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## PREPARATION FOR TERTIARY SUCCESS

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Preparation for Tertiary Success

Introduction and course objectives

Welcome! We hope you will make Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS 1 or PTS 2) an important step on your personal learning journey.

The Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS) program is a course designed especially to prepare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for entry into Higher Education degree programs. The PTS program is part of a partnership between Batchelor Institute and Charles Darwin University through the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE).

PTS is not just about academic skills; it is about knowing yourself and building on your own strengths and cultural experiences to find the right path for you in learning and in life. It helps you develop your Western academic knowledge and skills through building on your own Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and skills.

As you manage your own inquiries and projects you build confidence and a strong identity. PTS offers you the chance to strengthen your learning by developing skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- understanding your learning strengths and goals
- making connections between your own experiences and the way things work in tertiary study, and in the professions
- study skills and information gathering
- creative approaches to problem solving
- reading and writing, speaking and listening
- questioning and critical thinking
- learning in teams and communities
- career development
- online learning, science and mathematics.
How long does the PTS course take?
For those who missed out on some years of schooling, the PTS 1 course takes two semesters (one year) of full-time study. More advanced students take the PTS 2 course and can be ready to enter degree courses after one semester of study. You can choose maths and science electives, or go with social and humanities electives. All students start out with a deep profile of their own learning patterns and goals and follow their own personal plans for learning. As you manage your own inquiries and projects you build confidence and a strong identity. You also strengthen your communication, research and team skills to give a strong start to your learning at university and beyond.

How is the PTS course delivered?
The PTS course is delivered in workshop mode. This means you will study each unit for 1.5 weeks of face to face teaching. The in-class teaching will be supplemented by online study in Learnline. After your workshop, you will be expected to continue private study in your own home.

- As a full time student, you will need to allow 30 to 40 hours of study time per week to successfully complete a full time study load.
- As a part time student, you will need to allow 10 to 20 hours of study time per week to successfully complete a part time study load.

Your lecturer will help you to plan your study.

Where is the PTS course delivered?
In 2012, the PTS course will be delivered in two locations depending on where you live:

- If you live in Darwin, Palmerston or nearby rural areas, you will study PTS at the CDU Casuarina campus. Students enrolled at the Casuarina campus will travel to the campus each day to attend class.
- If you live elsewhere in the Northern Territory or in other Australian states, you will study at the Batchelor Institute Alice Springs campus. Students who live locally in Alice Springs will attend class at the Alice Springs campus on a daily basis. Students who live interstate or at a distance will be travelled to the Alice Springs campus and stay in residential accommodation. If you are staying on campus on a residential basis, your travel, accommodation and meals are arranged and paid for by Batchelor Institute.
Entry requirements

You can apply to enrol in this course if you are at least 18 years old and are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

You will need Year 10 or Year 11 standard. If you are a mature person without Year 10 or 11, you can apply on the basis of your skills and experience. All applicants complete a pre-entry assessment.

Getting into PTS

The Entry assessment booklets help to determine whether PTS is the right course for you and at which level you will enter the course. You will begin at preliminary or advanced level, depending on your assessment. For entry at the advanced level, you will need demonstrated experience in writing essays and speaking to small groups. You also need previous experience in study, and good study skills.

Before you enrol, the lecturer coordinating admissions will contact you to discuss your study plans and answer your queries about PTS and study at Batchelor Institute.

Who to contact

Academic advisor Jim Meehan
Ph: 1800 677095
or
PTS course admissions coordinator, Catherine Maughan
Ph: 1800 677095
or
PTS senior lecturer, Michaela Wilkes
Ph: 08 8939 7270
**Course costs**

There are no higher education fees for this course.

**Abstudy and scholarships**

Students who enrol in this course may be eligible for Abstudy.

Four units in a semester is the full-time load, though three units is accepted as full-time by Abstudy.

If you are enrolled in one or two units in a semester you are classified as a part-time student and may be able to claim a single payment from Centrelink called an ‘incidentals allowance’. For more details see the BIITE Abstudy website [https://www.batchelor.edu.au/students/abstudy.html](https://www.batchelor.edu.au/students/abstudy.html) or go to CDU website for more information:


Full-time enabling (PTS) students may be eligible for a Commonwealth Scholarship through Centrelink.

To apply for Abstudy and/or a Commonwealth Scholarship, you complete an application form and submit it to Centrelink or the CDU Scholarships office. For more details see the CDU scholarships website [http://www.cdu.edu.au/scholarships/](http://www.cdu.edu.au/scholarships/) or contact:

**CDU Scholarships Officer**
Sophie Proudler
**T:** 08 8946 6442
**E:** scholarships@cdu.edu.au
**F:** 08 8946 6642
Course structure

PTS 1 students start at Preliminary Level and complete 8 units (80 credit points).

