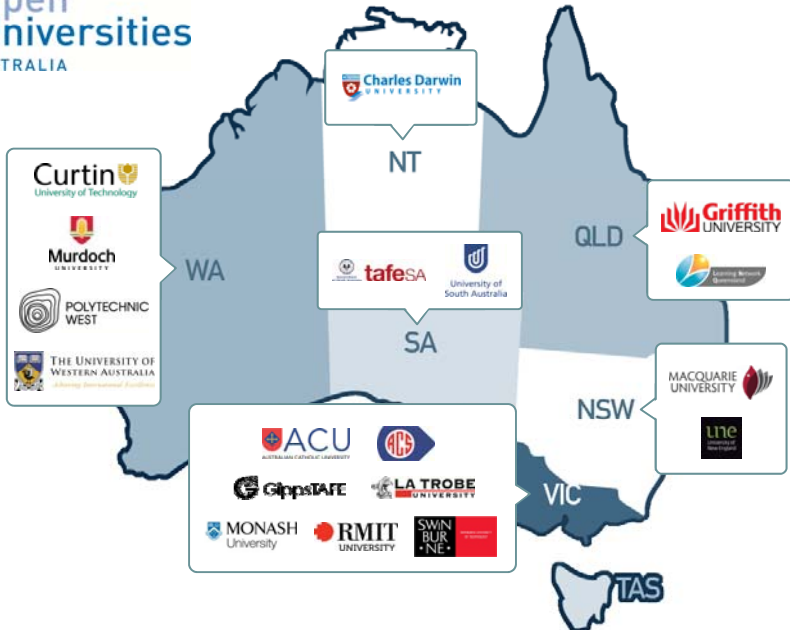





Enabling Student Success

Dr Grace Lynch
Kara Robinson

CCA-EDUCAUSE Australasia 2011



NT: Charles Darwin University

WA: Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University, POLYTECHNIC WEST, THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SA: tafeSA, University of South Australia

QLD: Griffith University, Learning Services Queensland

NSW: MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY, Linc

VIC: ACU, GipsTAFE, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MONASH University, RMIT UNIVERSITY, SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY

TAS: (No logos shown)

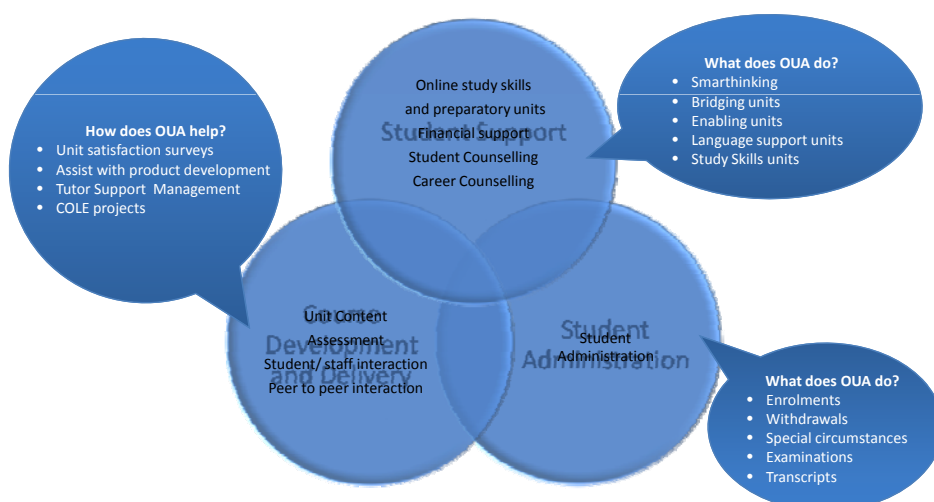
Student Characteristics

- Professionals
- Career changers
- Traditional students
- High risk
- Part-time
- Mature-aged
- LBOTE (Language Background Other than English)



Partnering with our Students

OUA Student Experience



Enabling Units (PREP) Objectives

OUA set out to develop a comprehensive Pathways and Transition program that provides a coherent, readily accessible set of resources to support various student cohorts who are new to online tertiary study.

The PREP units target:

- Students returning to study (refresher course)
- Students new to the e-learning environment
- At risk students as identified by Providers
- Early enrollees
- Onshore and offshore LBOTE students



Enabling Units (PREP) 2010 Overview

- PREP01 – Enabling Learning Strategies (10 weeks)
- PREP02 – Enabling E-Learning (short course – 4 hours)
- PREP03 – Enabling Academic Learning Intensive (3 weeks Pre-SP)
- PREP04 – Enabling Academic Success (3 weeks Mid-SP)

369 students in 2010 (across all Study Periods)

- PREP01 – 132
- PREP02 – 82
- PREP03 – 136
- PREP04 – 19



Open Universities AUSTRALIA | Enabling Learning Strategies (Study Period 1 2011)

OUA > PREP01 SP1 2011

Calendar: March 2011

Topic outline

WELCOME TO...
Enabling Learning Strategies (PREP01)

