

The Common Unit Program

Overview

The common units have been developed to help students make a successful transition into higher education by providing the skills and knowledge to succeed. They deal with:

1. The practical skills required for successful university study, including: assignment writing, reading and thinking critically, referencing, researching and IT skills;
2. Graduate skills in communication, teamwork, leadership and social responsibility, and;
3. Contextual & cultural knowledge applicable to their course of study and their professions.

Guidelines

All students commencing a Bachelor's Degree, Associate Degree or Advanced Diploma (unless formally exempted) are required to complete **two** common units in their first year of study as follows:

The core unit dealing with cultural literacy

- **CUC107 Cultural Intelligence and Capability**

and

One of the following Academic Communication Units:

- **CUC100 Academic Literacies**

or

- **CUC106 Design & Innovation: Communicating Technology**

Which of the Literacies units should students choose CUC100 or CUC106?

Although both units cover the same range of skills, each is designed to teach writing that is particularly relevant to specific disciplines

CUC106 emphasises *group work around a design project and writing for technology/ science/IT.*

CUC100 emphasises *writing for humanities and social sciences*, and the assignments are completed individually.

Unit availability 2017

Please refer to the table below for availability:

Unit	S1 2017	S2 2017	SS 2017
CUC100	IE	IE	E
CUC106	IE	E	E
CUC107	IE	IE	E

Advanced standing through prior learning?

If students have covered these skills and/or knowledge in previous study (e.g. another degree or a tertiary enabling program) or through professional practice they can apply for professional assessment or credit transfer.

Rules for exemptions and information on how to apply for exemption from Common Units can be found on our website:

<http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/commonunits/>

Teaching in the program

Staff from all disciplines are encouraged to teach in common units. Areas of expertise required are:

- Academic Communication
- Disciplinary knowledge in *sustainability, anthropology, history, sociology, marketing, design, engineering, creativity, environmental science.*

CUC100 Academic Literacies through Exploring Sustainability

This unit focusses on developing students' academic literacies and knowledge of sustainability. Through this unit, students will begin to develop the skills and confidence in thinking critically, researching, reading, writing and presenting ideas in a range of modes. This is achieved through the articulation of an academically credible understanding of a central theme, sustainability, which significantly impacts all our lives in the 21st century. As part of the development of students' academic literacies, students will build on their awareness of the skills and requirements for success at university.

Each assessment in the unit represents a stage towards completing the final assignment – an essay.

Assessments			
Item	Focus	Value	Length
A1	Learning reflection: key sustainability points for essay	15%	250 wds
A2	Summary/critique of core readings	40%	1200 wds
A3	Visual presentation of essay plan	45%	10 slides
A4	Discursive essay on sustainability	50%	2000 wds

CUC106 Design & Innovation: Communicating Technology

CUC106 provides students with the opportunity to learn about design, sustainable development for communities, team work and communication whilst contributing towards real international development projects. Students work in multidisciplinary teams to design solutions for projects ranging from water supply and quality to sanitation, health and education programs, and other infrastructure developments. Developing creative solutions and building prototypes is a major focus in this unit. Students' academic literacy skills are developed as they research, read, think critically and communicate verbally and in writing about the design project.

The assessments are designed to reflect the stages and requirements of a real-world project. Assessments 1 and 2 are completed individually

and Assessment 3 as a multidisciplinary group.

Assessments CUC106			
Item	Focus	Value	Length
A1	Personal Reflection on project	10%	300 wds
A2	Project proposal	30%	1250 wds
A3 a	Project plan	10%	n/a
A3 b	Presentation	20%	8-10 mins
A3 c	Final report	30%	2500 wds

CUC107 Cultural Intelligence and Capability

Cultural Intelligence and Capability explores important issues related to living, studying and working as a professional in the diverse social and cultural environments of contemporary society. The unit examines broad interactions between culture, knowledge experience and behaviour and the way in which these interactions and our perceptions of culture shape our interactions at a personal, academic and professional level. It explores the notion of cultural intelligence and the need for people to be capable of identifying and analysing the complex cultural dynamics of their interpersonal, academic and professional interactions and developing places for people to operate safely and effectively. The study program for this unit provides a structure for students to reflect upon, analyse and articulate how ways of responding to the complex cultural circumstances into which you are immersed as a student and as a graduate in your chosen profession.

Assessments			
Item	Focus	Value	Length
A1	Reflection & Mindmap on personal culture	15%	250 wds
A2	Critical reflection on cultural intelligence	40%	1200 wds
A3	Report on the application of cultural capabilities	45%	700 wds

For more information contact Dr Nicola Rolls the Common Unit Theme Leader by phone: (08) 8946 6142 or email: nicola.rolls@cdu.edu.au