

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