

HEPP29 Student Progress and Exclusion Policy and Procedure

PURPOSE

This policy defines the rules for meeting course progression toward completion and the grounds for exclusion for lack of progress.

SCEI-HE requires that the academic progress of each student is monitored so that students who are determined to be at academic risk can be provided with advice and support to ensure successful course completion and graduation.

SCOPE

This policy and procedure apply to all students and staff of Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education).

DEFINITIONS

DHA	Department of Home Affairs
SCEI-HE	Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education)

POLICY

- SCEI-HE will identify students at risk of failing subjects and monitor the course progression of each student.
- SCEI-HE will and take appropriate steps to maximise the opportunity for each student to graduate.
- Students must meet the requirements of a course within a prescribed number of years from the date of first enrolment. The rationale for placing a timeframe on course completion is to ensure that the qualification awarded reflects currency of knowledge and skills.
- The number of years allowed to complete the requirements of a course is listed in the table below. The time elapsed will be calculated from the date that the student commenced their first unit of study with SCEI-HE.

Course	Years
Bachelor Degree	10
Graduate Diploma	3
Masters	6

- Any student whose enrolment is terminated due to unsatisfactory academic progress or for exceeding the maximum period of candidature and who wishes to undertake further study at SCEI-HE will need to apply to SCEI-HE for admission.

PROCEDURE

1. Students at risk of failing subjects

- Students identified by Course Coordinators as being at risk of failing subjects will be offered additional support by the Academic Skills Support Officer and/or the Student Welfare Officer.

1.1.1 Identifying students at risk may include those who have:

- not logged on to Moodle
- not attended lectures / tutorials
- not completed subject / tutorial activities

- poor writing or other skills
- failed formative assessments
- failed or not submitted assessments
- been identified as needing support following scheduled academic skills workshops

1.2. The relevant support staff and the student will determine what additional support is required. This may include, but is not limited to, the student:

- attending additional workshops or study groups
- receiving individual case management
- agreeing to attend scheduled classes
- accessing counselling services
- receiving Student Welfare assistance with personal issues which are influencing progress
- receiving peer mentoring
- a combination of the above and a reduction in course load.

1.3. A record of the support to be provided will be signed by the Student Welfare Officer in consultation with the relevant Course Coordinator and the student and placed on the student's academic file.

2. Applications for an extension of time

2.3. Students who fail to complete their course within the prescribed period and who can reasonably be expected to meet the course requirements within two additional semesters may apply for an extension of time. Each application will be considered on its merits and with reference to the student's academic performance to date.

2.4. Extension can be granted only on the basis of:

- 2.4.1. Compassionate or compelling circumstances (for example illness where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes or where SCEI-HE was unable to offer a prerequisite unit, or
- 2.4.2. An intervention strategy has been implemented for the student who is at risk of not meeting satisfactory course progress, or
- 2.4.3. Deferment or suspension of study has been granted due to compassionate or compelling circumstances or student misbehaviour.

2.5. Applications for an extension of time to complete the course must be made in writing to the Academic Director as soon as the student becomes aware that they are unable to complete the course within the required timeframe. This should be at least one semester prior to the expiry of the student's prescribed period of maximum candidature. The application for extension must include reasons for the student's inability to complete the course in the prescribed time period.

2.6. The Academic Director will provide a written response to the student within 20 working days outlining their decision and informing the student of their right to appeal the decision.

3. Students who fail to complete within the timeframe

3.3. Students who fail to complete course requirements within the specified timeframe (including any extension of time granted) will have their enrolment terminated and provided with a statement noting that the maximum period of candidature has been exceeded.

3.4. The student will be advised in writing of the decision to terminate their enrolment and will also be advised that they have 20 working days from the date of receiving notification of the decision to terminate their enrolment to appeal the decision.

3.5. A student who has failed to complete the course requirements will be provided with a Record of Results.

4. Requirement to attain minimum academic standards

4.3. Students are required to attain minimum academic standards. Students do not meet minimum academic standards in a course if they:

- fail a particular unit of study more than once; or
- fail 50% or more of the units of study attempted in a semester.

