Course Structures Policy

Responsible Officer
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education)

Approved by
Vice-Chancellor

Approved and commenced
TBA, 2011

Review by
TBA, 2014

Relevant Legislation, Ordinance, Rule and/or Governance Level Principle
University of Tasmania Act 1992
Ordinance 13 Academic Senate
Ordinance 99 Academic Structure

Responsible Section / Work Unit
All academic Organisational Units, and Student and Academic Administration

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1 Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide standard degree structures for the design and revision of undergraduate associate and bachelor degrees at the University of Tasmania.

2 Scope

All undergraduate associate and bachelor degrees from 2010.

3 Policy Provisions

3.1 Principles

The principles underlying standard undergraduate course structures at the University of Tasmania are as follows:

- **Consistency**: standard structures and degree specifications used across the University provide more consistent course rules and terminology, assessment objectives and graduate outcomes.

- **Flexibility and choice**: all bachelor degrees will contain units of unrestricted study. Student choice electives embedded within the courses are an important component of the standard structures to allow and encourage breadth of study and facilitate movement across different discipline and faculty areas.

- **Clear progression**: the structures provide clear progression through the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of study.

3.2 Units

A standard unit will be weighted at 12.5% EFTSL.

Units will be at one of four levels: foundation, introductory, intermediate or advanced.

There is a minimum and maximum requirement for units at each level in each approved course structure at foundation, introductory, intermediate and advanced levels, as stated in the relevant specification.

For degrees longer than 3 years, all additional units will be at advanced level.

3.3 Majors and Minors

The unit numbers and levels within majors and minors are standard across all degree structures:

- Major (2 introductory, 2 intermediate and 4 advanced units)
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3.4 Standard Structures

Academic Senate will approve a limited number of degree models.

All undergraduate degrees will be allocated to a model and approved by the University Teaching and Learning Committee and Academic Senate.

Associate degree, single and combined bachelor degree courses will each use the generic degree specification for that degree type.

All degrees will include one or more majors, a minor, and student electives. Some models also include degree electives.

3.5 Degree Lengths

Standard degree lengths will be as follows:

- 2 year associate degrees: 16 units
- 3 year bachelor degrees: 24 units
- 4 year bachelor degrees: 32 units
- 5 year bachelor degrees: 40 units

Notional degree lengths will be determined by the number of units, according to the formula of 8 units = 1 year of study.

3.6 Time Limits for Completion

Courses in the standard structures will use the calculation of the maximum time limit to complete the course as twice the notional course length plus one year.

3.7 Articulated Courses

Courses which are based on articulation from another degree or course will adhere to one of the standard structures, by indicating how the combination of the credit and the University units fits into a model.

4 Definitions and Acronyms

- **Advanced unit**: A unit which builds upon knowledge and skills attained from introductory and intermediate level units and is the highest level of unit in bachelor degrees.

- **Articulated course**: A course whose requirements are partially completed by prior study in another specified degree or course. Credit is awarded for the completed course.

- **Degree electives**: Between 2 - 4 units, according to the relevant degree model, which are specified by the faculty and are normally derived from the degree schedule.
EFTSL  Equivalent Full-Time Student Load. Each unit has a weight or load assigned to it in specific courses, expressed as a proportion of the total full-time course requirement in a year.

Introductory unit  An entry level unit which would normally be taken in the first year of study, but may be taken in later years, subject to the degree requirements.

Intermediate unit  A unit which builds upon knowledge and skills attained from introductory level units and is assessed at a higher level.

Major  An area of specialisation continued for the duration of a degree at a deeper level of content with knowledge and expertise developed to a high level. A major consists of 8 units: 2 introductory, 2 intermediate and 4 advanced level units. A reversed major consists of 8 units: 4 introductory, 2 intermediate and 2 advanced units.

Minor  A sequence of 4 units, normally in a second area of specialisation. A minor consists of 2 units at introductory and 2 at intermediate level.

Student elective  Units which may be taken from any available subject for which the student is eligible in any faculty, subject to degree unit level requirements, unit prerequisites and unit quotas.

5 Supporting Documentation  
Degree specifications for associate, single and combined bachelor degrees.

6 Versioning  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Former Version(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version 1 (current)</td>
<td>DRAFT FOR CIRCULATION (December, 2010)</td>
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