

*The University of Newcastle**Faculty of Health**Credit Guidelines***INTRODUCTION**

Students who have completed studies, either at this University or at another institution or Registered Training Organisation (RTO), may be eligible to have these studies counted towards their current, or intended program of study. These Guidelines detail the application of credit to undergraduate awards within the Faculty of Health. It relates to the University's Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards -000311, Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards -000306, and Credit and Articulation Policy - 000861 and the Credit Articulation Procedure (000862).

DEFINITIONS

Credit may be granted as "Specified" or "Unspecified".

"*Specified credit*" means credit for specifically nominated courses within a program and will be granted only for courses that have been successfully completed, not for courses awarded a terminating or equivalent pass;

"*Unspecified credit*" means credit for a defined number of units towards a program not related to a particular course. Unspecified credit may be granted in a particular discipline or at specified levels of courses.

1. Currency / Time Limits

The currency of credit granted for courses in undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the Faculty of Health has been determined as follows

Undergraduate / Postgraduate

Core or Directed Courses be limited to 5 yrs
Electives be limited by the standard 2N + 2 model

Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health
and Safety

8 years 000015

NB:

- (a) The 80 units of unspecified credit granted as part of the admissions process may be granted on the basis of qualifications older than 8 years.
 - (b) Based on precedence, the currency of credit for completion of the Safety Officers Training Course (as part of an approved credit articulation arrangement for the program, is extended to 15 years.
- In keeping with the Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards -000311 – Clause 15 (ii) and Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards -000306 – Clause 23,(ii) (the above periods refer to elapsed calendar years from admission, and are inclusive of full-time or part-time enrolment, periods of leave of absence, exclusion or suspension from either the program or the University.
 - On application from a student, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the relevant Faculty (or nominee) may grant an extension of time to complete the program, provided that the period of extension is specified in each case, and the student has an expectation of completing the requirement for the award within a

reasonable period. Faculties shall report all extension application outcomes by program to Academic Senate annually.

- For students who commenced enrolment in the program prior to 1 January 2011 – credit limit is 10 years for any course.

2. Exclusion

A student will not be permitted to gain credit for any course that is substantially equivalent to one that the student has previously counted towards the same award.

3. Credit across Faculty of Health programs

3.1 80 unit undergraduate program (No credit will be awarded in these Honours programs)

Bachelor of Health Science (Honours)
Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours)

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)

3.2 240 unit undergraduate programs. (Credit granted will not exceed 160 units.)

Bachelor of Biomedical Science
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiography)
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Radiation Therapy)
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Nuclear Medicine)
Bachelor of Midwifery
Bachelor of Nursing
Bachelor of Oral Health
Bachelor of Podiatry
Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety

3.3 320 unit undergraduate program. (Credit granted will not exceed 210 units.)

Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Bachelor of Physiotherapy

3.4 400 unit undergraduate program. (Credit granted will not exceed 260 units.)

Bachelor of Medicine

There will be no credit awarded outside approved credit articulation arrangements as follows:

- International Medical University Students: students to receive 160 units of unspecified credit (80 units at 1000 level and 80 at 2000 level).
- Maxillofacial Entrants: Entrants are given 160 units of unspecified credit (80 units at 1000 level and 80 at 2000 level).
- Compassionate Transfers: Approval by the Dean - JMP following consultation with the Dean of Medicine at the school the student is currently attending. The credit awarded is unspecified and the amount is determined by the Dean-JMP in consultation with the Program Convenor.

3.5 80 unit Masters program

Masters of Workplace Injury Management and Occupational Rehabilitation -Credit granted will not exceed 20 units

4. Authority to Approve the Awarding of Individual Credit

As authorised by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the decision to award credit to an individual applicant will be approved as follows:

- 4.1 Credit may be awarded at the discretion of the Pro-Vice Chancellor for studies undertaken at the University of Newcastle already counted towards a completed award and for credit for Core courses which must meet graduate attributes, content will be assessed as being greater than 80% of content. **The decision by the PVC will take into account the recommendation of the Course Co-ordinator and or the Program Convenor.**
- 4.2 All students who are awarded credit must complete more than 50% of their final year courses at the University. (Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards -000311 Clause 7.d.iv)
- 4.3 Where credit is across Disciplines / **Programs**, the Program Convenor will be responsible for the assessment of the credit.
- 4.4 Credit **for undergraduate programs** will not be granted for any level of qualification below Diploma level, except where approved by Faculty Board.
- 4.5 Credit will not be granted for courses studied outside the program completion limitation without specific approvals

4.6 **Specified Credit**

The awarding of specified credit will be approved by the Program Convenor in consultation (where appropriate), with the relevant Course Coordinator.

