
| SIRXCEG001 | Engage the customer  | 30 |
| SIRXIND002  | Organise and maintain the store environment  | 20 |
| SIRRMER001 | Produce visual merchandise displays | 35 |
| SIRXPDK001  | Advise on products and services | 30 |
| SIRXSLS001 | Sell to the retail customer  | 20 |
| SIRXSLS002 | Follow point-of-sale handling procedures | 20 |
| TLID1001 | Shift materials safely using manual handling methods  | 20 |
| **Elective Group B:** |
| AHCPER206 | Plant and maintain permaculture crops | 30 |
| AHCPER208 | Harvest permaculture crops | 30 |
| AHCPHT201 | Plant horticultural crops | 25 |
| AHCPHT214 | Support horticultural crop harvesting | 25 |
| **Minimum for Units 1 to 4:** | **360** |

AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management (Release 3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal Hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Compulsory units:** |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes  | 20 |
| AHCWRK209 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| **Subtotal:** | **40** |
| **Elective units:** Select a minimum of **13** electives with a minimum of **320 hours**. |
| **Elective Group A:** |
| **Fauna** |
| AHCFAU201 | Recognise fauna | 40 |
| **Indigenous land management** |
| AHCILM201 | Maintain cultural places | 20 |
| AHCILM202 | Observe and report plants or animals | 40 |
| AHCILM203 | Record information about Country | 40 |
| **Natural area restoration** |
| AHCNAR201 | Carry out natural area restoration works | 40 |
| AHCNAR202 | Maintain wildlife habitat refuges | 40 |
| AHCNAR305 | Collect native seed | 40 |
| **Lands, parks and wildlife** |
| PUALAW001B | Protect and preserve incident scene | 20 |
| **Parks and gardens** |
| AHCPGD201 | Plant trees and shrubs | 20 |
| AHCPGD206 | Conduct visual inspection of park facilities | 20 |
| **Pest Management** |
| AHCPMG201 | Treat weeds | 40 |
| AHCPMG202 | Treat plant pests, diseases and disorders | 30 |
| **Plants** |
| AHCPCM201 | Recognise plants | 40 |
| AHCPCM202 | Collect, prepare and preserve plant specimens | 30 |
| **Soil and water conservation** |
| AHCSAW201 | Conduct erosion and sediment control activities  | 40 |
| **Work** |
| AHCWRK202 | Observe environmental work practices | 20 |
| AHCWRK203 | Operate in isolated and remote situations | 40 |
| AHCWRK204 | Work effectively in the industry | 20 |
| AHCWRK205 | Participate in workplace communications | 30 |
| SITXCCS002 | Provide visitor information | 35 |
| **Elective Group B:** |
| **Biosecurity** |
| AHCBIO201 | Inspect and clean machinery for plant, animal and soil material | 20 |
| **Business** |
| BSBWOR204 | Use business technology | 20 |
| BSBINM201 | Process and maintain workplace information  | 30 |
| **Chemicals** |
| AHCCHM201 | Apply chemicals under supervision | 30 |
| **First aid** |
| HLTAID002 | Provide basic emergency life support | 12 |
| HLTAID003 | Apply first aid | 18 |
| HLTAID005 | Provide first aid in remote situation | 24 |
| **Infrastructure** |
| AHCINF201 | Carry out basic electric fencing operations | 40 |
| AHCINF202 | Install, maintain and repair farm fencing | 30 |
| AHCINF203 | Maintain properties and structures | 30 |
| **Landscape** |
| AHCLSC201 | Assist with landscape construction work | 30 |
| AHCLSC203 | Install aggregate paths | 20 |
| AHCLSC205 | Install tree protection devices | 20 |
| **Machinery operation and maintenance** |
| AHCMOM202 | Operate tractors | 40 |
| AHCMOM203 | Operate basic machinery and equipment | 20 |
| AHCMOM204 | Undertake operational maintenance of machinery | 30 |
| **Nursery** |
| AHCNSY202 | Care for nursery plants | 30 |
| AHCNSY203 | Undertake propagation activities | 30 |
| **Soils and media** |
| AHCSOL202 | Assist with soil or growing media sampling and testing | 30 |
| **Work** |
| AHCWRK201 | Observe and report on weather | 25 |
| AHCWRK206 | Observe enterprise quality assurance procedures | 30 |
| AHCWRK207 | Collect and record production data | 30 |
| AHCWRK208 | Provide information on products and services | 60 |
| TLID1001 | Shift materials safely using manual handling methods | 20 |
| **Elective Group C:** |
| AHCNAR307 | Read and interpret maps | 40 |
| SITTGDE002 | Work as a guide | 90 |
| **Minimum for Units 1 to 4:** | **360** |

ATAR Contribution

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program does not offer scored assessment. A student who achieves a Units 3 and 4 sequence may be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR.

The increment is awarded by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Further information can be found on the VTAC website:

* study rules: <[www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-rules](http://www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-rules.html)>
* study groupings: <[www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-groupings](http://www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/atar-explained/study-groupings.html)>.

Increments for VCE VET programs will be calculated using 10% of the lowest study score of the primary four.

