

PROCEDURE A4.0-P4.0

COURSE AND UNIT LIFECYCLE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Related Policy

Course and Unit Lifecycle Policy.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the processes involved in the development, approval, delivery, and review of a course and/or unit, course discontinuance, and course teach-out.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to all ACHW courses and units delivered by ACHW and third-parties, and to ACHW and third-party staff (where relevant) involved in the development, approval, delivery, review, and discontinuance/teach-out of courses and units.

1.4 Scope Exceptions

None.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

New Course Development

1. The Chief Experience Officer is responsible to conduct market research and to advise on commercial viability of new course proposals.
2. The Director of Education is responsible to prepare an Expression of Interest (Eol) for a new course after consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.
3. Once the Chief Executive Officer has accepted the detail of the EOI, The Director of Education and /or the Chief Executive Officer are responsible to present the Eol to the ACHW Corporate Board.
4. The ACHW Corporate Board is responsible to give the initial approval on the Eol and for ACHW to proceed with development of a new course.
5. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to inform the ACHW Academic Board of the ACHW Corporate Board approval.
6. The ACHW Academic Board is responsible to commission a Course Advisory Committee (CAC) to advance the new course development process.

7. The CAC is responsible for developing the course proposal, forming course development working parties, recruit SMEs and oversee the development of the new course and to keep the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) informed of progress.
8. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible for, and the owner of, the new course proposal and for the day-to-day coordination of its development and implementation.
9. The TLC is responsible to provide input and feedback as requested by the CAC and keep the ACHW Academic Board informed of the progress.

New Unit Development

10. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to oversee development of the new unit proposal and present the proposal to the TLC.
11. The TLC is responsible for the approval of new unit proposal and to refer the unit development to the Course Review Committee (CRC).
12. The CRC is responsible to oversee the development of the new unit outline and content.
13. The TLC notifies the ACHW Academic Board that the new unit is being developed.
14. ACHW Academic Board notes the development.

New Course and Unit Approval

15. ACHW Academic Board is responsible to approve a new course.
16. The ACHW Teaching and Learning Committee is responsible to approve a new unit.
17. The ACHW Academic Board is responsible to endorse the approval of a new unit.
18. The Director of Education is responsible to submit new courses to TEQSA for accreditation.

Course and Unit Delivery

19. ACHW academic staff and/or third-party staff are responsible to deliver the course or unit as approved.

Existing Course and Unit Review, Monitoring and Improvement

20. ACHW Academic Board is responsible to establish a Formal Course Review Schedule to meet the requirements of the Higher Education Standard 5.3.
21. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to establish a Course Review Register to record the outcomes of each review and to record the actions and responsibilities for each recommendation.

22. The ACHW Teaching and Learning Committee is responsible for the review of units.
23. The Course Review Committee is responsible for the review of existing courses.
24. The Director of Education is responsible to notify TEQSA of significant changes to courses as required.

Course Discontinuance

25. The Director of Education is responsible to recommend the discontinuance of a course to the ACHW Corporate Board.
26. The ACHW Corporate Board is responsible to accept or deny the recommendation.
27. ACHW Academic Board is responsible to endorse ACHW Corporate Board's decision or recommend further consideration.
28. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to notify all relevant stakeholders, including third-party partners.
29. The Director of Education notifies TEQSA of the discontinuance of a course.

Unit Discontinuance

30. The Director of Education or nominee is responsible to recommend discontinuance of units to the ACHW Teaching and Learning Committee.
31. The ACHW Teaching and Learning Committee is responsible to approve unit discontinuance.
32. The ACHW Academic Board is responsible to endorse the approval.

Teach-out

33. The Director of Education, in conjunction with the Director of Marketing and the Head of School, ACHW is responsible to develop a communication plan to notify current and prospective students about the discontinuance of the course, and that current students will receive individual teach-out plans.
34. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to prepare a teach-out plan.
35. The TLC is responsible to approve the teach-out plan and provide regular progress updates to the ACHW Academic Board.
36. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to develop individual teach-out plans for each student enrolled in the course, if required.
37. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible for the success of the teach-out plan.

