



Total VET students and courses: terms and definitions

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

This document was produced as an added resource for the Total VET students and courses publication and data tables sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. The publication and data tables are available at NCVER's Portal: <<http://www.ncver.edu.au>>.

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Introduction

This document covers the data terms used in the *Total VET students and courses* publication and data tables. The primary purpose of this document is to assist users to understand the specific data terms.

Terms that appear in the publication and data items are listed in alphabetical order with the following information provided for each:

- Definition: a brief explanation of the term
- Classification categories: where applicable, defined categories that apply to each term are listed
- Source: a description of the source of this information, including details of any calculations or derivations.

Unless stated otherwise, all data are sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection. The National VET Provider Collection and the National VET in Schools Collection are administrative collections governed by the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard: VET Provider Collection Specifications Release 7.0 (AVETMISS Release 7.0) and AVETMISS Data Element Definitions Edition 2.2, which are available at: <www.ncver.edu.au>. References to the applicable field definitions within AVETMISS Release 7.0, which further define the data collected, are provided in the 'Source' section.

Terms that have a broader vocational education and training application have not been included in this document. Readers are referred to the VET glossary, which is available at NCVER's Portal: <www.ncver.edu.au/resources/glossary.html>.

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Age	The age of the student as at 30 June of the collection year. It is generally reported in age ranges.	14 years and under 15 to 19 years 20 to 24 years 25 to 44 years 45 to 64 years 65 years and over Not known	Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Date of Birth</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Agreed hours	Nationally agreed hour values for each subject.	N/A	Calculated based on standard nominal hour values (agreed hours) for national reporting, which are calculated from data collected in Nominal hours field in the <i>Subject</i> file where values have not been provided.
Apprentice/trainee status	Whether a student is undertaking some training under an Apprenticeship/ Traineeship Training Contract.	Apprentices and trainees (undertaking off-the-job training) Not apprentices and trainees	Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Client identifier – apprenticeships</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
Australian Qualification Framework level	The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a nationally consistent framework of credentials offered in schools, vocational education and training (TAFE institutes and private providers) and the higher education sector (mainly universities) that covers qualifications from certificate I through to a doctoral degree. For more details of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), go to < http://www.aqf.edu.au >. The level of an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) qualification in which a student is enrolled.	Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Bachelor degree (Honours and Pass) Advanced diploma Associate degree Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Level of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)	The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a geographical framework created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. NCVER reports data under the Main Structure.	State SA4 SA3 SA2	Calculated based on the AVETMISS fields of <i>Address location – suburb, locality or town</i> and <i>Postcode</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Community education provider	A not-for-profit, community-based organisation with a primary focus on adult education. Community-based adult education providers deliver programs relating to leisure, personal and community education development, employment skills, preparation for VET and nationally recognised programs of study.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training Organisation</i> file