Structured workplace learning

The VCAA has determined that Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is an appropriate and valuable component of all VCE VET programs. SWL involves on-the-job training in which students are required to master a designated set of skills and competencies related to VCE VET programs.

SWL complements the training undertaken at the school/RTO. It provides the context for:

* enhancement of skills development
* practical application of industry knowledge
* assessment of units of competency, as determined by the RTO
* increased employment opportunities.

The VCAA strongly recommends that students undertake a minimum of **80** hours of SWL for the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program. SWL should be spread across the duration of the training program.

Further details regarding SWL, the SWL Portal and the Department of Education and Training SWL Manual is available on online: [<www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/careers/work/Pages/structuredlearning.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/careers/work/Pages/structuredlearning.aspx)>.

The SWL Manual outlines roles and responsibilities of the student, parent, employer and principal; procedures and guidelines for placing students in the workplace; and relevant policy and legislation. The manual also has a link to Ministerial Order 55 and the SWL Arrangement form.

SWL Recognition

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) recognition involves the development and maintenance of the Workplace Learning Record (WLR) by the student. The work placement must be in an industry area aligned to the VET certificate drawn from the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program. The completion of the WLR is a requirement for recognition by the VCAA for VCE and VCAL credit.

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program offers SWL recognition. Further details are available at: <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/swl-vet/Pages/SWL-recognition.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/swl-vet/Pages/SWL-recognition.aspx)>.

Work health and safety

Schools/RTOs must ensure that Work Health and Safety (WHS) issues are fully addressed in the training program.

The principal is responsible for ensuring the school meets its responsibilities for students in SWL arrangements.

Where the student will be employed under an SWL arrangement, the principal must be satisfied that the student is undertaking training in the WHS unit of competency before the arrangement can be entered into.

Students must be informed of the significance of work-related hazards. They must understand the need for, and the nature of, workplace risk controls such as safe working procedures and the use of personal protective clothing and equipment.

Schools must also be satisfied, through their review of the acknowledgment provided by employers on the SWL Arrangement form, that the workplace in question and the activities proposed will not expose a student to risk during their structured work placement.

Employers must view their duty of care towards students as essentially no different from that owed to their employees. They must understand that students cannot be expected to possess the judgment or maturity to undertake any task that presents potential risk. This means that no student may be exposed at any time to dangerous plant machinery, equipment, substances, work environments or work practices.

On the first morning of their placement, students should be introduced to their supervisor and provided with a formal induction to the workplace. This will include first aid, emergency and incident reporting arrangements.

The student should be given an orientation tour of the workplace and any excluded areas or activities should be pointed out. Students should be instructed to report without delay anything they feel may be unsafe. They should be encouraged to ask for help or further instruction if they are not sure of the correct way to carry out any task.

Close supervision of students undertaking SWL is essential. Supervisors nominated by the employer must understand all requirements for safely managing the student’s activities. Supervisors must understand that a student may not fully grasp information or instructions the first time they are told. They should encourage students to ask for help if they have forgotten or if they experience difficulty in putting information into practice.

The WorkSafe Victoria website makes available useful resources: [<www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)>.

Operate Quad Bikes – Safety Advice

The following Health and Safety advice listed below from <[www.training.gov.au/Home/Tga](https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga)> outlines the requirements for any students undertaking *Operate quad bikes*:

* no riders under the age of 16
* helmets must be worn at all times
* there is to be no passengers or towing
* riders must not be under the influence of any alcohol, drugs, or any medication that may impair judgement.

The following Health and Safety advice listed below from <[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/)> outlines the requirements for any students riding quad bikes:

* quad bikes should not be used on public roads, even for short periods. If they are to be used on public roads, the bikes must be registered, the driver must be at least 18 years of age and be the holder of an appropriate car licence, and specific travel restrictions apply. A learner permit holder is not permitted to drive a Type 1 special work vehicle (SWV1 body type). See VicRoads for more information: <[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/new-registration/register-non-compliant-vehicles/special-work-vehicles](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/new-registration/register-non-compliant-vehicles/special-work-vehicles)>.

Although rollover protection is not a legal requirement there is a clear community expectation that equipment used in training conform to contemporary safety standards, and the Department could find it difficult to demonstrate due diligence under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 if the equipment does not meet these standards. It is recommended that this be a standard requirement for suppliers of the equipment unless there are valid reasons to the contrary.

WorkSafe Victoria has published a handbook on quad bikes which is available at: <[www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/quad-bikes-farms-handbook-workplaces](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/quad-bikes-farms-handbook-workplaces)>.

Another publication which provides appropriate advice is at: <[hondaworkrange.com.au/safety](http://hondaworkrange.com.au/safety)>.

Additional information

For updates or information relating to this program refer to:

* the VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program web page: <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/agrhorconlm.aspx](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/agrhorconlm.aspx)>
* the *VCAA* *Bulletin*: <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/bulletins-and-updates/bulletin/Pages/index.aspx](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/bulletins-and-updates/bulletin/Pages/index.aspx)>
* the *Get VET* web page for videos, success stories, flowcharts and posters designed to support teachers in engaging, informing and inspiring students and parents about VET Delivered to Secondary Students: <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/getvet](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/getvet)>.

