

Common Course Rules - Graduate Diploma

INTRODUCTION

In Higher Education (HE), all courses offered by the University must comply with national regulatory requirements, for example, the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), and many courses are also accredited through professional organisations. The University as a self-accrediting institution has a Council that determines course rules, which provide course structures and rules for HE awards. These course rules apply to HE AQF Levels 5 to 10.

For each category of award, there is a common set of rules applicable to all programs leading to an award in that category. In addition, each course may have associated with it specific rules that apply only to that course in addition to the common rules; specific rules are described in the course curriculum documentation.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

The authority behind this policy is the [Charles Darwin University Act 2003](#) section 47 under the authority of the Council.

COMPLIANCE

This is a compliance requirement under the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#).

RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

In the context of this document

Award is a recognised certification of achievement or competence which may be granted to a student after successful completion of all the requirements of a course;

Combined course is an approved program of study leading to two qualifications for which all requirements have been met. Such a program of study may require a longer period of study than for the individual courses of which it is comprised, but the total study period may be less than that required to meet the requirements of the qualifications individually;

Core unit means a unit that is compulsory for the course;

Course means a formally approved/accredited program of learning that leads to the award of a qualification;

Credit point means a value allocated to individual higher education units to indicate their contribution to the overall course requirements and to the enrolment load of a student e.g. a 10 credit point unit represents a quarter of a standard load for a semester;

Elective means a unit selected by the student from any of the University's higher education units. Where appropriate an elective may include certain specified VET units or combinations of modules;

Exceptional circumstances means extended and serious illness of the student or an immediate family member; extreme financial hardship; long-term cultural obligations; or other circumstances such that failure to recognise them would result in an unfair or unreasonable outcome;

Faculty means the Faculty in which the student is enrolled;

Integrated qualification means a purposely designed qualification that enables explicit articulation pathways and encompasses more than one AQF level and/or qualification type and/or education and training sector;

Joint course means an approved program of study leading to a qualification delivered by two or more institutions under a formally approved arrangement and resulting in a single testamur awarded by the partner institutions. A joint course should not be confused with a combined qualification (such as Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws);

Nested qualifications refer to integrated qualification;

Program of learning means a course, curriculum, training package, unit of study or structured workplace learning that leads to the award of a qualification;

PVC means the Pro-Vice Chancellor (or delegate of the Pro-Vice Chancellor) of the Faculty in which the student is enrolled;

Qualification is the result of a completed accredited program of learning that leads to formal certification that a graduate has achieved learning outcomes as described in the AQF;

Sequence is an approved progression of units which develop a coherent academic theme within a course. A sequence normally comprises a minimum of one quarter of the credit points within the qualification;

Special Circumstance means a situation which is an exception to the general rule, is beyond the student's control, is not reasonably foreseeable and which prevents the student from engaging in a University activity such as: accepting an international offer of a place, withdrawing from a unit prior to census/cut-off date, completing the requirements for an unit of study or attending a scheduled examination. Examples may include sudden illness or disability; loss of employment; an inability to obtain a student visa; death of the student or a close family member (parent, sibling, spouse or child); natural catastrophe; or a political or civil uprising;

Specialist elective is a unit selected by the student from a group of units identified as highly relevant to the course;

Standard load is a real or notional program of studies, which a full time student would be required to undertake in a full year of a particular course. The University has adopted 80 credit points as its standard load; and

Unit is the smallest credit-bearing component of a qualification that has been accredited. A unit may also be called a 'module', 'subject', 'unit of competency' or 'accredited unit'.

RULES

Courses Leading to the Qualification of Graduate Diploma

The following rules apply to courses leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma.

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These Rules may be cited as the "Graduate Diploma Rules".

Admission

An applicant for admission to a course leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma will have:

- Successfully completed an AQF level 7 qualification or higher; or
- Hold qualifications approved as equivalent to an AQF level 7 qualification or higher; or
- Achieved a level of attainment in an appropriate discipline/s considered by the Faculty in which the applicant seeks to be registered to be acceptable for the purpose of proceeding to a course leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma.