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Current qualification level	The level of a qualification in which a student is enrolled. For students with subject enrolments in more than one qualification level, a highest current qualification level is assigned, based on the hierarchical order presented under the classification categories.	AQF qualification Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Bachelor degree (Honours and Pass) Advanced diploma Associate degree Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I Non-AQF qualification Locally recognised courses Non-award courses Skill sets (national and locally recognised) Subject only – no qualification	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Level of Education Identifier</i> from the Program file.
Delivery mode	The predominant style or mode of delivery for a subject enrolment.	Classroom-based Electronic-based Employment-based Other delivery Not applicable – recognition of prior learning/credit transfer	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Delivery Mode Identifier</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
Disability (including impairment or long-term condition)	Whether the student self-identifies as having a disability, impairment or long term condition.	With a disability Without a disability Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Disability Flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Domestic student	A student whose citizenship status is Australian, New Zealand or permanent resident for the purpose of undertaking education and training	N/A	Calculated from the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file for subject enrolments
English (main language spoken at home)	Whether the student speaks a language other than English at home.	Non-English English Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Language identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file. Language identifier must be a valid 4-digit Australian <i>Standard Classification of Languages</i> code.
Enterprise provider	Are registered training organisations whose primary business is not the delivery of training and development.	N/A	
Fee-for-service – international funding	Revenue provided by a client who holds a student visa or a temporary residency permit or who resides in an overseas country (onshore or offshore) for the purpose of undertaking education and training.	International client – other revenue	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file for subject enrolments.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Field of education	Describes the broad area of study related to a qualification or subject in which a student is enrolled.	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programs Subject only – no field of education	For subject enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject Field of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Subject</i> file. For program enrolments, collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Field of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file
Full-time students	Students whose program of study constitutes at least 75% of the normal full-time study load. The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) regarded a full-time study load as 720 contact hours in a year. Therefore, any student undertaking 540 hours or more is regarded as a full-time student.		Calculated from the <i>Reporting hours</i> derived field.
Funding source	The predominant source of the funding for a subject enrolment.	Commonwealth and state funding Fee-for-service - domestic Fee-for-service - International	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
Higher level qualifications	Not a training package qualification or nationally recognised accredited course. They are accredited by higher education institutions with self-accrediting authority or state or territory accreditation authorities.	N/A	
Hours of delivery	An alternative name for reporting hours. The hours of training under a traditional delivery strategy for each subject enrolment.	N/A	Calculated based on standard nominal hour values (agreed hours) for national reporting, which is calculated from data collected in <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file.
Indigenous status	Whether a student self-identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	Indigenous students Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Non-Indigenous Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Indigenous Status Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
International student	A student who holds a student visa or a temporary residency permit or who resides in an overseas country for the purpose of undertaking education and training	N/A	Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Funding source – national</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Load pass rate	A calculation of the proportion of subjects that were successfully completed, measured in hours.	N/A	Calculated using the AVETMISS field <i>Outcome Identifier – National</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file. 20 - Competency achieved/pass + 51 Recognition of prior learning – granted as a proportion of 20 - Competency achieved/pass + 30 - Competency not achieved/fail + 40 - Withdrawn/discontinued 51 Recognition of prior learning – granted x 100. Measured using reporting hours.
Locally recognised courses	Local courses and skill sets developed by training organisations, industry, enterprise, community education or professional bodies to meet an identified training need.	Non-AQF qualification Locally recognised courses Non-award courses Skill sets (national and locally recognised) Subject only – no qualification	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Level of Education Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Nationally recognised training	This is a program of training leading to vocational qualifications and credentials that are recognised across Australia delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs).	N/A	
Non-AQF programs	Courses that fall outside the Australian Qualifications Framework.	Secondary education Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Non-award courses Other education Statement of attainment, Bridging and enabling courses Courses not classified elsewhere Skill set Nationally recognised Locally recognised	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Level of Education Identifier</i> in the <i>Program</i> file.
Non-nationally recognised training	Locally recognised courses, higher level qualifications and locally recognised skill sets.	N/A	
Off-the-job training	For apprentices and trainees refers to training that takes place away from a person's job, usually off the premises (for example, at TAFE) but may also be on the premises (for example, in a special training area).	N/A	
Other government providers	Government departments and training providers such as agricultural colleges.	N/A	

