

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:

1. The core unit dealing with contextual and cultural issues

- **CUC107 Northern Perspectives**

and

2. Either one of the following Academic Communication Units:

- **CUC100 Academic Literacies**

(For Humanities/Social Sciences students)

or

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

(For Technology/Science/IT students)

Unit availability 2012

Please refer to the table below for availability:

Unit	S1 2012	S2 2012	SS 2012
CUC100 Academic Literacies	IE	IE	E
CUC106 Design & Innovation	IE	E	E
CUC107 Northern Perspectives	IE	IE	E

Exemption 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:

- Communication
- IT
- Disciplinary knowledge in *ecology, anthropology, history, sociology, marketing, design, engineering, creativity.*

CUC100 Academic Literacies

Coordinator: Elizabeth Foggo

Elizabeth.Foggo@cdu.edu.au or **Ph:** (08) 8946 6393

The overall aim of this unit is to help students succeed in their studies by giving them the opportunity to reflect on the requirements for succeeding at university and to strengthen skills to help ensure their success. These skills include critical analysis, academic reading, assignment writing, researching & referencing, using online learning tools and computing.

CUC106 Design & Innovation: Communicating Technology

Coordinator: Micah Thorbjornsen

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or **Ph:** (08) 8946 6508

Design and Innovation 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. The other component, academic literacy skills, is approached in the context of researching and communicating about the design project.

CUC107 Northern Perspectives

Coordinator: Jaimee Hamilton

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This unit provides students with an opportunity to examine and build an understanding of the social, political, historical and cultural issues which impact all disciplines of study and professions regardless of location. It draws many of its examples from the north Australian and examines these issues from the perspective of Indigenous and non Indigenous communities. However, students are encouraged to explore and discuss the issues dealt with from their own regional context.

Which of the Literacies units should your students choose

CUC100 or CUC106?

Although both units cover the same range of skills, different skills are emphasised in each so it is important you choose the most suitable one for their area of study and/or personal needs and interests.

- **CUC106** emphasises *group work around a design project and writing for technology/science/IT.*
- **CUC100** emphasises *writing for humanities and social sciences*, it includes a component that *teaches IT Skills*, and the assignments are completed individually.

For more information about choosing common units don't hesitate to contact Nicola Rolls the Common Unit Theme Leader by phone: (08) 8946 6142 or email: nicola.rolls@cdu.edu.au