What is the revised Primary Industries Curriculum Framework?

The Board of Studies has revised the Primary Industries Curriculum Framework following the endorsement of the Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management (AHC10) Training Package. The revised Primary Industries Curriculum Framework is a Board Developed Higher School Certificate (HSC) Vocational Education and Training (VET) syllabus available for study by Year 11 students from 2012.

Primary Industries Curriculum Framework – what’s in it for me?

- **credit towards your NSW HSC**
  between 2 and 8 units of HSC credit towards your overall 22 – unit HSC pattern of study
  (can be counted as either Preliminary and/or HSC units)

- **nationally recognised industry vocational qualification**
  Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) VET qualification:
  
  **Certificate II**
  - Agriculture
  - Production Horticulture
  - Horticulture
  - Parks and Gardens
  - Production Nursery
  - Retail Nursery
  - Sports Turf Management
  - Conservation and Land Management
  - Rural Operations
  - Shearing
  - Wool Handling
  - Floriculture
  - Landscaping

  **Certificate III**
  - Agriculture
  - Horse Breeding
  - Horticulture
  - Parks and Gardens
  - Rural Operations

- **credit towards your ATAR**
  up to 2 units towards your Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) from the Primary Industries HSC examination
What will I do in a Primary Industries course?

The Primary Industries HSC courses involve a combination of knowledge and skills in areas such as safety, preparation and safe use of chemicals, interpreting weather, sustainability and working effectively in the primary industries sector.

You will undertake one of two streams:
- Livestock, health and welfare – focusing on the safe work practices when handling livestock, the classification and identification of livestock, animal behaviour, health and treatment
- Plant pests, diseases and disorders – focusing on the identification of common plants, how to recognise and treat plant pests and diseases as well as the record-keeping and reporting associated with these activities.

You will also do a range of elective units of competency suited to the industry needs in your region.

What HSC courses are available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Industries (240 indicative hours)</th>
<th>Primary Industries Specialisation Study (60 or 120 or 180 or 240 indicative hours)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course will give you:</td>
<td>These courses will give you:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a total of 4 units of HSC credit</td>
<td>• 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 additional units of HSC credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a pathway to Certificate II or III qualifications in the Framework</td>
<td>• an opportunity to complete units of competency towards a Certificate II or III qualification in the Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2 units of credit towards your ATAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>(if you choose to sit for the Primary Industries HSC examination)</td>
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OR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Industries (120 indicative hours)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course will give you:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a total of 2 units of HSC credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a partial qualification in Certificate II or III qualifications in the Framework</td>
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Assessment

Competency-based assessment is used to assess HSC courses from the Primary Industries Curriculum Framework. This means that you will be assessed against prescribed industry standards outlined in the units of competency you undertake. It involves the assessment of skills and knowledge combined and you will be deemed to be ‘competent’ or ‘not yet competent’.
To receive an AQF VET qualification, you must be deemed competent in the range of units of competency required for that qualification.

Regardless of whether you meet the industry standard to be deemed competent, you will be awarded HSC unit credit for your Primary Industries course, provided you satisfactorily complete the HSC course requirements. To do this you must:
- follow the HSC course structure and requirements
- apply yourself with diligence and sustained effort to the course
- achieve some or all of the course outcomes
- meet the work placement requirements.

**What is work placement?**

Work placement involves going into a primary industries work environment relevant to the AQF VET qualification you are enrolled in to undertake structured workplace learning. You will work with primary industries workers under supervision to learn more about the industry and help develop your skills and knowledge.

You will be required to undertake 70 hours of work placement for the Primary Industries (240 indicative hours) course or 35 hours for the Primary Industries Specialisation Study (120 or 180 or 240 indicative hours) course.

If you are undertaking a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship, work placement requirements are met through the on-the-job training component of your traineeship or apprenticeship.

**HSC examination and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**

Your Primary Industries HSC VET course can be included in the calculation of your ATAR, provided you choose to sit for the Primary Industries HSC examination. This can count for up to 2 units towards your ATAR.

The Primary Industries HSC examination will be based on the HSC Content (focus areas) and employability skills for the Certificate II qualifications in this Framework.

To be eligible to sit for the Primary Industries HSC examination you have to complete the Primary Industries (240 indicative hours) course.