In addition, the applicant will have completed such additional requirements as are specified in the entry requirements pertaining to the course to which the student seeks admission.

In exceptional cases, an applicant may be admitted as a student for a course leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma if the applicant submits other evidence of academic or professional attainment and the enrolment is approved by the PVC.

Notwithstanding the preceding clauses, the PVC may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission for a course leading to the qualification of a Graduate Diploma by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as determined by the PVC.

A student may not hold concurrent places in more than one University course leading to a qualification at any one AQF level.

Course Requirements

Courses leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma must meet the requirements for AQF Level 8 Graduate Diploma.

Unless otherwise specified in the course curriculum documentation, a course leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma will include:

- Core units;
- Specialist elective units; and/or
- Elective units;

to a total of 80 credit points. Some courses may not include all unit classifications i.e. specialist elective and/or elective.

All units in a course leading to a qualification of Graduate Diploma must be designated at the 400 level or above.

Courses leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma may include sequences as designated in the course curriculum documentation.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites

All prerequisites and co-requisites for core units will be core units; and all prerequisites and co-requisites for specialist elective units may be either core units or specialist elective units.

A student may not enrol in any unit until all prerequisite units (or their equivalents as approved by the PVC) have been completed satisfactorily. The PVC may waive prerequisite requirements in special circumstances.

Periods of Enrolment

Unless otherwise specified in the curriculum documentation for a course leading to the award of a Graduate Diploma, the maximum period of enrolment will be twice the period required for a student undertaking a standard load to complete the course, plus one (1) year.

In exceptional circumstances the PVC may extend the period of enrolment.

Alternative Exit Awards

In some cases, a student enrolled in a course leading to a qualification of Graduate Diploma may elect not to complete the course leading to a qualification of Graduate Diploma but instead seek to exit with an alternative award. Such cases are governed by the Integrated Qualifications Policy.

Award of the Qualification

To receive a University award, a student must complete a minimum of one third of the award or a minimum of one-year full-time equivalent, whichever is the lesser, through enrolment in the University course leading to the awarding of that qualification unless the course leads to an approved integrated qualification.

Where a student successfully completes the requirements of a course leading to the qualification of Graduate Diploma, Council will award that qualification.

Termination of the Course

When a course is approved for termination or is superseded:

- Transition/completion arrangements for existing students must be clearly documented and disseminated to all existing students;
- As far as possible, students will not be disadvantaged by the transition/completion;
- The course will be offered for re-enrolment only until all existing students have completed/transitioned, or for a period not to exceed twice the period required for a student undertaking a standard load to complete the course, whichever is less;
- At the conclusion of the period for which the course is offered for re-enrolment only, the course will be closed.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Internal

[Course Accreditation and Reaccreditation Procedures \(CARP\)](#)

[Grading Policy](#)

[Higher Education Course Delivery Relationships with Other Entities Policy](#)

[Higher Education Students - Academic Progression Procedures](#)

External

[Australian Qualifications Framework](#)

Document History and Version Control

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Version	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description
1.00	26 Jun 2002	Council	Creation of original document and upload to CDU website.
1.01	22 Mar 2006	Secretary to Council	Editorial Changes: TAFE to VET NTU to CDU Remove invalid NETEA link.
2.00	7 Dec 2012	Council	Major review of document to remove procedural details and ensure compliance with AQF
2.01	6 Mar 2013	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assigned document numberUpdated and added hyperlinksMinor changes to formatting, wording and grammar
2.02	15 Dec 2017	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conversion to new Governance template due to new University brandingUpdated definitionsUpdated hyperlinksContact Officer Changed to Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student SuccessSponsor added, Vice-ChancellorEssential Supporting information updated, Academic Qualifications and Unit Level Policy (under development), Advanced Standing Policy (under development)Higher Education Students Progression Procedures changed to Higher Education Students - Academic Progression Procedures