PTS 2 students start at Advanced Level and complete 4 units (40 credit points).

PTS 1 (minimum of 80 credit points)

Students studying PTS 1 start with the Preliminary Level units prior to progressing to the Advanced Level:

1. the core compulsory unit: PTS001 ‘Learning Identity’*
2. two compulsory units at Preliminary Level, and
3. one elective unit at Preliminary Level.

* All students must complete the core unit, PTS001 ‘Learning Identity’.

### PTS 1 UNITS OF STUDY

**Preliminary Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unit type</th>
<th>Semester of study</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTS001</td>
<td>Learning Identity</td>
<td>Core unit Compulsory</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS002</td>
<td>Strength and Success</td>
<td>Preliminary unit Compulsory</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS005</td>
<td>Reading and Reflection</td>
<td>Preliminary unit Compulsory</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 1</td>
<td>Choose one elective from the electives table on page 9.</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PTS 1 UNITS OF STUDY

**Advanced Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unit type</th>
<th>Semester of study</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTS004</td>
<td>Discipline Inquiry</td>
<td>Advanced Level Compulsory</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS003</td>
<td>Learning in Communities</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS007</td>
<td>Or Introduction to Mathematics</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009</td>
<td>Or Introduction to Science</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives 1&amp;2</td>
<td>Choose two electives from the electives table on page 9.</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit points for PTS 1 **80**
PTS 2 (minimum of 40 credit points)

Students in PTS 2 complete the following four Advanced Level units:
1. the “core” unit (common to both levels): PTS001 ‘Learning Identity’*
2. the compulsory Advanced Level unit, PTS004 ‘Discipline Inquiry’
3. one of three Advanced Level electives: PTS003 or PTS007 or PTS009, and
4. one other elective unit.

* All students must complete the core unit, PTS001 ‘Learning Identity’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTS 2 UNITS OF STUDY</th>
<th>Advanced level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS001</td>
<td>Learning Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS004</td>
<td>Discipline Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS003</td>
<td>Learning in Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS007</td>
<td>Introduction to Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009</td>
<td>Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 1</td>
<td>Choose one elective from the electives table below.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit points for PTS 2: 40

Elective units table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTIVE UNITS</th>
<th>Students may choose elective units from the list below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS003</td>
<td>Learning in Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS006</td>
<td>Ways of Knowing (Advanced Level only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS007</td>
<td>Introduction to Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS011</td>
<td>Advanced Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009</td>
<td>Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS010</td>
<td>Action Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choosing elective units

You can choose elective units according to your planned future course of study. At Batchelor, many degree courses prefer intending students to take particular PTS elective units especially relevant to their course. You should make contact with the course coordinator of your intended degree course to confirm entry requirements. You should check with the PTS Course co-ordinator or Senior Lecturer about the electives you choose for PTS. Below are some examples of Higher Education fields of study at Batchelor Institute, and the PTS electives suggested for entry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied Science (Nursing, Primary Health Care)</th>
<th>Early Childhood, Primary Education</th>
<th>Arts and Social Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Mathematics</td>
<td>PTS007 Introduction to Mathematics</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS010 Action Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>PTS010 Action Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unit descriptions

PTS001 Learning Identity
This core unit assists you to understand your own learning behaviours as an Indigenous learner and the life-long learning qualities required for successful tertiary learning. You will identify your own successful learning behaviours and use an on-line inventory to assess yourself, your current learning strategies and goals. This unit also introduces time and personal management skills.

*Academic skills: individual and group work, applying information to real world situation, accessing online inventories, reflective paragraph writing, summarising, giving opinions, use of metaphors, visual information, performance, project planning and evaluation.*

PTS002 Strength and Success
In this unit you will identify Indigenous role models of strength and success past and present. You will explore strength and success from different points of view, then identify and talk with Indigenous students/professionals who have been successful in learning within a tertiary environment. You will develop a guide to learning, using various technologies and ways of writing and speaking and different text types to represent the struggles and successes experienced during study at university. It will also summarise the organisations and support networks available for people when times ‘get tough’.

*Academic skills: working in groups, information literacy search skills, reading for specific information, note taking from guest speakers/ audio-visual resources/online resources, summarising, and introductory report writing skills.*

PTS003 Learning in Communities
As part of a group you will explore the values, language and behaviours of successful learning. From your own experience and culture, you will define ‘community learning’ and how it is enacted through your own life, focusing on intergenerational learning in Indigenous contexts. You will look at the research and develop your own knowledge and practice through an inquiry project in a particular field.

