CDU Mobile now available

The Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) is pleased to announce the rollout of Phase 1 of CDU Mobile, which contains a suite of useful apps for students and staff including Mobile Learnline, campus maps, staff directory, images, links, library and places.

Mobile Learnline is designed for students to extend their learning experience and engagement with Learnline units while they are on the go. Students will be able to check their Learnline assessment grades and unit announcements as well as interact on discussion boards to work collaboratively with their peers and be in contact with their teachers.

For staff the app is best used for short sharp activities including posting announcements, interaction with discussion boards, blogs and journals and assigning and tracking tasks for students. Mobile Learnline is available on iOS, Android and HP Web OS devices.

The CDU Mobile app is now available from Apple and Android app stores. Just search for “CDU Mobile”.

Ongoing app development and app updates will be managed through the Office of Learning and Teaching.

More information and download links can be found at http://mobile.cdu.edu.au

Learning and Teaching Week 2012

Plans are shaping up for the Learning and Teaching Week to be held 3rd to 7th September. A range of events have been confirmed including: sessions led by Apple Australia on engaging students, exploring apps, interactive books, and multi-touch textbooks; a collaborative event with University of SA, Flinders University, Tabor Adelaide and BITE on the scholarship of learning and teaching; and information and consultative sessions on the Quality Management Systems for VET and HE.

We are also planning several sessions which will take us to various teaching areas to learn about different approaches to teaching practice and the way that Learnline is being used. This will provide the opportunity for staff to see parts of the University that they don’t often get to visit while expanding our understanding of the diversity of teaching across CDU!

Stay tuned for more information and the full program in the coming weeks.
ACIKE PROJECT UPDATE

The ACIKE Online Unit Development Project sits within the Office of Learning and Teaching. The project team has been tasked with the exciting work of developing a Learnline template for ACIKE units, collaborating with and supporting academic staff from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and CDU (together known as ACIKE staff) in the design and development of 81 online units, as well as providing Learnline training and professional development to ACIKE staff in the pedagogy of learning and teaching online.

The project, which kicked off in July 2011, is due for completion in December this year. The project is currently at the end of the second of three unit development phases, with units for Semester 2 delivery currently being fine-tuned.

Over the next six months the project team will be consulting with stakeholders to evaluate the ACIKE Learnline template and to review and improve the ACIKE units that were delivered for the first time in Semester 1 this year. Design and development will also be continuing for the online delivery in Learnline of the Bachelor of Indigenous Languages and Linguistics and the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Education.

Congratulations are due to the academic staff in ACIKE who have risen to the challenge of reconceptualising their teaching practices to include the online environment. The online option provides an opportunity for ACIKE students to engage with learning in new, exciting and flexible ways.

LEARNLINE UPDATE

Over the last few weeks OLT has been working with CDU VET teams to assist in the conversion of Moodle sites into Learnline. Previously, this has been a challenge that has met with mixed results. We are currently investigating a Moodle to Blackboard conversion utility and are very excited about our initial findings. To progress our investigations we would welcome contributions from any staff that have access to a Moodle site for further testing, particularly in VET.

Recent changes to browser compatibility for Learnline and associated technologies have enabled the use of more up to date web browsers. The Office of Learning and Teaching has published a table of compatible browsers and Learnline system requirements on the CDU website and the Learnline Resource Hub.

QMS UPDATES

HE

As of 30th January 2012, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) became Australia’s regulatory and quality agency for higher education. The primary aim of TEQSA is to ensure that students enrolled in any course, delivered by an Australian higher education provider, receives a high quality of education.

This is the backdrop to the review of the Course Accreditation and Re-accreditation Process (CARP), which forms one part of the broader HE Quality Management System. The aim of this work is to ensure we have in place a robust system that meets the requirements of TEQSA as well as improving our processes to be more expedient and user friendly. The unit and course lifecycles are also being investigated to ensure that processes, guidelines and policies are explicit and provide support and guidance for the user.

VET

The VET QMS working group have submitted the framework to the University Learning and Teaching Committee for their consideration. It is anticipated that feedback from this group will be actioned and the documents then submitted to Academic Board for the August 3rd meeting. In the meantime the VET Learning and Teaching Committee and the VET QMS working group are undertaking a range of tasks that will assist in the implementation stage.

TEACHING TIPS

Structured Learning – One of the 6 key principles for Online Teaching

The first of the key online learning and teaching principles which we are exploring in more detail is Structured Learning, where the learning materials are well structured to provide the sequence of learning resources and learning activities that will lead to the intended learning outcomes. It includes elements such as:

- **Constructive Alignment**
  All learning outcomes are aligned and directly relate to the teaching and learning activities and assessments, for example, all Unit documents then submitted to TEQSA as well as consistent with other Unit documents, e.g. CARP/TAS.

- **Unit Organisation**
  Unit layout and navigation is convenient, intuitive and designed for learning. For example; font, style, formatting and layout are used to aid the student’s learning.

- **Content Organisation and Presentation**
  A variety of appropriate content is presented logically. For example; it flows in a logical progression and includes up-to-date materials with regular instructions and guidance.

- **Structured Activities**
  Activities are sequenced and linked with clear objectives and expectations in order to provide a route to achieving the learning outcomes. For example; there are opportunities for advanced learning and remedial activities.

- **Course Fit**
  The unit is coordinated into the course with regards to progression, assessment, graduate attributes, and curriculum design.

You will note that Structured Learning includes many of the aspects from the Learnline Quality Checklist.