



Berufs-, Berufsfach- und Fachschulen,
Berufseinstiegsschule, Fachoberschule
und Berufliches Gymnasium

Basic Information on Qualification in Social Pedagogical Assistance at the Vocational Gymnasium

At the Verden Vocational Schools, we offer our **Vocational Gymnasium – Health and Social Affairs – Specialization in Social Pedagogy** with a dual qualification: alongside obtaining the **Abitur** (the German general higher education entrance qualification) in pedagogy and psychology, we also qualify our students as **Social Pedagogical Assistants**.

The Abitur is the highest general education qualification in Germany, corresponding to Level 4 of the **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** or the **German Qualifications Framework (DQR)**. Starting at around 16 years old, students at our institution enroll in the three-year educational program **Vocational Gymnasium – Health and Social Affairs – Specialization in Social Pedagogy**, which concludes with the Abitur.

The profession of **Social Pedagogical Assistant** is a supportive educational role in which professionals work with individual children or, in collaboration with more highly trained individuals, with groups of children aged 0 to 10 years, e.g., in nurseries, kindergartens, after-school care centers, or elementary schools. This professional qualification is also equivalent to Level 4 of the EQF or DQR. In addition to the Abitur, we qualify our students at the Vocational Gymnasium as Social Pedagogical Assistants.

I would be pleased to inform you about our dual qualification practice model.

Practical Training in the Program

Over the course of the three years, our students gain experience working with children of various age groups in different institutions.

- **Second or third year:** Additional practical phases ("weitere Praxiszeiten") are completed during school vacations, amounting to 140 hours. These are organized by the students themselves. Each block must last at least one week. The institutions involved typically include kindergartens (working with children aged 3 to 6). Other facilities may be considered upon consultation with the teaching staff at Verden Vocational Schools. These additional practical phases may also be completed abroad. We support our students in accessing relevant funding programs for this purpose.

- **First year:** Students gain experience working with children aged 6 to 10 in elementary schools offering all-day programs or in elementary schools combined with after-school care. This phase is closely supervised by Verden Vocational Schools, with regular visits and assessments during the internship.

The **additional practical phases**, which may also be completed abroad, are not supervised by the school and are intended solely for gaining further experience. For this part of the internship, the student applies directly to you. At the end, we would need a certificate confirming the completed hours, though no evaluation is required. Attached, you will find templates for an internship agreement and a certificate of completed hours.

Health and Personal Suitability

The health and personal suitability of students applying for internships with you are verified through a certificate of good conduct and a medical certificate.

Additional Qualification Elements

In their second year, students complete a research paper, conduct a project, and undergo a practical vocational examination, which includes an assessed professional discussion about their project. In the third year, they complete a theoretical vocational examination (a multi-hour written test), as well as the Abitur examinations, including subjects like pedagogy and psychology, as well as other vocational and general education subjects.

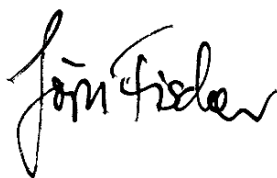
Pathways after Graduation

The dual qualification at the Vocational Gymnasium facilitates smooth transitions to further educational paths, such as a training program to become a **Childcare Professional (Erzieher/-in)** or a part-time position as a Social Pedagogical Assistant during studies in fields such as **Social Work, Elementary Education, or Vocational Education.**

Collaboration and Contact

I look forward to collaborating with you in the qualification of future Social Pedagogical Assistants. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, the Head of the Social Pedagogy Department at the Vocational Gymnasium, for example, via email at fachgruppe.bgsp@bbs-verden.de. Thank you!

Best regards,



Jörn Fischer

Head of the Social Pedagogy Department at the Vocational Gymnasium