

What is ACU Thrive?

ACU Thrive is an introductory undergraduate teaching model designed to assist students in transitioning to tertiary studies. Units are structured as flipped classrooms, with teaching teams having flexibility in how they implement this approach. Learn more [on the ACU Thrive webpage](#).

Why ACU Thrive?

The aim of ACU Thrive is to effectively communicate the advantages of selecting ACU to potential students and subsequently deliver on that commitment. ACU Thrive enables us to strategically align with the [ACU Mission](#) and [Education Strategy](#), as well as allocate resources for support services, like learning design teams.

Which units are being 'Thrived' and when?

To date, there have been units from all four Faculties converted to the ACU Thrive model. Over time, all first-year units in ACU Bachelor courses will transition to the ACU Thrive model. Only units belonging to the initial eight units of a course, as specified in course handbooks and maps, will be converted. A selection of courses have already undergone this transformation including some Education courses, Physiotherapy, Nursing, and Nursing/Paramedicine. In 2024, all relevant units from Faculty of Health Sciences courses will shift to ACU Thrive. Select units from other Faculties will also be converted, with decisions to be made through discussions with ADLTs, NLICs/LICs, and Heads of Schools.

I'm an NLIC/LIC for an ACU Thrive unit, what are my responsibilities and when do I need to act?

The process of converting units to the ACU Thrive model begins around 4 to 5 months prior to delivery (e.g., October of the preceding year for a Semester 1 unit). You'll receive communication before then, but feel free to contact the project lead (John.Mahoney@acu.edu.au) if you have any queries beforehand.

Is there a workload associated with ACU Thrive work?

Yes, there's an additional workload allocation of approximately 100 hours provided by the CEI for teaching teams engaged in this process. Typically, these hours are distributed among the teaching team members, with the specifics determined by the School.

What's the timeline for this process?

The project team aims to initiate ACU Thrive work several months in advance, usually 4 to 5 months prior. This accommodates the availability of the teaching teams, their commitments, and the Academic Timeline. Teaching teams have some flexibility regarding implementation timeframes, and the project team maintains regular communication to ensure staff are well-supported. In the instance teaching teams are yet to be determined, the project team works with available staff, nominated by the Head of School.

Who will provide assistance?

Teaching teams are provided substantial support when transitioning to the ACU Thrive model. The CEI's Learning Experience Design team, encompassing learning technologists and ACU Studio personnel, assist with most of the learning design aspects in Canvas. They also aid in developing learning materials and activities. Academic Developers are available for curriculum inquiries, while the Academic Skills Unit team assists in integrating academic skills resources into units. Additional groups, including the Library and data analysts, also contribute to this initiative and support teaching teams.

Are there training sessions or orientations available?

Yes, there are options available. The course [UNMC581 What Works in Higher Education: Evidence-Based Teaching Practices in the 'Classroom'](#) closely aligns with ACU Thrive and is open to all staff members, including sessional staff, at no cost. Staff can undertake UNMC581 as a 5-credit point micro-credential or a short course. For more information and enrollment, you can contact John.Mahoney@acu.edu.au. There's also a Showcase series featuring presentations on ACU Studios, H5P interactives, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Library resources, and academic skills. These sessions run while staff prepare their units.

Where can I find information and resources?

The [ACU Thrive MS Teams site](#) offers current information and resources, serving as a platform for staff to ask questions and engage with colleagues who are actively involved in this work. This group facilitates the sharing of accomplishments, obtaining swift answers, and accessing core resources.

How do we assess the effectiveness of ACU Thrive?

A comprehensive evaluation of ACU Thrive is underway, involving a comparison of specific metrics within and across units and courses. Key outcomes being assessed include student retention, success, engagement, and satisfaction. The impact on the staff community is also evaluated by examining staff satisfaction, accomplishments, and workload.