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 Course Development

A. New Course Recommendation

1. Recommendations for a new course may come from a variety of sources, including (but not limited to):
 - a. the marketing or products teams;
 - b. industry;
 - c. ACHW academics;
 - d. surveys of staff, students or industry;
 - e. course planning days; and
 - f. external reviews.
2. All recommendations for a new course are made to the Director of Education and the Head of School, ACHW and must include supporting information which indicates a need for, and likely viability of, the proposed new course. This information includes but is not limited to:
 - a. how the new course would positively support the strategic corporate objectives of ACHW;
 - b. outcome of discussions with other Scintia subsidiaries to ensure there is no likelihood of the proposed course negatively impacting on their academic plans;
 - c. the likely competition in the market, and a SWOT analysis;
 - d. the likely demand and estimated commencing EFTSL;
 - e. the need for third-party involvement, if any;
 - f. outcome of consultation with industry, where appropriate, to assess the possible careers for graduates of the proposed new course;
 - g. any additional staffing, expertise and /or facilities or infrastructure required; and
 - h. competitor analysis
3. The Head of School, ACHW reviews the new course recommendation and will involve the Director of Education and other senior academic staff in this activity. As part of the review, the Head of School, ACHW requests from the Chief Experience Officer a costing of the recommended new course to gain confirmation of its likely viability within three (3) years of its first intake.
4. If the information and costing for the recommended new course confirms its likely demand and viability, the Director of Education, will submit the new course recommendation, as an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to:

- a. the Chief Executive Officer for discussion; and
 - b. the ACHW Corporate Board, with the support of the Chief Executive Officer, for approval.
5. The ACHW Corporate Board will either:
 - a. refuse permission to proceed, giving reasons, and notify the Director of Education, who will notify other stakeholders; or
 - b. give permission to proceed by notifying the ACHW Academic Board and the Director of Education.
6. If approval to proceed is given, the Director of Education will notify the Head of School, ACHW.
7. The Head of School, ACHW will notify the ACHW Academic Board which in turn will commission a Course Advisory Committee (CAC), which will provide internal and external expert advice into the preparation of the new course.
8. The Head of School, ACHW provides the day-to-day management of the course development process, liaising with internal and external members of the CAC as well as ACHW's academic staff, and nominated staff of a Third-Party Partner (if applicable). The Head of School, ACHW coordinates course development activities and provides leadership and support.

B. Course Development Action Plan

1. The CAC develops a Course Development Action Plan which contains:
 - a. time frames for development and approval of the course in order for the course to be approved in time for its first intake;
 - b. time frames for development and release of promotional material;
 - c. actions and responsibilities during these timeframes;
 - d. a communication plan;
 - e. key stakeholder contacts details; and
 - f. any other detail to assist in the management and coordination of the course development process.

C. Course Proposal Stage 1: Course Outline

1. The CAC oversees the preparation of a Course Outline which is the blueprint for the development of course content, preparation of delivery systems and quality management of the course. The Course Outline captures course information, but not detailed content at this stage. The information in the Course Outline includes:
 - a. Course Code
 - b. Course Title
 - c. AQF Level
 - d. ASCED code

- e. Fees (tuition and other)
- f. Year/Study period of its first intake
- g. Course Design Overview
- h. Course Objectives
- i. Course Structure
- j. List of units, including any new units to be developed
- k. Major/minors if applicable
- l. Electives, if applicable
- m. Entry requirements - which may change as the course is further developed
- n. Any Pre-requisites
- o. Course rules, such as rules for progression
- p. Pathways (in and out)
- q. Expected commencing EFTSL
- r. Benchmarking and competitors
- s. Industry consultation
- t. Industry involvement in the course, such as in work integrated learnings, if applicable
- u. Delivery and assessment strategies
- v. Study pattern
- w. Staffing and any additional resources or infrastructure

D. Course Proposal Stage 2: Content Development

1. The Course Outline forms a framework for the development of course content.
2. SME's working alongside the CAC develops the course design and content. As the documentation progresses, it is presented to the TLC for review and feedback. This feedback may lead to further amendments, making this process highly iterative.
3. The CAC sends a regular progress report to TLC and the TLC reports progress to the ACHW Academic Board, as required.
4. In the development of the new course:
 - a. Course design, content, how students progressively attain the learning objectives/outcomes for the course and its units and the attainment of the course's graduate outcomes, as well as assessment must reflect the level of the qualification as designated

- by the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) and the requirements of the [Higher Education Standards Framework](#) 2015, specifically 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 Course Design;
- b. all courses and units will have defined learning outcomes which describe, in plain English and aligned to the AQF what students must know and be able to do to demonstrate that they have achieved these outcomes;
 - c. where work integrated learning is part of a course, the learning and skills/competency outcomes will be clearly defined as well as the workplace activities and experiences required to achieve these;
 - d. assessment in the course will be sequenced and aligned to enable students to build their capabilities and skills progressively towards unit and course learning outcomes; and
 - e. where possible, the course will be designed to enable a diversity of students to succeed.
5. A key course objective is to provide further education pathways for ACHW students, that is, to align ACHW courses to other relevant courses offered through Scentia subsidiaries and those offered at other institutions. The course design process is one of the most important stages of the course lifecycle for seeking to create and improve student pathways. To achieve this:
- a. the course design process includes research and benchmarking undertaken on similar courses at other institutions, investigating articulation pathways for ACHW students; and
 - b. unit selection and topic coverage are designed to enhance choice and mobility, with a view to providing students with pathways within ACHW's course offerings.

