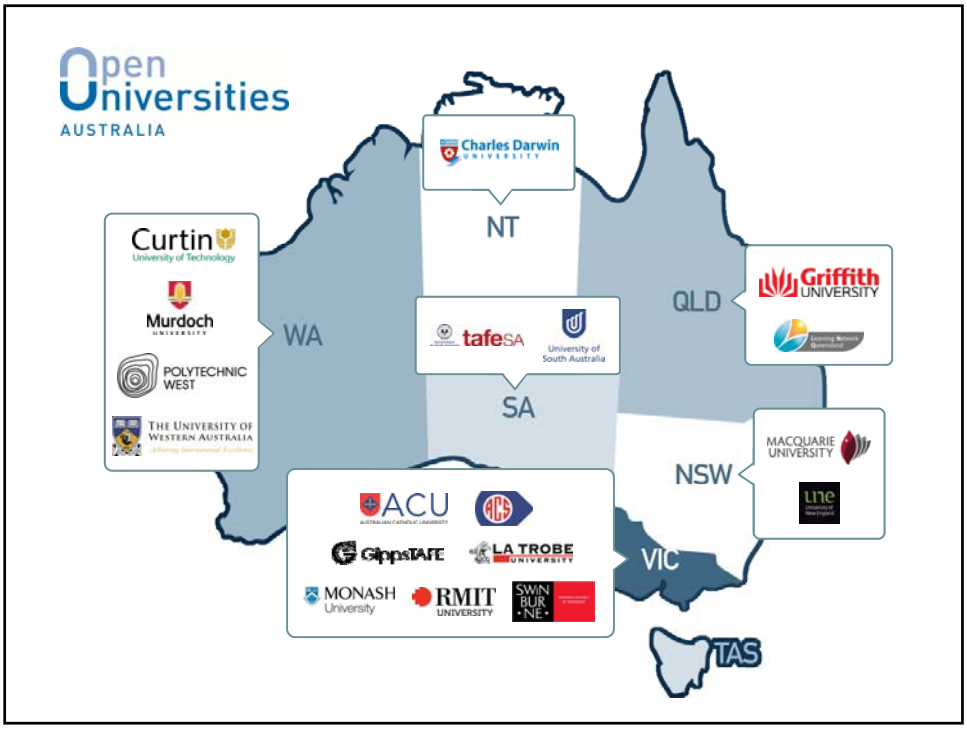
CCA-EDUCAUSE Australasia 2011

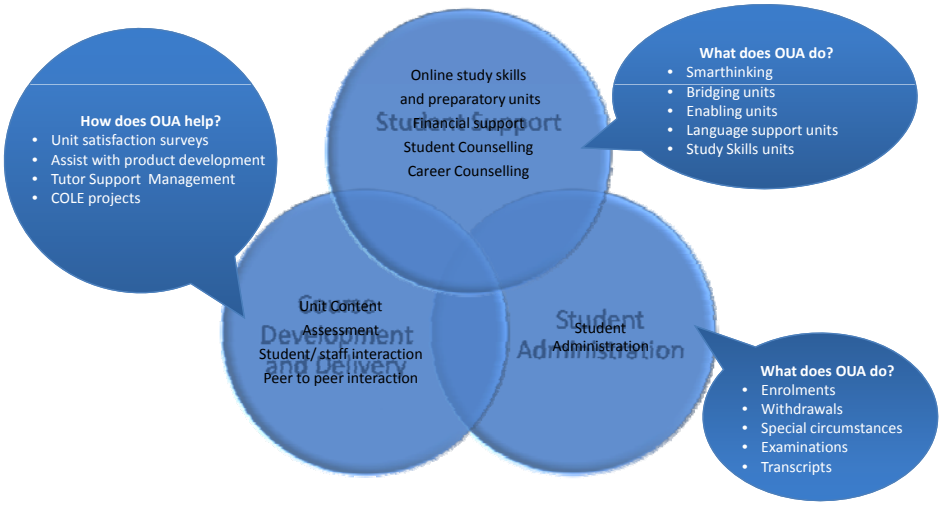


Student Characteristics

- 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:

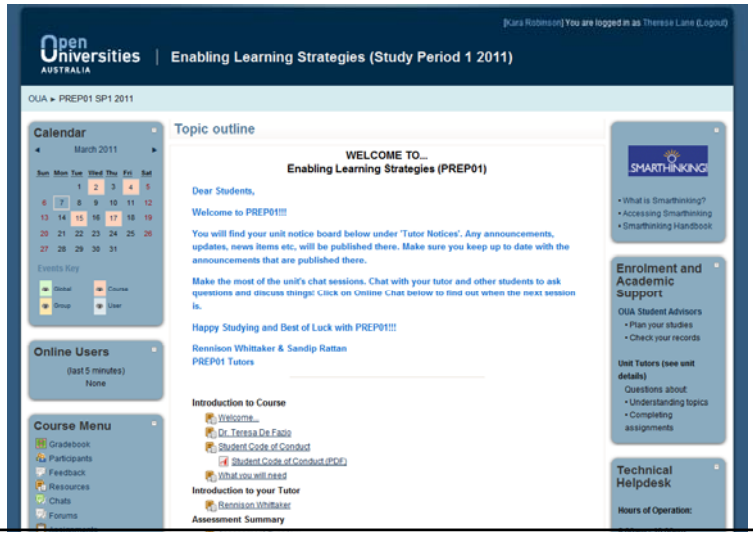
- Students returning to study (refresher course)
- Students new to the e-learning environment
- At risk students as identified by Providers
- Early enrolees
- Onshore and offshore LBOTE students

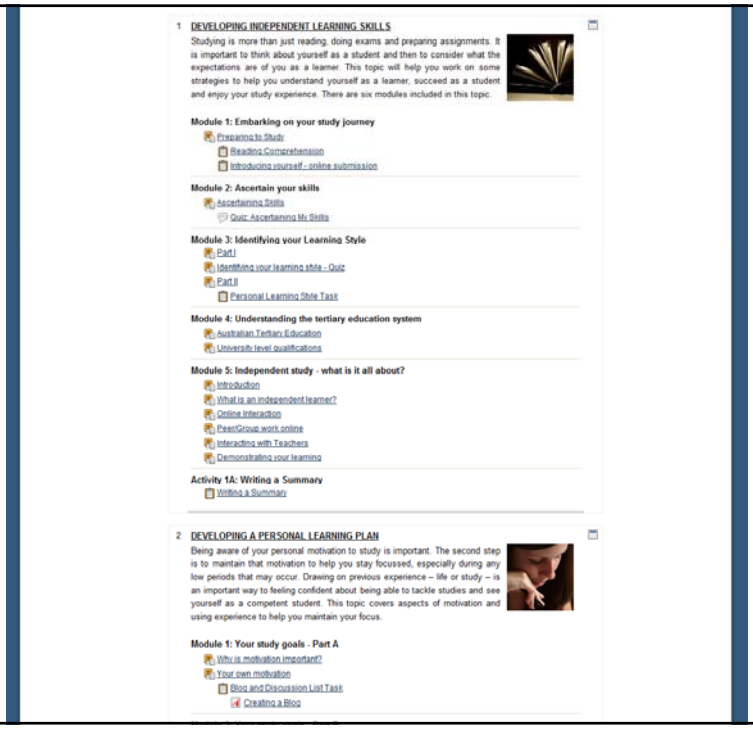
Enabling Units (PREP) 2010 Overview

- 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
Online Users
Course Menu
Topic outline
WELCOME TO...
Enabling Learning Strategies (PREP01)
Dear Students,
Welcome to PREP01!!!
Happy Studying and Best of Luck with PREP01!!!
Rennison Whittaker & Sandip Rattan
PREP01 Tutors
Introduction to Course
Introduction to your Tutor
Assessment Summary
Enrolment and Academic Support
Technical Helpdesk


1 DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LEARNING SKILLS
Module 1: Embarking on your study journey
Module 2: Ascertain your skills
Module 3: Identifying your Learning Style
Module 4: Understanding the tertiary education system
Module 5: Independent study - what is it all about?
Activity 1A: Writing a Summary
2 DEVELOPING A PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN
Module 1: Your study goals - Part A

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
Open Universities Australia
E-mail: grace.lynch@open.edu.au

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Attribution 4.0 International