*Academic skills: individual and group work, information literacy, applying theory and research to own situation, summarising, giving opinion, applying knowledge to other settings, metaphors, visual information, reflective writing, paragraph writing, planning and assessing.*
PTS004  Discipline Inquiry

You will conduct an inquiry into knowledge within different disciplines and the contributions and perspectives of Indigenous and Western knowledge to discipline areas. You will identify the capabilities required for working in specific fields and look at what this means for your own future study and learning behaviours. The class will invite guest speakers from various disciplines and explore possible career paths through writing, speaking, images and IT.

Academic skills: listening and note-taking, discussion of differing perspectives, working individually and in groups, reading for specific information, note-taking from guest speakers and audio-visual resources, summarising, information literacy search skills, essay and report writing skills, using evidence, referencing, proof reading, presenting information in textual, audio, visual and symbolic formats.

PTS005  Reading and Reflection

In this unit you will strengthen the reading skills and habits that support successful learners at degree level. You will look to other Indigenous readers and writers as role models through a program of reading and discussion. You will identify your own reading patterns and reading goals and will practise successful strategies for reading challenging texts. You will choose Indigenous and mainstream writings to develop a personal reading list which you will read, discuss and present across your units and across the semester.

Academic skills: working independently, reading a range of genres, reading skills (recognising text structures and discourse types, skimming, scanning, inferring, extending), discussion, reflective practices, note-taking from guest speakers and audio-visual resources, note-taking and summarising, information literacy search skills, introductory skills in writing persuasive texts, oral presentation using PowerPoint, use of online media.

PTS006  Ways of Knowing

This unit will allow you to consider how knowledge is socially constructed across a variety of cultures: your own Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture, a western culture and another culture of your choice. You will consider fundamental questions such as: What is knowledge? How do I/we know? Where do I/we know? What do I/we know? How do I/we act out our knowledge? You will link your findings about knowledge with your own community, your values, ethics and modern life, including the impact of technologies. You will continue to build awareness and understanding of yourself as a learner and constructor of knowledge, situated in a particular culture, time and place.

Academic skills: individual and group work, performance skills, oral presentation skills, information literacy, applying information to own situation, applying information to other settings, summarising, giving, opinions, use of metaphors and symbols, visual information, collecting artefacts for portfolio, researching and collecting evidence to write a report, report writing skills.
PTS007  Introduction to Mathematics

In this unit you will inquire into a range of mathematical systems from Australian Indigenous cultures, Western academic and other cultures and demonstrate and discuss their relevance and application. You will experience how mathematical processes such as measurement, financial calculation and graphics can be applied to real world problems. You will also learn how to visualise numerical data through reading and using graphical instruments. The unit will help you to recognise, understand and use a range of mathematical language and ideas.

Academic skills: group work, problem solving, interpreting non textual information, mathematical language, use of Excel and graphs, coherent organisation of mathematical problems and independent learning management.

PTS009  Introduction to Science

This unit brings together Indigenous world views with western scientific thinking. You will make cultural and historical comparisons between modern / ancient, western and Indigenous interpretations of the physical environment. You will engage in science-focused inquiries to develop critical thinking and evidence-based investigation and research skills. You will develop practical laboratory and science based research skills to prepare you for science subjects in your degree.

Academic skills: group work, comparing and contrasting views, information literacy, interpreting non-textual information, use of Excel + graphing function, summarising information, independent learning management.

PTS010  Action Project

‘Action Project’ is an inquiry-based unit which encourages you to use all the inquiry skills, knowledge and initiative developed during the PTS course. You choose a professional area and then identify a project and take action in the real world. You will identify a workplace within a community and work collaboratively with the leaders within the workplace to take action in an area of identified need.

Academic skills: individual and group work, information literacy, applying information to own situation, summarising, giving opinions, applying information to other settings, use of metaphors, visual information, reflective writing, paragraph writing, project planning and assessing.
PTS011  Advanced Mathematics

In this unit you will inquire into advanced mathematical problem solving using measurement, algebra and coordinate geometry applied to real world problems. You will learn how to visualise mathematical data through reading and creating graphs and will apply mathematical frameworks to solve problems in real life contexts. You will use a problem solving approach that requires critical reading and interpretation of situations, problems and data. This mathematical understanding will be applied to your own learning goals.

Academic skills: group work, use of Excel and graphs, problem solving, interpreting non textual information, use of scientific language and text structures, coherent organisation of mathematical problems and independent learning management.

Note: as you complete the PTS program, you will use the on-line inventory again to reassess yourself and map your progress as a lifelong learner.