4.4. Students who do not meet the minimum academic standards will be deemed to be “at risk” and provided with additional support by the Academic Skills Support Officer and the Student Welfare Officer.

4.5. The relevant support staff and the student will determine what additional support will be provided to the student. This may include, but is not limited to, the student:

- attending additional workshops or study groups
- receiving individual case management
- agreeing to attend scheduled classes
- accessing counselling services
- receiving Student Welfare assistance with personal issues which are influencing progress
- receiving peer mentoring
- a combination of the above and a reduction in course load.

4.6. A record of the support to be provided will be signed by the Student Welfare Officer in consultation with the relevant Course Coordinator and the student and placed on the student’s academic file.

5. Students who continue to fail to meet minimum academic standards

5.3. If a student continues to fail to meet minimum academic standards after additional support has been provided, the Course Coordinator will request that the student provide a written statement within 20 working days outlining reasons why they should be permitted to continue their enrolment in the course.

5.4. The Course Coordinator, in consultation with the Academic Director, will consider the written statement and may:

- terminate the student’s enrolment, or
- permit the student to continue the course without conditions, or
- permit the student to continue the course with specific conditions.

5.5. The Course Coordinator will provide a written statement to the student within 20 working days outlining the decision and informing the student of the right to appeal the decision.

5.6. A student who does not submit a written statement by the due date will have their enrolment terminated.

5.7. A student who is permitted to continue their enrolment in the course, but with conditions imposed, who again fails to attain the minimum academic standards or breaches the conditions imposed, will have their enrolment terminated.

6. Failing a prerequisite unit of study

- 6.3. Course progression rules require that a student who has, in a previous semester, failed (and not subsequently passed) the prerequisite for entry to a subject of study cannot be enrolled in that subject of study. However, where a student believes that this rule may adversely affect their course progress, they may seek a review of this rule by applying in writing to the Course Coordinator.
- 6.4. The Course Coordinator will assess the student's academic record to determine if the student has a reasonable chance of success.
- 6.5. Under these circumstances, the Course Coordinator may allow the student to repeat the prerequisite subject of study concurrently with the subject of study for which it is a prerequisite.

7. International Students

- 7.3. International students are expected to complete their course in the requisite number of semesters for a student undertaking a full-time load (the approved course duration).
- 7.4. The Course Coordinator will monitor the progress of international students at the end of each semester to determine if satisfactory progress is being achieved.
- 7.5. Where appropriate, an intervention strategy will be put in place to assist the student to complete the course in the registered course duration. A course may be extended where an intervention strategy has been implemented.
- 7.6. Where the Course Coordinator has assessed an international student as not achieving satisfactory course progress, the student will be provided a warning letter and required to meet with the Student Welfare Officer to discuss the reasons for unsatisfactory progress and to document strategies to meet expected academic standards.
- 7.7. The international student may receive up to three warning letters before being notified in writing of the intention to report to the Department of Home Affairs through PRISMS. The written notice will advise the student that they are able to appeal the decision under the provisions of this policy and that the student has 20 working days in which to do so.
- 7.8. If the student chooses not to appeal or the student's appeal is unsuccessful, SCEI-HE will notify the Department of Home Affairs through PRISMS as soon as possible.
- 7.9. An international student will not be reported until all grievance and appeals processes have been exhausted.

8. Appeals

- 8.3. A student may appeal against a decision made under this policy.
- 8.4. Appeals must be made as prescribed in HEPP05 Appeals policy and procedure.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

HEPP03 Student Complaint and Grievance Policy and Procedure
HEPP05 Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000

The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018, Standard 8
(Specifically 8.8.1)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Course Coordinator and Academic Director

- Consider applications for extension of time to complete the course
- Monitor students' progress and arrange for the provision of Student Welfare support to students deemed 'at risk';
- Consider applications from students who continue to be deemed 'at risk'
- Consider applications to continue a subject of study having failed the pre-requisite subject;
- For international students, notify students of the intent to report to the Department of Home Affairs through PRISMS, for unsatisfactory progress and if the student fails to appeal or the appeal is unsuccessful.

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