

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, sustainability 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 Literacy Units:

▪ **CUC100 Academic Literacies Through Exploring Sustainability**

or

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

Which of the literacies units should students choose – CUC100 or CUC106?

Although both cover the same range of skills

Each is designed to teach the kind of writing 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. It has more support for academic literacy.

Unit availability 2017

Please refer to the table below for availability:

Unit	S1 2017	S2 2017	SS 2017
CUC100 Academic Literacies	IE	IE	E
CUC106 Design & Innovation	IE	E	E
CUC107 Northern Perspectives	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, psychology, marketing, design, engineering, creativity.*

CUC100 Academic Literacies through Exploring Sustainability

This unit focusses on developing students' academic literacies. 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 – a discursive academic essay.

Assessments CUC100			
Item	Focus	Value	Length
A1	Learning reflection: key sustainability points for essay	15%	300 wds
A2	Summary/critique of core readings	20%	800 wds
A3	Visual presentation of essay plan	15%	5 mins
A4	Discursive essay on sustainability	50%	2000 wds

CUC106 Design & Innovation: Communicating Technology

Design and Innovation provides students with the opportunity to learn about sustainable design for developing 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 and assessments for this unit provide a structure for students to reflect upon, analyse and articulate ways of responding to the complex cultural circumstances into which they are immersed students and as graduates in a professional context.

Assessments CUC107			
Item	Focus	Value	Length
A1	Reflection & Mind map on personal culture	15%	250 wds
A2	Critical reflection on cultural intelligence	40%	1200 wds
A3	Applying Cultural capabilities	45%	1700 wds

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