



Responsible Officer	Deputy-Vice-Chancellor Education and Vice President		
Contact Officer	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)		
Superseded Documents	Undergraduate Program Structure Policy v1 approved 4 January 2012		
Review	4 January 2015		
File Number	2016/08772		
Associated Documents	<i>AB10 /109 Discussion Paper: Simplification of the UNSW Undergraduate Model - Academic Board, 2 November 2010, Item 5.7</i> <i>AB 11/ 19 Simplification of UNSW Undergraduate Model – Additional Guidelines - Academic Board, 3 May 2011, Item 6.2.2</i> <i>General Education objectives approved by UNSW Council in December 1994, amended 2004, and</i> <i>AB 11/69 General Education Requirements in Concurrent Degree Programs - Academic Board, 2 August 2011, Item 11.1</i> <i>Online Handbook</i> <i>Structure of Undergraduate Programs – Procedures</i>		
Version	Authorisation	Approval Date	Effective Date
1.1	Administrative update by Head of Governance	18 February 2016	29 February 2016

NOTE: THIS POLICY HAS AN ACCOMPANYING PROCEDURES DOCUMENT

1. Preamble

1.1 Purpose

This Policy sets out the academic principles and overarching rules applicable to the structure of undergraduate programs. The aim is to ensure that the University's undergraduate programs consistently conform to a coherent and clearly defined structural model, to the benefit of students, staff and the University.

1.2 Background

This Policy builds upon and formalises a range of incremental steps progressively undertaken since 2005 by the Academic Board, Faculty and Divisional staff and *ad hoc* committees to eliminate unnecessary complexity and inconsistency across undergraduate program structures.

2. Scope

This Policy applies across the University to all undergraduate programs of study that lead to the award of one or more degrees or diplomas. The Policy does not apply to any other UNSW program.

3. Definitions

A glossary of UNSW academic terminology is provided in Appendix C of *The Structure of Undergraduate Programs - Procedures*.

4. The Undergraduate Model – Degree Programs

4.1 Depth and breadth components

Undergraduate degree programs are made up of two fundamental components:

- Discipline-specific learning or depth requirements and
- Breadth and maturity learning outcomes.

Both of these components, together with co-curricular activities, contribute to the attainment of UNSW Graduate Attributes.

Each undergraduate degree program is required to clearly and separately identify the requirements of the discipline-specific learning or depth requirements and of the breadth and maturity learning outcomes. The rules necessary to ensure that each of these two components is met should be simple and transparent without the need for complex exceptions and exclusions.

Reflecting the need for both depth and breadth in undergraduate programs, the minimum units of credit for the award of a Bachelor's degree is 144 UOC.

The discipline-specific courses are the dominant part of every undergraduate degree program. The remaining part of the single degree, the breadth and maturity component, consists of elective courses including 12 UOC of General Education [GE].

4.2 Discipline-specific learning or depth requirements

The discipline-specific learning requirements of a degree program, including units of credit and structure, should be identical regardless of whether it is taken in a single or dual award program.

This requirement is intended to safeguard the academic integrity of the University's academic programs and to promote consistency of offering, as well as administrative efficiency.

Faculties have flexibility in determining the size (UOC requirements) and composition of each of their programs' discipline-specific learning requirements.

4.3 Majors and minors

Majors and minors are disciplinary specialisations. A major comprises a set of courses that together form a coherent specialisation within a discipline or sub-discipline. A minor is disciplinary specialisation smaller in scope and UOC requirements than a major. To ensure academic standards are maintained, a major must be identical regardless of the program in which it is offered. This also applies to minors.

4.4 Breadth and maturity learning requirements

Breadth and maturity learning outcomes are an essential part of undergraduate degree programs. In the case of single degrees, students attain these outcomes through General Education (GE), the free elective component and other aspects of a student's overall University experience of their program. Breadth and maturity requirements complement the discipline specific learning requirements of the program.

4.5 Dual Award Programs

It is possible for students to combine enrolment in two or more programs, providing that entry requirements are met and the approval of each relevant Faculty is obtained. Dual award programs include, but are not limited to, enrolment in more than one Bachelor's program, a Bachelor degree and an undergraduate Diploma, and cross-career enrolments

in both a Bachelor degree and a postgraduate coursework program. Dual award programs are usually undertaken concurrently but also may be undertaken sequentially,

In some cases students enrolled in cross-Faculty dual award programs achieve maturity and breadth outcomes specified for each of the component Bachelor degree programs through the completion of both degree programs and there is no requirement for them to complete the distinct and separate breadth and maturity requirements required for students completing a single degree program.

4.6 Concurrent Undergraduate Diplomas and/or Advanced Diplomas

Concurrent Diplomas provide opportunities for students to expand and diversify their studies. The Diplomas or Advanced Diplomas may be undertaken concurrently or sequentially with the student's other undergraduate degree program/s.

4.7 Disciplinary Overlap in Dual Award programs

Individual courses may contribute to meeting the requirements of multiple majors or programs, potentially resulting in a reduced duration of study in programs undertaken concurrently where disciplinary overlap exists.

5. Legal & Policy Framework

This policy must be read in conjunction with Procedures – Undergraduate Programs Structure and the following Academic Board discussion papers and decisions:

AB10 /109 Discussion Paper: Simplification of the UNSW Undergraduate Model - Academic Board, 2 November 2010, Item 5.7

AB 11/ 19 Simplification of UNSW Undergraduate Model – Additional Guidelines - Academic Board, 3 May 2011, Item 6.2.2

AB 11/69 General Education Requirements in Concurrent Degree Programs - Academic Board, 2 August 2011, Item 11.1

6. Implementation

6.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) is responsible for maintaining the Procedures associated with this Policy.

6.2 Support & Advice

Support and advice is available from:

- Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- Director, Student Services and Systems
- President, Academic Board.

7. Review

The Policy is due for review three years from its date of effect.

Appendix A: History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	Vice-Chancellor	4 January 2012	4 January 2012	New policy
1.1	Administrative update by Head of Governance	18 February 2016	29 February 2016	Administrative Update reflecting changes in senior team roles.

Archived Document