3.2 Course Approval

1. The Course Proposal is submitted to the TLC for endorsement and then to the ACHW Academic Board by the Head of School, ACHW.
2. ACHW Academic Board may:
 - a. approve the course;
 - b. approve with minor amendments, with no requirement for re-submission;
 - c. require re-submission, with reasons why; or
 - d. not approve, with reasons why.
3. ACHW Academic Board advises the Head of School, ACHW, in writing, of its decision and the Head of School, ACHW advises other stakeholders. The discussion and decision are recorded in the minutes of ACHW Academic Board.

4. If ACHW Academic Board requires re-submission, the Head of School, ACHW will notify the CAC to re-convene and develop the required further information, before re- submitting the documentation to ACHW Academic Board.
5. ACHW Academic Board includes new courses in its reporting to the ACHW Corporate Board.
6. The Director of Education will ensure the new course is submitted to TEQSA for accreditation.

3.3 New Unit Development and Approval

1. A new unit recommendation is made to the Chief Experience Officer and the Director of Education. Recommendations for a new unit may come from a variety of sources, including:
 - a. the marketing or products teams;
 - b. industry;
 - c. ACHW academics;
 - d. surveys of staff, students or industry;
 - e. course planning days; and
 - f. external reviews.
2. The Chief Experience Officer reviews the recommendation and will involve the Director of Education and other senior academic staff in this activity. The costing for the development of the new unit will be included in this review.
3. If the recommendation is accepted, the Head of School, ACHW, the Director of Education and academic staff develop a proposal to present to ACHW TLC. The proposal includes:
 - a. the need for the unit;
 - b. the AQF level;
 - c. its uniqueness among current ACHW units or units of other Scintia subsidiaries;
 - d. the course or courses it would be part of;
 - e. the consultation undertaken about the new unit, including with the library regarding resources;
 - f. an overview of its content; and
 - g. any new staffing or other resources/infrastructure/technology likely to be required.
4. The Head of School, ACHW presents the proposal to ACHW TLC for endorsement.

5. If endorsement is given, the Head of School will notify the CRC which will oversee the development of the Unit Outline and content and present it to ACHW TLC for approval.
6. If the new unit is approved, the ACHW TLC notifies ACHW Academic Board and the Head of School, ACHW notifies relevant stakeholders.

3.4 Course/Unit Delivery

1. Courses and units will be delivered as approved by the ACHW Academic Board, irrespective of mode, location or whether it is delivered through a third- party.
2. Changes to the officially approved unit outlines and course structure must follow the process of review and improvement as outlined in clauses 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7.
3. Academic staff teaching the course will maintain their expertise as outlined in the Scholarly Activity Policy, and the Scholarly Activity and Professional Development Procedure.

3.5 Annual Course Surface Review and Improvement

1. All ACHW courses must be reviewed annually by the Head of School, ACHW with a report on findings provided to the CRC.
2. The annual review includes:
 - a. demand, based on student enrolment statistics (student commencing and continuing load (EFTSL), market research and analysis; plus,
 - b. if the review is for the second year of delivery of the course, demand compared to the original business case;
 - c. the quality, scope and adequacy of course-related information provided to students and prospective students;
 - d. first year attrition;
 - e. progress rate (first year and total);
 - f. completion rates;
 - g. the appropriateness and flexibility of the course's methods of delivery in relation to student need and demand;
 - h. the range, depth and currency of resources for students, such as text books;
 - i. student and academic staff surveys, with an analysis of significant trends;
 - j. financial viability data; and
 - k. Third-Party Agreement, where applicable.
 - l. the assessment methods and grading of students' achievement of learning outcomes for selected units of study within courses of study.

3. The CRC provides a report via the TLC to ACHW Academic Board, including recommendations for any improvements.
4. The Head of School, ACHW records the review, recommendations and actions, and progress of the actions, on the Course Review Register.
5. The CRC is responsible to oversee implementation of the actions on the Course Review Register and provide regular updates to the TLC.
6. The TLC provides updates to the ACHW Academic Board on the progress of implementing the recommendations.

