

Course & Subject Viability Policy – Higher Education

Policy Code: ACA-022

Version: 8.0

Effective Date: 20 April 2021

Purpose

This Policy is necessary in order to ensure the economic viability of all accredited higher education courses and subjects offered by the College.

Definition of “College” – *In the higher education sector, the Australian College of Natural Medicine Pty Ltd (ACNM) trades as Endeavour College of Natural Health. For the purpose of this policy, any reference to ‘College’ or ‘the College’ should be considered a reference to each or any of these respective trading names / entities.*

Scope

- All campuses (including online)
- All Higher Education Courses and Subjects
- All Higher Education students (including International students)

Policy Statement

This Policy provides the parameters required to assess the economic viability of all courses and subjects, and outlines the actions to be implemented within these parameters.

Course Viability - Undergraduate

The College’s departments will consider the viability of their courses on an annual basis using the following Policy guidelines:

- The consideration of the viability of courses will be assessed over the period of the preceding three years;
- Annual assessments of the viability of courses will be made by the respective Head of Department / Associate Head of Department in consultation with the Director of Education, and the Director, Student Services and Retention as part of their annual course review processes;
- Student enrolment type will also be taken into account in terms of part-time, full-time and online students;
 - ⊙ Course review data is utilised each year by the respective departmental heads in the preparation of an Annual Academic Operations Quality Report for the Academic Board / College Council. This report contains performance data on a set of key tracking measures for every course against an agreed set of benchmarked indicators in the College’s *HE Learning and Teaching Plan* and *Strategic Plan ACNM HE*. This forms part of the Annual Report prepared for the Board of Directors and other stakeholders;
- Cancellation of a course will only occur at the end of an academic year.

Assessment of viability will be made based on the size of the campus where the course is delivered:

- Larger campuses (all campuses in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney) – minimum 20 new enrolments in a course will make the course viable to be delivered on that campus;

- Smaller campuses (all campuses in Adelaide, Gold Coast and Perth) – minimum 15 new enrolments in a course will make the course viable to be delivered on that campus;
- If a higher education course is chosen to be delivered nationally for Endeavour, it will therefore have a minimum of 105 students.

In instances where all or most (75% or more) subjects within a course are shared across other courses and the combined intake would constitute viability, the Director of Education or Managing Director, may approve smaller cohorts than listed above.

In the event that a course is deemed not viable, depending upon where the course is in the accreditation cycle (i.e.: toward the beginning or end of a cycle) the College will enact the provisions of the *Course Discontinuation Policy – Higher Education*.

Viability for a Course Intake

The College has multiple intakes of a course throughout a given year. In some instances, it may be necessary to cancel an intake for a course for viability reasons prior to the next teaching period.

Depending on viability, the Managing Director or Director of Education reserves the right to decide not to deliver a course nationally or at a particular campus for a particular intake. This does not constitute cancellation of the course overall, but rather, cancellation of that intake.

The College will ensure that all students are provided with 2 weeks' notice regarding the cancellation of any course or intake of that course, including international students on a student visa; if the College cancels a course or an intake of that course, this is considered to be 'provider default' for international students. For further information regarding provider default refer to the *Refund Policy – International*.

Subject Viability - Undergraduate

Each department is responsible for the planning of the subjects it offers, and the mode in which they are delivered in each teaching period (including online teaching periods). Planning will be based on the following considerations:

- The viability of subjects will be assessed over the period of the preceding three years;
- The viability of each subject will be considered by individual mode of study (on-campus / online), as a whole unit and, where applicable, as a cross-department subject, according to the number of student enrolments in the subject;
- A cross-department subject will be assessed according to the total number of students enrolled across all applicable departments.

Assessment of subject viability on campus will be made based on the number of students enrolled:

- New subject (never offered before) – 20 students per on-campus subject. (Note that the cancellation of such a subject can be overridden by Managing Director decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 10 students per on-campus subject (can be overridden by Managing Director decision only);
- Summer School (Intensive Delivery) and Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by the by Managing Director / Director of Education;
- If a subject does not have enough enrolments to be offered on-campus and is currently also offered in online mode, this mode may be considered as an alternative offering to current on-campus students, subject to viability of this mode. Synchronised classes may also be offered to cohorts attending a different campus as an alternative offering wherever possible to create a viable cohort.

Assessment of subject viability online will be made based on the number of students enrolled:

- New subject (never offered before) – 10 students per online subject. (Note that the cancellation of such a subject can be overridden by Managing Director decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 5 students per online subject (can be overridden by Managing Director decision only);
- Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by Managing Director / Director of Education.

The College reserves the right to cancel an offering of any subject based on viability up to day 1 of a subject intake period (including online) and will notify students of such as soon as possible after the decision is made. Where possible, an alternative mode of study will be offered (e.g.: online if on campus is not viable), or an alternative subject will be offered to ensure appropriate course progression is maintained.

Definitions

Course: An accredited qualification with an approved sequence of subjects for academic study known as the course structure.

Provider Default: The College is deemed to be in provider default if:

- the course did not start on the agreed starting day;
- the course ceased to be provided at any time after it commenced but before its completion;
- the course was not provided in full because a condition has been imposed on the registration of the College on CRICOS, or the registration has been suspended or cancelled, and the student has not withdrawn before the occurrence of any one of the events stated above.

Student: An individual person who is formally enrolled to study at the College. The individual person is that who appears on the College's documents such as enrolment, admission and payment documents, and who is assigned an individual student ID.

Subject: means the smallest stand-alone component of a student's course for which a grade is assigned on a student's academic record / transcript. Subjects have an integer credit point value, in the range 2 -10.

Related Procedures

Course and Subject Viability Procedure - HE

Course Review Procedure - HE



Further Information

Related Policies

Course Discontinuation Policy – Higher Education

Refund Policy – International

Related Documents

HE Learning and Teaching Plan

Strategic Plan ACNM HE

Guidelines

Not Applicable

Benchmarking

Christian Heritage College

Supporting Research and Analysis

Not Applicable

Related Legislation

Not Applicable

Review and Approval

Policy Author

National HE Compliance Manager

Policy Owner

Executive Director, Higher Education

Contact

Executive Director, Higher Education

Approval Body

Executive Director, Higher Education (executive approval)

Approval date: 24 July 2017

Policy Status

Revised

Responsibilities for Implementation

- Director of Education
- Director, Student Services and Retention
- Heads of Department / Associate Heads of Department
- Managing Director

Key Stakeholders

- ACNM Corporate Board
- Admissions staff
- All students
- Director of Education
- Director, Student Services and Retention
- Student Services staff
- Timetabling staff