Where specified credit has been approved, such approval may be used as a precedent for the awarding of that credit in matching circumstances for a period of three years.

Credit precedents will be stored in the Credit Application Tracking System for the term of their currency and may be applied by the relevant Program Officer.

4.7 **Unspecified Credit**

The awarding of unspecified credit will be approved by the Program Convenor in consultation (where appropriate), with the relevant Course Coordinator.

Unspecified credit of 10 units will normally be granted only on the basis of a completed Diploma or higher level studies.

4.8 **Articulation and Block Credit Agreements**

The awarding of specified and unspecified credit as part of articulation and block credit arrangements, will be approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Program Convenor. Following endorsement by the Faculty Board, Articulation and Block Credit Agreements will be forwarded to the Program and Course Approval Committee for noting.

4.9 **Awarding of credit and graduate attributes**

Where credit is being sought for a core course which is identified as delivering a particular graduate attribute(s), consideration must also be given to whether the course (on the basis of which credit is being sought) adequately addresses that graduate attribute.

The basis for this is that 80% or higher of the course that credit is being sought for, must meet the University of Newcastle graduate attributes for that course.

5. Authority of Program Officers

Program Officers under the authority of the Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Health can:

- (i) Approve credit for specified courses that have a precedence in the Credit Application Tracking System (CATS) of not more than three years;
- (ii) Approve credit for elective courses on the basis of study taken at the University of Newcastle;
- (iii) Approve 10 units of credit for elective courses on the basis of a completed program of study taken externally at Diploma level or above;
- (iv) Approve credit for identical courses taken at the University of Newcastle; and
- (v) Reject credit applications that plainly fall outside the eligibility criteria.

6. Cross Institutional Study

Credit may be awarded for cross-institutional enrolment subject to the requirements set out in the Credit Articulation Policy (000861) and the Credit Articulation Procedure (000862).

- (i) Credit will not normally be awarded for core courses unless approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor or nominee;
- (ii) A maximum of 10 units of credit will be awarded at 3000 level for a 240 unit program (or 10 units at 4000 level for a 320 unit program);
- (iii) An overall maximum of 40 units.

7. Specific Credit Arrangements – will have a 3 year currency

7.1 Postgraduate Nursing

7.1.1 Master of Mental Health Nursing

Faculty Board 28 April, 2010 endorsed credit arrangements in the Master of Mental Health Nursing Completion of **Transition to Speciality Practice Mental Health Nursing** (offered by Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health)

- credit is approved for

10 units of unspecified credit applied to courses from Directed Course List B (in the Master of Mental Health Nursing program).

7.1.2 Master of Nursing (Advanced Practice)

Faculty Board 18 August, 2010 endorsed credit arrangements in the Master of Nursing (Advanced Practice).

The **Medical Nursing in Acute Care Setting** course (offered by the Division of Medicine at John Hunter Hospital, Hunter New England Health Service)

- credit is approved for

NURS6772 Specialty Practice A and NURS6773 Specialty Practice B (in the Master of Nursing (Advanced Practice) program).

7.1.3 **Master of Midwifery Studies** Faculty Board 9 March 2011 endorsed arrangements in the Master of Midwifery Studies. MIDWIVES WITHOUT BACHELORS DEGREES (OLD HOSPITAL BASED TRAINED)

Registered midwives in current and continuous practice for 5 years or more are deemed to have the equivalent to of a Bachelor of Midwifery for admission purposes.

RPL for NON-SPECIFIED CREDIT

Registered midwives who have been promoted to Clinical Midwife Specialist (or above) and/or who have been granted Medicare Provider status can be granted up to 40 units of unspecified credit.

