ACU Study Modes: a guide for academics

Purpose

This guide aims to build a shared lexicon and common understanding at ACU regarding the modes of study and is intended for use at:

1. the course level when designing/re-designing curriculum and

2. the unit level when planning and designing for learning.

This guide is not prescriptive, in that it acknowledges faculties will adapt the learning descriptors for each study mode described to meet the needs of their discipline(s) and specific learning requirements.

Introduction

ACU delineates three modes of study. This guide will assist lecturers to reflect on the pedagogical approach to their individual unit within the overall course. It is the responsibility of the faculty, advised by Course Review and Development Committees, to define the appropriate mode of study for a course. Individual units within a course will be designed for delivery that is consistent with the extended descriptor for that mode of study. At ACU, digital technologies will be used in each of the three Study Modes in order to enhance students' access to their learning experience.

In **ALL** modes of learning, LEO will be used to:

1. Provide information to students about the unit.
2. Provide access to necessary learning resources (e.g. readings).
3. Facilitate the delivery of a range of learning activities, to support student progression.

ACU Study Modes – Short Description

Note: The current ACU definitions are italicized in the short description below.

The endorsed ACU Study Modes are:
1. Attendance

2. Multi-mode
3. Online

1. Attendance

It will likely require (as specified in the unit outline) *face to face and/or video conference attendance at an ACU campus or other physical location*. In this mode technology is used to enhance the provision of the unit management and resources for learner support. This is the minimum level of technology enabled learning provision expected at ACU.

2. Multi-mode

In this mode technology is used to further enable student access to their learning experience and to enrich the quality of their learning. This will generally include the provision of interactive learning experiences beyond those attainable in a classroom based and face to face environment. This approach will be characterized by *a combination of online content and attendance (including examinations, practicums, residential etc.)*. This is the preferred level of technology use to which ACU is progressing.

3. Online

In this mode digital technologies are used to deliver learning and assessment components, to allow 'anywhere, anytime learning'. Units will often involve the use of collaborative learning activities and other technology-enabled synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.

Relationship between the three modes and blended learning

At ACU blended learning is defined as the combination of face-to-face and online learning, with purposeful integration of educational technologies and innovative learning design, to enhance the student learning experience.

The following image shows the relationship between blended learning and the ACU study modes.

Blended learning

| Attendance mode | Multi-mode | Online mode |

ACU Study Modes - Extended Description

The ACU Study Modes along with their defining criteria and explanations are described below.

In reading the Learning descriptor it should be noted that:

- Any Learning requirement to be met by the student is only as specified in the Unit Outline.
- The range of LEO-provided technologies includes, but is not limited, to the examples provided in each learning descriptor.

ACU Study Mode - Attendance			
Principal mode of delivery	**Learning descriptor**	**Examples of technology use**	**Location**
Face to face	Learning in this unit will require face-to-face attendance in specific physical location/s. Students will have face-to-face interactions with lecturer(s) and/or industry practitioners to achieve the learning outcomes. For units with industry/work experience, supervision is undertaken by the lecturer/supervisor either in person and/or virtually (e.g. online).	The following will be accessible to students online: - unit outline - notices/announcements - assessment information, submission, marking and return of results/feedback - learning resources (e.g. readings, lecture notes, audio or video recorded material, lecture slides - activities – individual and group (e.g. discussions, quizzes, wikis). Technologies used to enhance face to face delivery may include: - live quizzes/polling - simulations - industry required technology.	Will include some online access and combinations of the following: - on campus, - intensives, - industry/workplace experiences (such as practicums and clinical practice).

ACU Study Mode – Multi-mode

Principal mode of delivery	Learning descriptor	Examples of technology use	Location
Face to face and virtual	Learning in this unit requires some face-to-face attendance and will contain complementary online activities. Unit will likely require the use of online communication and collaboration tools to achieve interactions amongst students, and with the lecturer(s)/industry expert on a regular basis. The proportion of face-to-face time will vary between different units. For units with industry/work experience, supervision is undertaken by the lecturer/supervisor either in person and/or virtually (e.g. online).	The following will be accessible online to students: • unit outline • notices/announcements • assessment information, submission, marking and return of results/feedback. Learning resources and activities may include the following (but not limited to): • web links • simulations • quizzes • videos • interactives • readings • lecture notes/slides • audio. Collaboration may be facilitated through: • webinars • online discussion groups • blogs • wikis • other shared digital tools. Technologies used to enhance face to face delivery may include: • live quizzes/polling • simulations • industry required technology.	Will include **online and** a combination of the following: • on campus, • Intensives, • industry/workplace experiences (such as practicums and clinical practice).

ACU Study Mode - Online			
Principal mode of delivery	**Learning descriptor**	**Examples of technology use**	**Location**
Virtual	Learning in this unit does not require any physical campus attendance. The unit will be delivered virtually (online) by means of technology. Learning will have elements that are self-directed and self-paced. Unit will likely also require the use of online communication and collaboration tools to achieve interactions amongst students, and with the lecturer(s)/industry expert on a regular basis. Learning in this mode will be largely asynchronous ('anywhere, anytime learning'), but could also include synchronous events (e.g. live webinar).	The following will be accessible online to students: • unit outline • notices/announcements • assessment information, submission, marking and return of results/feedback. Learning resources and activities may include the following (but not limited to): • web links • simulations • quizzes • videos • interactives • readings • lecture notes/slides • audio. Collaboration may be facilitated through: • webinars • online discussion groups • blogs • wikis • other shared digital tools.	Technology will be used to support off campus delivery.