

COURSE STRUCTURES

Glossary of terms

This glossary is intended as a guide for Faculties and Schools to assist in maintaining standard nomenclature and terminology during the period of course restructuring. Some terms are drawn from the glossary on the Course and Unit website and are repeated here for ease of reference.

Advanced level unit: a unit which builds upon knowledge and skills attained from introductory and intermediate level units and is the highest level of unit in bachelor degrees. These units are currently designated as 300 and 400 level units.

Core: a unit or set of units which form a compulsory part of requirements for completion of a degree.

Co-requisite: A unit which should be studied concurrently with another unit.

Credit: Recognition of prior studies which count towards the requirements for the current degree (either at another institution or in another course at this University).

The credit granted may be 'specified' i.e. the credit may be granted for a particular unit, or 'unspecified', for example, for elective units at a particular level. (This is also referred to as 'advanced standing' or 'recognition of prior learning' (RPL)).

Cross-institutional: enrolment in a course at another higher education institution, to be counted as credit towards degree requirements at the 'home' university where the award will be conferred.

Degree electives: Between 2 - 4 units, according to the relevant degree model, which may be from the degree schedule and taken at any level, subject to pre-requisites, unit quotas and the unit level ranges defined in the degree specifications. If taken at introductory level, the units will often be a pair of linked introductory units. The intermediate and advanced level units may each be taken in separate disciplines; eg they

could add to the discipline studied in the major, minor or degree electives, or be in another discipline.

Discipline: A field of related studies, eg the disciplines of Physics, Mathematics, History, Latin. Some schools are divided into a number of disciplines; eg the School of Asian Languages and Studies includes the following disciplines: Asian Studies, Chinese, Indonesian, and Japanese.

Elective(s): see **Degree electives** and/or **Student electives**

Full-time (study): studying 8 standard units (totalling 100%) in semesters 1 and 2 in one calendar year constitutes full-time study for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements for a degree.

Foundation unit: units which aim to provide under-prepared students with the opportunity to obtain the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to study units at introductory level.

General (degree): a course of study with unit choices available from a broad range of study areas within a faculty. Examples of General degrees are the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science. In a General degree with a common core first year group of units, the 4 degree electives may be prescribed in the first year of study.

A General degree consists of 1 major, a minor, 4 degree electives and 8 student electives.

Intermediate level unit: a unit which builds upon knowledge and skills attained from introductory level units and is assessed at a higher level. These units are currently designated as second year or 200 level units.

Introductory level unit: an entry level unit which would normally be taken in the first year of study, but may be taken in later years, subject to the degree requirements. These units are currently designated as first year or 100 level units.

Major: An area of specialisation continued for the duration of a degree at a deeper level of content with knowledge and expertise developed to a high level, providing the basis for postgraduate study. A major is normally in a single discipline, but it may be cross-disciplinary if required.

A **standard major** consists of a group of 8 units, 2 at introductory, 2 at intermediate and 4 at advanced level.

A **reversed major** consists of 8 units, 4 at introductory, 2 at intermediate and 2 at advanced level. A reversed major may be used in conjunction with a standard major in some Specialist degrees to provide a common core first year group of units.

Minimum (course length): Notional minimum length for a course if studied full-time. The minimum course length does not prohibit students from accelerating their progression by studying units which count towards their degree in spring, summer or winter study periods.

Minor: A sequence of 4 units, normally in a second area of specialisation. A minor would normally consist of 2 units at introductory and 2 at intermediate level. A minor may also be multi-disciplinary.

Module: Groups of units which form the components in a degree, ie the major, minor, degree or student elective units.

Mutually exclusive (unit/s) (or m/excl): A unit which may not be counted with the present unit in the same course. For example, a student who enrolled in KGA100 Geography and Environmental Studies 1 may not now enrol in KGA101 Geography and Environmental Studies 1A.

Units in which the content of the material overlaps and enrolment in both is not permitted as both will not count towards the degree.

Practicum: A unit where the emphasis is on gaining practical professional experience, normally in the workplace.

Pre-requisite: a unit or level of study or other requirement (eg a police check) which must be successfully completed prior to enrolment or before a later unit may be studied. For example, in order to enrol in BEA130 Foundations of Economic Policy, the student must have first successfully completed BEA110 Economics for Business.

Schedule: Linked to the course specifications, a course schedule lists the units that are available in a course. The schedules in the Courses and Unit website detail the unit title,

where and when it is offered, its weight expressed as a percentage of a full year's work and the enrolment code of the unit.

Specialisation: units in a particular subject area which form a sequence of study, e.g. French, Computing, Economics.

Specialist (degree): a course of study with a strong focus of unit options in one discipline area, eg Bachelor of Education. The degree may provide training for entry into particular employment areas or towards recognition or accreditation by professional bodies.

Specialist model 1: 2 standard majors, a minor and 4 student electives.

Specialist model 2: 1 standard major, 1 reversed major, a minor and 4 student electives.

Specialist model 3: 2 standard majors, a minor, 2 degree electives and 2 student electives OR 1 standard major, 1 reversed major, a minor, 2 degree electives and 2 student electives.

Student elective(s): units which may be taken from any available subject for which the student is eligible in any faculty, subject to degree unit level requirements, unit prerequisites and unit quotas.

Unit: a component of study, with a weighting at 12.5%, is a standard unit.

Eight standard units comprise a standard 1 year of study (i.e. 100%), with a three year degree comprising 24 standard units, a four year degree 32 standard units and a five year degree comprising 40 standard units.