The first Primary Industries HSC examination will be conducted in 2013.
Primary Industries HSC course requirements and relationship to HSC examination

units of competency
- national units of competency that define the industry standards and lead to AQF VET qualifications
- you will be assessed against these standards through competency-based assessment

HSC Content
- organised into focus areas
- prescribes the scope of learning for the HSC, based on the associated units of competency used as the basis for the Primary Industries HSC examination

work placement
- you will undertake structured work placement in industry to further develop your skills and knowledge

Primary Industries HSC examination
(one common examination)
- ATAR contribution – 2 units

- Section I
  - 15 objective response questions

- Section II
  - short answer questions

- Section III
  - one extended response question

- Section IV
  - one structured extended response question
  - one question for each stream- Livestock, health and welfare Or Plant pests, diseases and disorders
  - you answer the question on the stream you have studied

You could also do a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship

If you would like to combine paid employment with your Primary Industries HSC course and train on-the-job you can undertake a school-based traineeship in any of the Certificate II qualifications or a school-based apprenticeship in Certificate III in Parks and Gardens.

If you undertake a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship you will also be eligible to complete the Board Endorsed Industry-based Learning course which will enable you to access up to 4 additional units of HSC credit for the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes you develop from the on-the-job training component of your traineeship or apprenticeship.
Primary Industries Industry Pathways – school, work and career

The following diagram illustrates some examples of possible qualification pathways from the Primary Industries Curriculum Framework.

- **Primary Industries Curriculum Framework**
  - Primary Industries (240 indicative hours)
  - Primary Industries (120 indicative hours)
  - Primary Industries Specialisation Study (60 or 120 or 180 or 240 indicative hours)

- **HSC**
  - Primary Industries Curriculum Framework
  - HSC examination
    - 2 units ATAR contribution

- **Further Training**
  - Certificate II in Agriculture (AHC20110)
  - Certificate III in Agriculture (AHC30110)
  - Certificate III in Rural Operations (AHC30710)
  - Certificate II in Horticulture (AHC20410)
  - Certificate III in Horticulture (AHC30710)
  - Certificate III in Rural Operations (AHC32810)
  - Certificate IV in Horticulture (AHC40410)
  - Certificate IV in Agriculture (AHC40110)
  - Certificate III in Agriculture (AHC30110)

- **Higher Education**
  - Bachelor of:
    - Agribusiness
    - Agriculture
    - Agricultural Science
    - Agricultural Science Management
    - Animal Science
    - Botany
    - Climate Science
    - Ecology
    - Environmental Science
    - Horticulture
    - Rural Science
    - Science
  - Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management (AHC60310)
  - Diploma of Agriculture (AHC50110)
  - Advanced Diploma of Horticulture (AHC60210)
  - Diploma of Horticulture (AHC50410)
  - Diploma of Production Horticulture (AHC50310)

- **Work**
  - School-based apprenticeships/traineeship (SBAT) pathways available
  - Primary Industries Curriculum Framework can gain work in a variety of places including livestock, cropping or mixed farms, other types of rural industries, horticulture-related enterprises and in other industry sectors in rural/remote areas such as local government.
What future pathways can this lead to?

The Primary Industries Curriculum Framework provides a pathway to employment, further education and/or training in the Primary Industries sector.

Achieving a Certificate II or III qualification can enable you to get a job as soon as you leave school.

Work is available in a diverse range of workplaces such as farms, nurseries, parks and gardens, agribusiness enterprises, landscaping businesses, agriculture-related sales positions, animal studs, and in local and state government departments and agencies.

You may also be able to gain credit from your qualification through the Primary Industries Curriculum Framework into further education and training. This includes education and/or training in either the vocational or higher education sectors.

The Primary Industries Curriculum Framework includes pathways to employment or further training for a broad range of occupations and roles including:

- animal attendant or stockperson
- farm or station hand/worker
- assistant gardener or gardener
- assistant green keeper
- groundsperson
- wool handler
- shearer
- flower grower
- landscape trades assistant
- stud farm worker
- production nursery worker
- garden centre sales assistant.

Where can I find more information?


You should also talk to your Careers Adviser or VET Coordinator for further information about what courses are available through your school or college and potential future pathways.