Dear Students,
Welcome to PREP01!!!
You will find your unit notice board below under 'Tutor Notices'. Any announcements, updates, news items etc. will be published there. Make sure you keep up to date with the announcements that are published there.
Make the most of the uni's chat sessions. Chat with your tutor and other students to ask questions and discuss things! Click on Online Chat below to find out when the next session is.
Happy Studying and Best of Luck with PREP01!!!
Rennison Whittaker & Sandip Rattan
PREP01 Tutors

Introduction to Course

- Welcome...
- Dr. Teresa De Fazio
- Student Code of Conduct
- Student Code of Conduct (PDF)
- What you will need

Introduction to your Tutor

- Rennison Whittaker

Assessment Summary

SmartThinking

- What is SmartThinking?
- Accessing SmartThinking
- SmartThinking Handbook

Enrolment and Academic Support

OUA Student Advisors

- Plan your studies
- Check your records

Unit Tutors (see unit details)

- Questions about
- Understanding topics
- Completing assignments

Technical Helpdesk

Hours of Operation:

1 DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LEARNING SKILLS

Studying is more than just reading, doing exams and preparing assignments. It is important to think about yourself as a student and then to consider what the expectations are of you as a learner. This topic will help you work on some strategies to help you understand yourself as a learner, succeed as a student and enjoy your study experience. There are six modules included in this topic.

Module 1: Embarking on your study journey

- Preparative to Study
- Reading Comprehension
- Introducing yourself - online submission

Module 2: Ascertain your skills

- Ascertain your skills
- Quiz: Ascertain your skills

Module 3: Identifying your Learning Style

- Part I
- Identifying your learning style - Quiz
- Part II
- Personal Learning Style Task

Module 4: Understanding the tertiary education system

- Australian Tertiary Education
- University level qualifications

Module 5: Independent study - what is it all about?

- Introduction
- What is an independent learner?
- Online Interaction
- PeerGroup work online
- Interaction with Teachers
- Demonstrating your learning

Activity 1A: Writing a Summary

- Writing a Summary

2 DEVELOPING A PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN

Being aware of your personal motivation to study is important. The second step is to maintain that motivation to help you stay focussed, especially during any low periods that may occur. Drawing on previous experience - life or study - is an important way to feeling confident about being able to tackle studies and see yourself as a competent student. This topic covers aspects of motivation and using experience to help you maintain your focus.

Module 1: Your study goals - Part A

- Why is motivation important?
- Your own motivation
- Blog and Discussion List Task
- Creating a Blog

PREP01

Enabling Learning Strategies

Ideal for students with limited tertiary experience or have not studied for awhile and require an understanding of study skills and expectations.

Key Messages/Characteristics:

- Topics include: study goals, time management, reading strategies, note-taking and exam preparation
- Lots of student/tutor & student/student interaction
- Can do concurrently with another unit

Features:

- Tutor
- Smarthinking (6 hours)
- Chat
- Discussion Forums
- Textbook



PREP02

Enabling E-Learning

Key Messages/Characteristics:

- 3 short topics
- Continuous access
- Teaches **Basic** IT skills – Word, Excel, Power Point
- No tutor
- Good for students who haven't used a computer in a while or at all
- Online research skills covered
- No text book

Features:

- Quick refresher
- Discussion Forums
- No assessment
- Smarthinking **not** available



PREP03

Enabling Academic Learning Intensive

Targeted at students needing to refresh academic skills in a range of areas.

Key Messages/Characteristics:

- 3 weeks
- Similar to PREP01, but is **intensive**.
- Lots of student/tutor & student/student interaction

Features:

- Tutor
- Smarthinking (4 hours)
- Chat
- Discussion Forums
- Textbook



PREP04

Enabling Academic Success

Focuses on learning how-to-learn and supports students if they feel they need extra tutorial assistance. Good for students who feel anxious about study progress and are unsure about continuing etc.

Key Messages/Characteristics:

- 3 weeks
- Students usually studying another unit concurrently
- A 'further support' unit

Features:

- Tutor
- Smarthinking (4 hours)
- Chat
- Discussion Forums
- Textbook



Evaluation PREP01 and PREP03

- Overall, very positive feedback from Students in PREP01 and PREP03.
 - 83% said the unit met their expectations
 - 95% rated the unit 'very good'
 - For PREP01, 82% believe the unit gave them the information and skills needed, while for PREP03, only 63%
 - 84% of students would recommend this unit to others

"I think I learned a lot in the last ten weeks and I am very glad I did this unit first, before attempting the 'real' thing."

Evaluation PREP02

- Overall, students were not content with PREP02, and felt the unit was too basic.
 - 60% of students felt the unit 'partly' met their expectations
 - 90% rated the unit as 'good'
 - Only 50% believe the unit gave them the information and skills needed

"The unit was very straight forward, though participation in the forum is a little slow and lacked vibrancy."

Evaluation PREP04

- The difficulty in doing an evaluation of PREP04, is the low pick-up and subsequent response rate.
- We are in the process of determining whether or not this unit should continue, since it did not always meet the learner needs.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this unit, it has helped build more confidence in my writing, even though I know I still have a long way to go."

Thank you

Dr Grace Lynch

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