Midwives who are currently certified International Lactation Consultants can be granted 20 units of unspecified credit.

Midwives who have qualifications in and currently practise in the field of childbirth education, child health nursing or women's health nursing can be granted up to 40 units of credit.

7.1.4 **Post-graduate Occupational Health and Safety**

That credit currency for the Graduate Certificate of Occupational Health and Safety, the Masters of Occupational Health and Safety and the Masters of Workplace Injury Management be 8 years for appropriate courses, on the proviso that evidence for currency of content can be demonstrated for courses between four and eight years old

7.2 **Workers Educational Association (WEA)**

In December 2008, the Vice Chancellor signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director of Workers Educational Association (Hunter).

This agreed to form a relationship which would lead to the establishment of articulated Pathways from certain WEA Hunter programs to certain University programs.

The Faculty Board 18 August, 2010 endorsed the credit agreement with WEA and approved the following arrangements:

B Biomedical Science

Anatomy and Physiology 1, Anatomy and Physiology 2, and Biochemistry
- credit is approved for
HUBS1403 Biomedical Science 1 and HUBS1404 Biomedical Science 2

B Nutrition & Dietetics

Anatomy and Physiology 1 and Anatomy and Physiology 2
- credit is approved for
HUBS1403 Biomedical Science 1 and HUBS1404 Biomedical Science 2.

B Physiotherapy

Anatomy and Physiology 1 and Anatomy and Physiology 2
- credit is approved for
HUBS1403 Biomedical Science 1 and HUBS1404 Biomedical Science 2.

7.3 **Bachelor of Nursing** - for the purpose of awarding credit to

International Student Applicants

- Nurses 'educated overseas' refers to persons educated in another country and who aspire to register as nurses in Australia without completing all subjects in the proposed BN program.

- Generally, they will have:
- ☐ Completed a nursing course of at least a post-secondary level and of at least two years full-time or full-time equivalent duration
 - ☐ Have been registered/licensed to practise as 'first level' or 'professional' nurse (however titled) by the relevant registration/licensing authority in the countries where the program was undertaken
 - ☐ Completed their nursing program *less than eight years prior* (to enrolment in an Australian university
 - ☐ Practised as a nurse (not necessarily first level) for at least three years in the ten-year period prior to enrolment in an Australian university.
- Decisions regarding the awarding of credit and study patterns for overseas students will be conservative and take into account the Board's guidelines.

Framework for the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia)

- Consideration of prior learning is the responsibility of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and decisions about whether to award credit and how much are made by the Program Convenor in consultation with the Head or Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning).
- These students will be notified that when applying to the Board they must demonstrate prior achievement of appropriate course entry requirements, that registration may take longer to assess and that the Board's guidelines do not necessarily guarantee that their education will be considered adequate for registration.
- Credit for other students educated overseas will be assessed on an individual basis where 80 per cent match of the content and learning objectives in a particular subject is identified and in accordance with the Board's Framework for assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia)

Enrolled Nurse Applicants

- Enrolled Nurses or Endorsed Enrolled Nurses as prospective students must have completed a Certificate IV or Diploma level enrolled nurse course (from a Registered Training Organisation) under the currently approved Health Training Package (HLT07) which has been recognised by the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW as a course leading to enrolment.
- The prospective student must have completed their course *less than ten years* (UoN base is 8 years) prior to enrolment in the BN and be eligible for enrolment as an enrolled nurse in NSW meeting all requirements, including competence in the English language.
- Students who meet these criteria and hold a Diploma will be awarded 80 units credit for the following courses:
 - Foundations of Professional Practice 1A (NURS1101)
 - Primary Health Care (NURS1102)
 - Human Bioscience (HUBS1406)
 - Foundations of Professional Practice 1B (NURS1201)
 - Clinical Practice 1B (NURS1202)
 - Elective x 1
- Students who meet these criteria and hold a Certificate IV will be awarded 30 units credit for the following courses:
 - Human Bioscience (HUBS1406)

- Directed course x 1
- Elective x 1

Approved Memorandums of Agreement

- IMU – Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics
- IMU – Bachelor of Biomedical Science