3.6 Unit Surface Review, Monitoring and Improvement

1. Units are annually reviewed by the CRC, which evaluates:
 - a. the content, learning and assessment methodologies;
 - b. the clarity of purpose of the unit within the course;
 - c. data related to grade distributions and student progress;
 - d. teaching and resources for each unit;
 - e. the quality and adequacy of information provided to students.
 - f. Unit load; and
 - g. Unit learning outcome mapping.
2. Student survey results and academic staff recommendations for improvement are collated and analysed by the Head of School, ACHW who generates unit-specific reports which are presented to the TLC.
3. The TLC presents unit-specific recommendations to the ACHW Academic Board for endorsement.
4. Endorsed recommendations are implemented by the Head of School, ACHW in liaison with the Academic Manager.
5. The Head of School, ACHW records the review, endorsed recommendations, actions, and progress of the actions, on the Course Review Register.
6. Academic staff delivering units who wish to make improvements to components of the accredited unit outline or assessments outside of an annual review must present a recommendation to the Head of School, ACHW who will present the recommendation to TLC for approval.
7. The Head of School, ACHW provides regular reports to TLC on the progress of implementing the endorsed recommendations, and a final progress report to TLC and ACHW Academic Board when all recommendations are implemented.
8. Units are formally reviewed as part of the formal course review process outlined in clause 3.7.

3.7 Formal Course Review and Improvement

1. All ACHW higher education courses must undergo a comprehensive, formal course review at least every 7 years as required by Higher Education Standard 5.3 Course Review, Monitoring and Improvement or 1 year prior to course re-accreditation by TEQSA, if that is earlier.
2. The ACHW Academic Board establishes a Formal Course Review Schedule.
3. The Formal Course Review is actioned according to the scheduling in the Formal Course Review Schedule established by ACHW Academic Board.
4. The Formal Course Review includes extensive review of all the aspects listed in clause 3.5.2 a.to l. plus:
 - a. external benchmarking; and
 - b. academic governance processes; and
 - c. includes external experts, industry and alumni in the review process.
5. The Head of School, ACHW sends a formal course review report to the CRC, which will review the report, make any recommendations it believes to be necessary and include these in its report to ACHW Academic Board.
6. The Head of School, ACHW records the review, recommendations and actions, and progress of the actions, on the Course Review Register.
7. CRC sends the proposal to the TLC for endorsement.
8. The Head of School, ACHW is responsible to action all the recommendations and actions from the Course Reviews.
9. The CRC is responsible to oversee implementation of the actions on the Course Review Register and provide regular updates to the TLC.
10. TLC send the proposal to the Academic Board ACHW and provides regular reports to the ACHW Academic Board until all recommendations are finalised.
11. The ACHW Academic Board includes course reviews in its required reporting to the ACHW Corporate Board.

3.8 Course Discontinuance

1. A recommendation to discontinue a course may be made due to any or all of the following:
 - a. The course is no longer relevant to industry.
 - b. The course has had a consistent decline in demand and enrolment over the previous years and is no longer viable, despite strategies employed to increase demand.
 - c. the course has not reached viability in the time frame listed in its original business case to the ACHW Corporate Board, despite strategies employed to increase demand.

- d. The course is no longer aligned with the strategic focus and vision of ACHW.
 2. The Director of Education provides a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer and then to the ACHW Corporate Board outlining:
 - a. the reasons for course discontinuance, including the commencing and continuing demand and enrolment trends (EFTSL); and
 - b. the likely impact of course discontinuance on current students, how the impact will be minimised, and whether a teach-out plan will be required or not (refer to clause 3.10);
 - c. the impact on third party agreements, where applicable; and
 - d. the proposed year and study period for discontinuance, which must provide sufficient time for notification to relevant stakeholders, the teach-out of the course to enable students to graduate as they originally expected to, or student transition to another course, as appropriate.
 3. The ACHW Corporate Board accepts or rejects the recommendation, or asks for further information, noting reasons for their decision.
 - a. If the recommendation to discontinue the course is accepted by ACHW Corporate Board, the Head of School, ACHW will notify relevant staff and submit the recommendation to the ACHW Academic Board for endorsement. If a teach-out plan is required, it will be submitted to ACHW Academic Board at another meeting of the Board.
 - b. If ACHW Academic Board wishes to discuss ACHW Corporate Board's decision to approve the discontinuance of the course, the Chair of ACHW Academic Board will request this by writing to the ACHW Corporate Board
 - c. If the recommendation to discontinue the course is rejected by ACHW Corporate Board the Head of School, ACHW will notify relevant ACHW staff. The course will continue to be closely monitored.
 - d. If ACHW Corporate Board asks for more information before it makes a decision on discontinuing the course, that information will be provided by the Head of School, ACHW.
 4. Minutes of decisions are kept by both ACHW Corporate Board and ACHW Academic Board.