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Other recognised courses	Programs including junior secondary education (year 10), senior secondary education (years 11 and 12), statements of attainment, bridging and enabling courses, and other education not elsewhere classified.		Collected in the AVETMISS field Program Recognition Identifier from the Program file.
Overseas (residence)	A student who has provided an overseas address location as their usual place of residence.	Reported in the state or territory of student's residence	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Overseas (training delivery)	Training delivered by an Australian training provider at an overseas location.	Reported in the state or territory of training delivery locations.	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>state identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation delivery</i> file.
Participation rate	Derived by calculating student numbers in the age groups as a proportion of the estimated residential population in the corresponding age groups. Figures for all years are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population figures (catalogue number 3201.0).	N/A	
Prior educational achievement flag	Identifies whether a student has previously successfully completed post-secondary education.	Yes – a prior educational achievement has been successfully completed No – a prior educational achievement has not been successfully completed Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Prior Educational Achievement Flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Private training providers	Training providers other than TAFEs, universities, schools community education providers and enterprise providers.	Education/training businesses or centres Professional associations Industry associations Equipment/product manufacturers and suppliers Other training providers not elsewhere classified	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file
Program	A qualification, course or skill set.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program identifier</i> and <i>Program name</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Program enrolment	The qualifications, courses and skill sets in which students are enrolled in a given period. For students enrolled in multiple programs, all programs are counted.	N/A	Calculated based on the AVETMISS fields <i>Program Identifier</i> and <i>Client Identifier</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
Programs completed	Indicates that a student has completed a structured and integrated program of education or training.	N/A	Calculated based on the AVETMISS file <i>Qualification Completed (NAT00130)</i> , excluding those qualifications that are associated with training provided by a school, non-VET qualifications, and qualifications that are classed as 'other education', including non-award courses and miscellaneous education.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Provider type	The type of institution or organisation providing the training.	TAFE University School Community education provider Enterprise provider Private training provider Students attending more than one provider type	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training Organisation Type Identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file.
Recognition of prior learning	The status or credit obtained for courses or subjects on the basis of recognised competencies gained previously through informal/formal training, experience in the workplace, voluntary work, social or domestic activity.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Outcome identifier – national</i> field from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
Registered training organisation (RTO)	A training provider registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or in some cases, a state or territory registering and accrediting body, to deliver training and/or conduct assessment and issue nationally recognised qualifications in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework or the VET Quality Framework.	N/A	<i>training.gov.au</i> (TGA)
Reporting hours	The hours of training under a traditional delivery strategy for each subject enrolment.	N/A	Calculated based on standard nominal hour values (agreed hours) for national reporting, which is calculated from data collected in <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file.
School status	Whether a student is still at school or not.	At school Not at school Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>At school flag</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Sex	Identifies the gender of a student.	Males Females Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Sex</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
Skill set	Groupings of units of competency which are combined to provide a clearly defined statement of the skills and knowledge required by an individual to meet industry needs or a licensing or regulatory requirement. They may be either a nationally recognised skill set, which are endorsed in a national training package, or a locally recognised skill set.	Nationally recognised skill set Locally recognised skill set	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)	A set of four indexes that summarises different aspects of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how relatively 'disadvantaged' that area is compared with other areas in Australia.	N/A	SEIFA is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file).