Pathways

The VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management program opens up many different training and employment pathways. The VCAA recommends study at the lower levels to develop industry foundation skills before moving to higher level qualifications.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Certificate II** |  | Certificate II in AgricultureCertificate II in HorticultureCertificate II in Conservation and Land Management |
|  |  |  |
| **Certificate II****Pathways** |  | Certificate II in Production HorticultureCertificate II in ArboricultureCertificate II in ShearingCertificate II in Landscaping |
|  |  |  |
| **Certificate III** |  | Certificate III in AgricultureCertificate III in HorticultureCertificate III in Conservation and Land ManagementCertificate III in Lands, Parks and WildlifeCertificate III in Retail NurseryCertificate III in Pork ProductionCertificate III in Sports Turf Management |
|  |  |  |
| **Certificate IV** |  | Certificate IV in AgricultureCertificate IV in AgribusinessCertificate IV in HorticultureCertificate IV in Conservation and Land Management |
|  |  |  |
| **Diploma****Advanced Diploma** |  | Diploma of AgricultureDiploma of HorticultureAdvanced Diploma of Agribusiness ManagementAdvanced Diploma of Conservation and Land Management |
|  |  |  |
| **Higher Education** |  | Bachelor of AgricultureBachelor of Agricultural ScienceBachelor of HorticultureBachelor of Agribusiness |

Appendix – Sample programs

AHC20116 Certificate II in Agriculture (Release 5)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal Hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Year 1** |
| AHCCHM101 | Follow basic chemical safety rules | 10 |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes | 20 |
| AHCWRK204 | Work effectively in the industry | 20 |
| AHCWRK209 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| AHCINF201 | Carry out basic electric fencing operations | 40 |
| AHCINF202 | Install, maintain and repair farm fencing | 30 |
| AHCMOM202 | Operate tractors | 40 |
| AHCLSK202 | Care for health and welfare of livestock | 40 |
| AHCLSK205 | Handle livestock using basic techniques | 30 |
| AHCLSK211 | Provide feed for livestock | 30 |
| MEM18002 | Use power tools/hand held operations | 20 |
| **Year 2** |
| AHCBAC202 | Assist agricultural crop maintenance | 40 |
| AHCCHM201 | Apply chemicals under supervision | 30 |
| AHCIRG220 | Assist with surface irrigation operations | 30 |
| AHCLSK204 | Carry out regular livestock observation | 40 |
| AHCLSK209 | Monitor water supplies | 20 |
| AHCLSK210 | Muster and move livestock | 25 |
| AHCMOM216 | Operate side by side utility vehicles  | 50 |
| HLTAID002 | Provide basic emergency life support | 8 |
| **Total Sample Program Hours:** | **543** |

AHC20416 Certificate II in Horticulture (Release 3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal Hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Year 1** |
| AHCPCM201 | Recognise plants | 40 |
| AHCPMG201 | Treat weeds | 40 |
| AHCPMG202  | Treat plant pests, diseases and disorders | 30 |
| AHCSOL202 | Assist with soil or growing media sampling and testing  | 30 |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes | 20 |
| AHCARB201 | Apply a range of treatments to trees | 30 |
| AHCLSC205 | Install tree protection devices | 20 |
| **Year 2** |
| AHCMOM203 | Operate basic machinery and equipment | 20 |
| AHCNSY201 | Pot up plants | 20 |
| AHCNSY202 | Care for nursery plants | 30 |
| AHCNSY203 | Undertake propagation activities | 30 |
| AHCPGD201 | Plant trees and shrubs | 20 |
| AHCPGD203 | Prune shrubs and small trees  | 35 |
| AHCPGD204 | Transplant small trees  | 20 |
| AHCIRG215 | Assist with low volume irrigation operations | 40 |
| **Total Sample Program Hours:** | **425** |

AHC21016 Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management (Release 3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Unit Title | Nominal Hours |
| **Units 1 to 4** |
| **Year 1** |
| AHCWHS201 | Participate in work health and safety processes  | 20 |
| AHCWRK209 | Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices | 20 |
| AHCFAU201 | Recognise fauna | 40 |
| AHCNAR201 | Carry out natural area restoration works | 40 |
| AHCPGD201 | Plant trees and shrubs | 20 |
| AHCPGD206 | Conduct visual inspection of park facilities | 20 |
| AHCPCM201 | Recognise plants | 40 |
| **Year 2** |
| AHCSAW201 | Conduct erosion and sediment control activities  | 40 |
| AHCWRK202 | Observe environmental work practices | 20 |
| AHCWRK203 | Operate in isolated and remote situations | 40 |
| AHCBIO201 | Inspect and clean machinery for plant, animal and soil material | 20 |
| AHCCHM201 | Apply chemicals under supervision | 30 |
| AHCMOM203 | Operate basic machinery and equipment | 20 |
| AHCWRK201 | Observe and report on weather | 25 |
| AHCNAR307 | Read and interpret maps | 40 |
| **Total Sample Program Hours:** | **435** |