VE Program Design Example

Determining the Amount of Training and the VoL using the Program Design Principles and Rules.

This example is purely a case study developed for training purposes. It does not reflect or is intended to reflect the delivery of the current Advanced Diploma of Myotherapy at RMIT University.

Narrative: The exemplar is demonstrating an accredited program where the training product documents state a requirement of 855 hours of structured learning. However, the RTO after analysis of the learner cohort’s existing knowledge and skills is able to determine a pedagogical rationale for why they have designed the program with the amount of training less than 855 hours.

The exemplar has followed the program design principles and rules as detailed in the Report: VoL, Duration and Amount of Training Review of 17 VE Programs.

Qualification: 22316VIC Advanced Diploma of Myotherapy

1. Determine Training Package or Accredited Course Requirements:
   - This is an accredited course (program), therefore the course accreditation document was downloaded from www.education.vic.gov.au. The following information is provided in the course documentation.
   - The Volume of Learning as stated in the course accreditation document is typically 1.5 - 2 years and requires 855 hours of structured tuition and assessment. The course includes a required 75 hours of supervised clinical practice and an expectation of 1000 hours of independent learning, projects and assignments.
   - The course requires that each student must achieve a minimum of 75 hours of supervised clinical practice involving 30 clients with varied musculoskeletal conditions. Clients must include males and females from different stages of life.
   - Completion of the HLTS2015 Diploma of Remedial Massage is an entry requirement to the Advanced Diploma of Myotherapy.
   - The qualification is equivalent to the previous Advanced Diploma of Myotherapy however RTOs are advised there are additional resourcing requirements for delivery, training and assessment of 22316VIC Advanced Diploma of Myotherapy.

2. Determine Learner Cohort:

Completion of this course enables a qualified Remedial Massage Therapist to practise as a Myotherapist in their own practice, or as a member of a health clinic. Therefore the learner cohort will be experienced or newly qualified remedial therapists seeking to upskill and offer myotherapy services in addition to remedial therapy to clients.
3. Determine Delivery Mode

Industry engagement activities have supported a combination of face-to-face classes, online activities and clinical practice for a minimum of 75 hours. The structured online component is seen as very important, as the learner cohort are practising remedial massage therapists and will be time poor. According to industry feedback the more flexible the training the better this will be for this learner cohort.

The additional 1000 hours is considered by the industry as a means for the learners to record their own clinical practice activities as they practice and improve the application of myotherapy services. This should occur once they have completed the 75 hours of supervised myotherapy practice. Individual research and general professional development in myotherapy services were also seen as important self directed activities. It was agreed that assignments and projects would in fact form part of the structured training in the course.

4. Resources

The accreditation document states that treatments are to be conducted in a fully simulated clinical environment using real clients. XYZ Training has a suitable clinical facility and has all of the materials and equipment specified in the curriculum document.

Other resources that must be provided are:
- Fully equipped training facilities and equipment
- Related range of texts and/or medical manuals, references and audio/visual materials
- Relevant national, state or local government regulations and guidelines
- Workplace documentation
- Computer access

All these resources are available to students at XYZ Training.

Assessors not only must have the standard assessor competencies but it is also recommended they have:
- a minimum of 2 year’s myotherapy clinical experience and
- current membership of a relevant Professional Association.

XYZ Training has a number of fully qualified TAE40110 staff who have the additional industry vocational requirements. The teaching load will be distributed across three teachers.

5. Amount of Training

The following table summarizes the amount of training (structured activities) and unstructured activities. The latter are important for calculating the duration of the program (VoL).

A delivery schedule across 18 months (3 semesters) will be provided in the Training and Assessment strategy.

XYZ Training intends to deliver an amount of training equivalent to 630 hours. The nominal duration of the course is 855 hours. The reason for the reduced number of hours will be justified in the TAS based on:
The learner cohort must have as an entry requirement the HLT52015 Diploma of Remedial Therapy or equivalent and therefore have very good underpinning knowledge and skills in complementary units of competency from the Health Training Package. RPL will be offered to all students on entry and during the program therefore this may also reduce the amount of training for some students.

As the learner cohort has met the qualification entry requirement, units have been clustered into modules for delivery and assessment purposes reducing the overall amount of training.

Many of the learners will be working as remedial therapists and as supported by industry feedback a flexible mixed mode of delivery is preferred.

A significant proportion of the course will be delivered online to meet the cohort’s and industry’s need for flexible delivery. The online component will include structured group and individual activities with scheduled real time access to a teacher.

The course documentation requires 1000 hours for independent learning, projects and assignments. Projects and assignments have been built into the amount of training as these will be structured activities and form part of the amount of training.

6. Volume of Learning

The program will be delivered over 18 months/3 semesters. This has been supported by industry. The AQF VoL range indicator for an Advanced Diploma is between 18 months and 2 years. The course documentation states the VoL should be between 18 and 24 months.

The amount of training will be supported by 860 hours of unstructured activities. This is less than the recommended 1000 hours as some of these hours have been allocated to projects and assignments. Projects and assignments will be structured and supported by the teacher therefore 115 hours relating to these activities have been included in the Amount of Training.

A significant amount of the research, self-initiated study will be conducted online and if the students access resources via the RTO’s learning management system this will be recorded electronically.

Industry has also recommended that students be encouraged to maintain a journal of their time to record additional clinical practice, private study, research, and other self-initiated learning.

Online participation data, student journals and feedback will provide valuable quantitative and qualitative information when reviewing the course delivery and assessment strategy.
# VE Program Design Example

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<td><strong>Unit Code and Title</strong></td>
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<td>Online:</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Private Study</td>
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<td>CHCCOM002 Use communication to build relationships (55)</td>
<td>Classroom and lab 40</td>
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<td>Tutorials 30</td>
<td>Guided activities 10</td>
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<td>VU21873 Establish and manage a myotherapy practice (160)</td>
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<td>VU21874 Manage health risks in a myotherapy environment (60)</td>
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<td>VU21876 Perform myotherapy clinical assessment (100)</td>
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<td>VU21877 Plan myotherapy treatment strategy (120)</td>
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Examples of structured and unstructured activities. The examples provided under each sub heading are not meant to be prescriptive. If other activities are used include in your course table.

- **F2F** – scheduled classroom, workshop, laboratory or studio sessions
- **Online** – webinar, tutorials, online WIL, guided activities, simulations, collaborations
- **WIL** – clinical placement, industry placement, site visit, industry engaged project, fieldwork, incubator
- **Assessment** – examples include skill demonstration in the workplace or a simulated environment, in class assessments, reports, display, journal, multimedia products, written or oral questions, presentations
- **Private study** – own research, self-initiated study, time spent on reports.
- **Online Collaboration** – student-initiated discussions, forums, blogs, collaborative writing
- **Discipline Practice** – engagement in the workplace or community as part of employment or as a volunteer, industry familiarisation, practice of technical skills and expansion of industry knowledge.

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