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	This index is a general socio-economic index that summarises information about the economic and social resources of people and households within an area. This index focuses on disadvantage. A high score (or quintile) reflects a relative lack of disadvantage rather than relative advantage.	Quintile 1 – Most disadvantaged Quintile 2 Quintile 3 Quintile 4 Quintile 5 – Least disadvantaged Unknown	The SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage is calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from Census information. SEIFA is based on ABS Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file).
Standard nominal hour values	The notional hours for common units of competency/modules delivered by training providers.	N/A	Collected in <i>Nominal hours</i> field in the <i>Subject</i> file.
State or territory of student residence	This is the state or territory in which the student usually resides.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other Australian territories or dependencies Other (overseas) Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
State or territory where the training was delivered	This is the state or territory in which the training was delivered. This field is as collected for subject enrolments and is derived for students and program enrolments. The derived field includes a mixed category (where the activity is associated with more than one state or territory of training delivery location).	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other Australian territories or dependencies Other (overseas)	Collected in/calculated from the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation delivery location</i> file.
State or territory where the training was delivered — other	Refers to other Australian territories (for example, Christmas Island) and where the delivery location is 'not known'. For students, 'other' also includes instances where the student received training that was delivered in more than one state or territory.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other Australian territories or dependencies Other (overseas)	Collected in/calculated from the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation delivery location</i> file.
State or territory where the training was delivered — overseas	Refers to training that was delivered by Australian providers to students who are located in another country and who are not normally based in Australia.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other Australian territories or dependencies Other (overseas)	Collected in/calculated from the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation delivery location</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
State or territory of training provider's head office	This is the state or territory of the training provider's head office.	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Other Australian territories or dependencies Not known	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>State identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file.
Student	Individuals who were enrolled in a subject or completed a qualification during the reporting period.	N/A	
Student remoteness (ARIA+) region	The degree of remoteness of a location in terms of the ease or difficulty people face in accessing services in non-metropolitan Australia. ARIA+ is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) divides Australia into six Remoteness Areas and is used for collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It groups locations together into comparative classes of remoteness so that data can be collected, analysed and disseminated for broad regions which are more or less remote.	Major cities Inner regional Outer regional Remote Very remote Outside Australia Not known	Student remoteness (ARIA+) regions are mapped to the Access/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+), which was developed by the National Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA) at the University of Adelaide. Student remoteness (ARIA+) is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) SA2 regions (which are derived from the AVETMISS fields <i>Postcode</i> and <i>Suburb</i> from the <i>Client</i> file).
Students attending more than one provider type	Used to report where a student attends more than one type of training provider (TAFE, university, school, community education provider, enterprise provider and private training provider).		Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> from the <i>Training organisation</i> file.
Study mode	Whether a student undertakes full-time or part-time study. A student who undertakes 540 hours of delivery or more annually is considered a full-time student.	Full-time Part-time	Calculated based on <i>nationally agreed nominal hours</i> for all enrolments and aggregated for each student.
Subject enrolment	The registration of a student at a training delivery location for the purpose of undertaking a module, unit of competency or subject.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Subject Identifier</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Subject result	The result that is recorded against a student's subject enrolment.	Competency achieved/pass Competency not achieved/fail Withdrawn/discontinued Recognition of prior learning – granted Recognition of prior learning – not granted Credit transfer/national recognition Continuing studies Non-assessable enrolment – satisfactorily completed Non-assessable enrolment – withdrawn or not satisfactorily completed	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Outcome Identifier – National</i> from the <i>Enrolment</i> file.
TAFE (technical and further education) institutes	Government training providers that provide a range of technical and vocational education and training (VET) programs (for example, training package qualifications, nationally and locally recognised courses and skill sets, entry and bridging courses, language and literacy courses, adult basic education courses, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education courses, personal enrichment courses, and small business courses).	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation type identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file
Total VET activity (TVA)	The collection and reporting of all VET activity from all training providers (unless granted an exemption), in accordance with the National VET Provider Collection Data Requirements Policy.	N/A	Derived from the National VET Provider Collection and National VET in Schools Collection, with duplicated activity removed.
Training packages	A set of nationally endorsed standards, guidelines and qualifications for training and for recognising and assessing skills. They are developed by industry with the aim of meeting the needs of an industry or group of industries. For more details of training packages, go to < http://www.training.gov.au >.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program Recognition Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.
Training provider	An organisation that delivers vocational education and training (VET) programs. Training providers include private training providers, schools, community education providers, enterprise providers, TAFE institutes and universities	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Training organisation identifier</i> in the <i>Training organisation</i> file.
Type of accreditation	The level of accreditation of a student's qualification.	National training package qualifications Nationally recognised accredited courses Higher level qualifications Locally recognised courses Skill sets Subject only – no accreditation	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Program recognition Identifier</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.

Term	Definition	Classification categories	Source
Type of subject	Whether a subject is vocational, in that it is intended to develop competency in skills relevant to the workplace, or non-vocational.	Vocational Non vocational	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>VET Flag</i> from the <i>Subject</i> file.
Unique Student Identifier (USI)	The Unique Student Identifier (USI) uniquely identifies an individual who accesses vocational education and training over his or her lifetime.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>Unique Student Identifier</i> from the <i>Client</i> file.
University	Includes Australia's universities, which have been established or recognised under state or territory legislation, except the Australian National University, which is constituted under an Act of the Australian Parliament.	N/A	Collected in the AVETMISS field Training organisation identifier in the Training organisation file.
Various providers	Where students attend more than one provider type	N/A	Calculated based on the AVETMISS field <i>Training Organisation Type Identifier</i> from the <i>Training Organisation</i> file.
Vocational education and training (VET)	Post-compulsory education and training that provides people with occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. VET also included programs which provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs.	N/A	
VET program	Whether a program is vocational, in that it is intended to develop competency in skills relevant to the workplace, or non-vocational.	Vocational program Non vocational program	Collected in the AVETMISS field <i>VET Flag</i> from the <i>Program</i> file.