ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Learning and Teaching Matters
15 February 2024

Overview from Director, CEI
Professor Anthony Whitty

Dear colleagues,

As we prepare to begin another exciting semester, I trust you have enjoyed a restful break and are ready to commence Semester 1 with renewed energy.

All course coordinators were invited to an informative workshop in preparation for the semester, the virtual session was held on **Friday 16 February**. Access the resources and session recordings.

I am pleased to announce that CEI has established a **New Teacher Induction Resource** to enhance the currency, consistency, and efficiency of our onboarding process for academic staff. New staff can self-enrol in the module on Canvas. Access to the information outside of Canvas is available as a PDF on the Professional Learning Program. Please access the module or share the resource with your staff and encourage them to become acquainted with the information.

The ACU Thrive model will be delivered in 45 units in Semester 1, covering roughly 90% of commencing undergraduate students. Thank you to all the staff who have actively contributed to its implementation. Your engagement and dedicated efforts to review and develop the learning content are crucial to its success. As the semester progresses, we look forward to continuing to evaluate the initiative and advancing the model based on staff and student feedback.

I wish everyone a successful year ahead filled with rewarding learning experiences and impactful teaching efforts. If you have any questions or need support over the next few weeks, please don't hesitate to reach out to CEI@acu.edu.au.

Request Canvas support via Service Central

If you need assistance configuring your Canvas course, enrolling a staff member, requesting access to archived LEO content or support for other Canvas technical issues, **please submit a Service Central request**.

Staff can also visit Canvas Training & Support Resources to access training modules, tutorial and skills videos, and support guides. For answers to frequently asked questions about LEO archiving, Canvas features, final grades and more, please visit Canvas FAQs.

Presenting curriculum information to students without an Extended Unit Outline Reminder from Semester 1, ACU has moved away from an EUO approach. Access the guide, 'Presenting curriculum information to students in Canvas' to aid you in the transition to the new model.

CEI has been working with L&T leaders in the Faculty of Education and Arts (FEA) to develop a pilot quality assurance process of the curriculum and unit information presented to students in Canvas. This pilot project involved moderators from within schools to peer review the Canvas courses of approximately 200 FEA units. The feedback from moderators was then provided to LICs to consider and act upon (if needed), before opening the units to students. Findings included discrepancies between GUO and Canvas assignment information, missing teaching team details and information that could be included in the Canvas 'Extended Unit Information' page. Lessons from the pilot will now be shared across all faculties as we look to build a process for Semester 2, 2024.

In the coming weeks, CEI will continue to refine ACU's Canvas configuration and curriculum-related tools in Canvas based on faculty feedback.

Graduate Attributes

From Semester 1, 2024 ACU's four graduate attributes **insight, empathy, imagination,** and **impact,** will be embedded in ACU's curriculum through the ACU graduate statement and the 12 graduate capabilities (GC). Our graduate attributes reflect ACU's focus on learning as an interconnected journey between staff and students.

Graduate statement

The ACU graduate statement describes a holistic understanding of the ACU student on completion of their studies. It reflects the aspirational goals ACU has for each student through a consideration of each graduate attribute. The ACU graduate statement is now included in ACU courses under Course Details on the Course Browser.

Graduate capabilities

ACU's graduate capabilities (GC), which underpin the graduate attributes, enable job ready graduates through a focus on the skills and capabilities students develop on their learning journey. The 12 graduate capabilities have been integrated into ACU's units through a process of mapping the graduate capabilities to the Unit Learning Outcomes. This mapping is now included in the 2024 handbook.

Now that the ACU graduate attributes are embedded in the curriculum, we highly encourage all staff to familiarise themselves with ACU's graduate attributes and the relationship between the graduate statement and graduate capabilities.

Thank you to all staff that were involved in this ACU-wide initiative.

Important changes: Student Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy

ACU has implemented changes to the Student Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy and Procedure from January 2024, introducing a more streamlined approach to poor academic practice findings for academic misconduct allegations.

Poor academic practice (PAP) constitutes a very minor contravention of the expected academic standards for university-level study in Australia, including but not limited to:

a.   lack of familiarity with academic writing conventions; and/or
b.   poor referencing or paraphrasing practice.

The new changes extend the educational intervention approach:

- **More experienced students** who have no academic misconduct history may receive a PAP instead of facing an allegation of academic misconduct for very minor contraventions.
- **Less experienced students** may receive a PAP in most circumstances, with only specific serious matters leading to a breach. This approach recognises the ongoing learning process for students adjusting to academic standards.

These changes aim to strike a balance between accountability and educational growth, ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to address poor academic practice while guiding students towards improvement.

For detailed information on the handling of PAP, please refer to Section 8 of the Student Academic Misconduct Procedure or contact academic.integrity@acu.edu.au if you have any questions.

Enrolments & Student Records information sessions

The Enrolments and Student Records team will be running information sessions for academic and professional staff to explain and answer questions about various functions relating to key student enrolment processes. These sessions will further develop knowledge in the following areas:

- Amendments to enrolment (adding and withdrawing units)
- Credit/Recognition of Prior Learning
- Cross Institutional Enrolment (AX)
- Increase credit point limit

- Interruption of studies (IoS) and Interruption of Studies under exceptional circumstances
- Late Addition of Unit (LAU)
- Right of Correction (RC)
- Unit substitutions
- Unit Enrolment Waiver Requests (Prerequisite, Campus, Course restriction and repeat)
- Waive Late Fee (WLF)
- Withdrawing from course (WC)

Information sessions were held on Tuesday 5 March and Thursday 7 March 2024. If you were unable to attend one of these scheduled sessions but would still like to receive training or information on the enrolments process, they are available on the E&SR SharePoint site.

Mandatory modules for students are now on Canvas

Academic Integrity, Respectful Relationships and Protecting our Children modules are now on Canvas. Students are automatically enrolled in each module they are required to complete, visible on their Canvas dashboard. Upon completion, students earn shareable Canvas badges. These badges are automatically awarded to students who have previously completed the modules in LEO, they do not need to complete them again.

Access to the modules in Canvas for ACU Online students will soon follow, from ACU Term 2 in April. Results for students will be withheld until they have completed their mandatory modules, as per ACU's Academic Regulations (S. 10.95c). This initiative represents ACU's important and ongoing commitment to academic integrity and fostering a safe community.

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