

Understanding Volume of Learning and Amount of Training

Definitions

- **Amount of Training** - this refers to the formal engagement time expected between a learner and learning resources provided by the RTO to meet the requirements of a unit of competency or a cluster of units. There is no mathematical formula to set the amount of training. It includes all supervised and/or prescribed activities specified in the RTO's strategy.
- **Volume of Learning** - as defined in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), the volume of learning identifies the "notional duration of all activities required for the achievement of the learning outcomes specified for a particular AQF qualification type." It includes all teaching, learning, and assessment activities.
- **Nominal hours** - a term not used in the AQF or the Standards for RTOs 2015, are used by State and Territory Governments for funding allocation and refer to the number of hours an average student could reasonably be expected to complete the unit. These hours usually exclude unsupervised individual activities.
- **Course duration** - refers to the length of time set aside to undertake the course from enrolment to completion, typically expressed in days, months, or years.

Standards for RTOs 2015

Clauses 1.1 and 1.2 of the Standards for RTOs 2015 require:

- **Clause 1.1**- The RTO's training and assessment strategies and practices, including the amount of training they provide, are consistent with the requirements of training packages and VET accredited courses and enable each learner to meet the requirements for each unit of competency or module in which they are enrolled.

- **Clause 1.2** - For the purposes of clause 1.1, the RTO determines the amount of training they provide to each learner with regard to:
 - the existing skills, knowledge, and the experience of the learner
 - the mode of delivery
 - where a full qualification is not being delivered, the number of units and/or modules being delivered as a proportion of the full qualification.

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)

The AQF provides a guide to the volume of learning which is required to be complied with in applying the volume of learning to programs. The AQF 'volume of learning' range is considered to be a starting point for RTOs determining the 'amount of training' required to deliver a particular qualification. The RTO must be able to identify and explain any significant variations from the time periods described in the AQF. Decisions in relation to course duration must ensure that the integrity of the qualification outcomes is maintained.

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