



Stage 6 School Delivered Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses

Stage 6 Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses are offered as part of the Higher School Certificate (HSC). VET courses are designed to deliver workplace specific skills and knowledge and cover a wide range of careers and industries. VET courses for secondary students are developed by NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) and are based on national training packages.

Stage 6 VET courses allow students to gain a HSC or and a national qualification or statement of attainment as part of the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF). These qualifications are widely recognised by industry, employers, tertiary training providers and universities and will assist students to progress to various education and training sectors and employment.

NSW Department of Education RTO is accredited to deliver and assess VET qualifications to secondary students. It is mandatory for all students studying a VET course to create a Unique Student Identifier (USI) upon enrolment. Students will require a form of identification for the creation of the USI. Examples include a Medicare Card, Australian Birth Certificate, Driver's License or a valid Passport.

Assessment in all VET courses is competency based. The student is assessed on what they can do (skills) and what they know (knowledge) to equip them for the workplace. Students are either deemed "competent" or "not competent" by the teacher. Students who achieve competency will possess the skills and knowledge to perform workplace activities across various situations and environments, meeting industry standards

Assessment materials are designed to give each learner the opportunity to meet the qualification outcomes. Students will receive documentation that lists all competencies they have achieved.

Board Developed Industry Curriculum Framework (ICF) courses usually count for 4 units of HSC credit, include 70 hours of mandatory work placement, and have an optional HSC examination. For a VET course to be included in the calculation for the ATAR, students must sit the HSC Examination.

Board Endorsed Courses (BECs) are courses based on national industry Training Packages endorsed by NESA. They do not count towards the ATAR and there is no HSC examination.

Work Placement

Many VET courses have a mandatory work placement requirement set by NESA. Students will:

- gain insights into the kind of career they would like to have.
- make informed decisions about further training and study.
- become more employable.
- be better equipped for business and employment opportunities.

There are other VET opportunities including:

Externally delivered Vocational Education and Training (EVET)

Information and courses available are listed here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/career-and-study-pathways/skills-at-school/external-vet-courses> Talk to your school Careers Adviser about how to access EVET.

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT)

Information about SBATs is available here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/career-and-study-pathways/school-based-apprenticeships-and-traineeships> For further information about how to access an SBAT opportunity please speak with your Careers Adviser.

Students are encouraged to speak with the VET Coordinator, VET Teacher, Year Adviser, or Careers Adviser before selecting a course. This will ensure they understand the requirements and that the course aligns with their individual needs, knowledge, and skills.

2026 Retail Services Course Descriptor

SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail

This information may change due to the Training Package and NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) updates. Notification of variations will be made in due time with minimal impact

Course: Retail Services

Industry Curriculum Framework (ICF)

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) eligible course

HSC credit – 4 units

(2 units x 2 years or 4 units x 1 year)

Board Developed Course (240 hour)

By enrolling in this VET qualification with the NSW Department of Education RTO 90333, you are choosing to participate in a program of study which will provide you a pathway towards HSC accreditation and a nationally recognised qualification (dual accreditation). To receive this qualification, you must meet the assessment requirements of SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SIR30216>. You will be expected to complete all requirements of the Registered Training Organisation and NESA. To gain the full qualification you must achieve 13 units of competency. A statement of attainment towards the qualification is possible if at least one unit of competency is achieved.

Students may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and/or Credit Transfer (CT) provided suitable evidence is submitted.

Transferrable industry skills gained in this course

- maintain store operations
- using technology to organise information
- meeting organisational expectations
- customer service skills
- teamwork
- problem solving

Examples of occupations in the retail services industry

- frontline sales assistant
- customer service representative
- shop assistant
- retail supervisor
- team leader
- senior sales assistant administration

VET requirements

Competency-Based Assessment

In this course you will work to develop the skills and knowledge described in each unit of competency. To be assessed as competent you must demonstrate your ability to satisfactorily complete the tasks required in the assessments.

Appeals and Complaints

You may lodge a complaint or an appeal about a decision (including assessment decisions) by following the Appeals and Complaints Guidelines

HSC requirements

Mandatory course requirements

You must complete 240 indicative hours of course work and a minimum of 70 hours work placement. Not meeting these requirements will incur an 'N' determined as required by NESA.

External Assessment (optional HSC examination for ATAR purposes)

The Higher School Certificate examination for Retail Services is only available after completion of 240 indicative hours and will involve a written examination consisting of multiple-choice, short answers and extended response items. The examination is independent of the competency-based assessment undertaken during the course and has no impact on your eligibility to receive a vocational qualification.

Consumable costs: Preliminary - Nil HSC - Nil

Refunds

Refund arrangements are on a pro-rata basis.
Please refer to your school refund policy

A school-based traineeship is available in this course. For more information: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/career-and-study-pathways/school-based-apprenticeships-and-traineeships>

Exclusions: In this framework students can only undertake the Retail Services (120 indicative hours) course or the Retail Services (240 indicative hours) course.

General information about NESA VET course exclusions can be found <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/vet/course-exclusions>