3.9 Unit Discontinuance

1. A recommendation for discontinuing a unit is made by the Head of School, ACHW to the CRC, only after negotiation with all stakeholders who teach the unit, including other Scintia subsidiaries and Third-Party Partners (if applicable) has been conducted.
2. The CRC will review the recommendation and provide feedback to the TLC.

3. The TLC approves or rejects the recommendation.
4. IF TLC approves the recommendation it is presented by the ACHW Head of School to the ACHW Academic Board for endorsement.
5. Minutes of decisions are kept by TLC and ACHW Academic Board.

3.10 Teach-out of a Discontinued Course

1. The Director of Education, informs and liaises with the Head of School, ACHW and other internal stakeholders, third parties (where relevant), and relevant other staff on all issues to be taken into account in development of a teach-out plan. The Teach out will be led by the Head of School. The teach out plan will include:
 - a. the content of written communication to students;
 - b. how any contractual obligations associated with the course of study will be met;
 - c. addressing student load issues involved in the teach-out strategy; and
 - d. offering valid transition pathways to other courses of study.
2. After consulting with the Director of Education, the Head of School, ACHW prepares a detailed teach-out plan that addresses the needs of all cohorts of current students enrolled in the course.
3. The teach-out plan is submitted to the ACHW TLC for approval and ACHW Academic Board for noting.
4. The Director of Education ACHW advises Student Support, Admissions, Director of Sales, and the Director of Marketing that the course is to be discontinued, the date of the final intake, and the end date of the final study period.
5. The Director of Education or delegate develops a communication plan in liaison with the Team Leader Student Support to advise current students that the course will no longer be offered including information about alternative course options available.
6. The Head of School, ACHW liaises with online libraries, Information Technology and Student Services staff regarding any changes to service delivery associated with the teach-out arrangements and the provision of specialised support services for affected students.
7. The Head of School ACHW or delegate will contact students to all affected students explaining the teach-out arrangements and detailing all available options for students, including the option to transition to another course. A contact person will be nominated to deal with student enquiries about teach-out processes.
8. The DoE ACHW approves publication of information on the College's web site regarding teach-out arrangements.

9. Teaching and Learning will provide regular reports to ACHW Academic Board on the progress of the approved teach-out plan, while also seeking approval for any necessary changes to ensure teach-out success.
10. The Head of School, ACHW in conjunction with the academic staff prepares and supplies individual plans for all students to assist in mapping progression to completion within the designated teach-out period, where applicable.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

- **ASCED Code** - the Australian Standard Classification of Education which is comprised of two component classifications, Level of Education and Field of Education. It provides a basis for comparable administrative and statistical data on educational activities and attainment, classified by level and field of education.
- **Course design** - defined by TEQSA as the content, duration and sequencing of the elements (units) of a course of study. It also includes various other design characteristics such as entry requirements and pathways, the nature of the content, the expected learning outcomes, their sequence of attainment and assessment, and professional accreditation if required.
- **Third-Party Partner**- an organisation, other than ACHW, providing education services to ACHW, such as providing an ACHW course, under the auspices of a Third-Party Agreement.

5.0 REFERENCES AND ASSOCIATED INFORMATION

- [Australian Qualifications Framework](#)
- Course and Unit Lifecycle Policy
- Framework for the Management of Third-Party Course Delivery Arrangements
- [Higher Education Standards Framework](#) (2015)
- Third-Party Policy

6.0 POLICY/PROCEDURE OWNERSHIP

Policy Owner	Director of Education
Status	Reviewed on May 2021
Approval Authority	ACHW Corporate Board
Date of Approval	June 2021
Effective Date	June 2021
Implementation Owner	Academic Manager
Maintenance Owner	Senior Policy and Compliance Officer
Review Due	May 2024

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7.0 AMENDMENTS

Version	Amendment Approval (Date)	Amendment Made By (Position)	Amendment Details
A4.0-P4.0	10 June 2021	ACHW Corporate Board	<p>Policy and Procedure separated.</p> <p>Title changed to Course and Unit Lifecycle Procedure.</p> <p>Teach-out Policy's Procedure included in this procedure.</p> <p>Other policies/procedures on course and unit review included so that all in one policy and procedure.</p>