

Understanding Accredited Courses

An 'accredited short course' or 'accredited course' provides focused training to address skills gaps not covered in the current nationally endorsed Training Packages. These courses are designed to meet needs in industry, education, community, and other workplace environments, as well as legislative requirements.

These courses supplement the national training package framework, and a course is only accredited if it delivers unique learning outcomes - that is, no existing Training Package or endorsed Units of Competency can meet the identified training need.

Accreditation and Qualifications

Accredited courses are recognised by a Vocational Education and Training (VET) regulator, leading to an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification or Statement of Attainment. Courses can be accredited in one of two ways: as a short course, leading to a Statement of Attainment, or as an AQF qualification, leading to nationally recognised certification at the undertaken level.

Applications for accreditation must align with specific standards, such as the Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021 and the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) for the National VET Regulator (ASQA). For state VET Regulators (in Victoria or Western Australia), courses must align with the AQTF 2021 Standards for Accredited Courses and the AQF.

Course Development and Accreditation Period

Anyone, including RTOs, individuals, governments, and regulatory bodies, can develop a course for accreditation. The maximum period of accreditation is five years, after which a renewal application must be submitted.

While the national register lists accredited courses, it does not publish the content. The course developer holds the copyright on the course content and their contact details are listed on training.gov.au for interested parties.

Training and Assessment Requirements

To train and assess accredited courses and issue appropriate AQF documentation, a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) must be registered with a VET regulator, own the accredited course (or have permission from the course owner), and have the accredited course listed on their scope of registration.

Note: This VET Fact Sheet provides general information and should not be considered as legal advice.