Tertiary VET in Norway

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Upper secondary education

• General education route (3 years) leading to the *Higher Education Entrance Qualification*
• Vocational route (2+2 years) leading to the trade or journeyman’s examination
• 30% of pupils in the VET route shift to the general education route
The tertiary education system

• Vocational colleges (EQF level 5) 16,000 students (110 institutions)
• University colleges (EQF levels 6-7) 95,000 students (22 institutions)
• Universities and specialized university institutions (EQF levels 6-7) 135,000 students (17 institutions)
Vocational colleges

• 0,5 – 2 years education (110 institutions)
• Technical programs
• Maritime education
• Health and social care
• Agriculture, fishing and forestry
• Restaurant and food processing
• Service and transport
• Arts and crafts
Technical colleges

- Technical 2-year colleges have most students
- Ca. 60% of the students have a craft or journeyman’s certificate
- Ca. 30% have passed the general requirements for entrance into HE
- Ca. 10% have at least 5 years work experience
- VET route to 2nd year of bachelor programs in engineering
University colleges

• Engineering
• Teacher training
• Preschool teacher training
• Nursing
• Social work
• Economics and administration
Universities and specialised university institutions

- Bachelor and master degrees in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences
- Five-year programs of professional study
- Six-year programs of professional study
- Some universities offer professional bachelor programs
The institutional structure is changing

• The binary division is gradually disappearing
• Academic drift in university colleges
• Merger processes initiated by the government
• Some colleges are merging with universities
• Technical colleges want to become higher education institutions
Tertiary level programs that include practical training

- Vocational college programs with practice periods
- Professional bachelor programs with practice periods
- Bachelor programs where the thesis is undertaken in industry
- Ordinary master programs with a practice period
- Workplace-based bachelor and master part-time programs
- 5- and 6-year programs of professional study