

Course & Subject Viability Policy – Higher Education

Policy Code: ACA-022 **Version:** 5.0 **Effective Date:** 19 October 2016

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, ACPE Limited trades as The Australian College of Physical Education (ACPE); Australian College of Natural Medicine Pty Ltd trades as Endeavour College of Natural Health (Endeavour); Study Group Australia Pty Limited trades as Martin College, Martin Higher Education (Martin). 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 entities or trading names.*

Scope:

- All Campuses
- 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

Each of the College’s departments will consider the viability of each 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 departmental heads (i.e. Head of Department / Program Leader) in consultation

with the Director of Education, and the Director, Student Services 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 [Learning and Teaching Plan – HE](#) and the College's [Strategic Plan](#). 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, city central campuses in Sydney) – minimum 20 new enrolments in a course will make the course viable to be delivered on that campus;
- Smaller campuses (all campuses in Gold Coast, Perth, Adelaide, Sydney Olympic Park) – 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 Executive Director, Higher Education, 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](#).

Course Viability - Postgraduate

As above, each of the College's departments will consider the viability of each 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

departmental heads in consultation with the Director of Education, and the Director, Student Services 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 [Learning and Teaching Plan – HE](#) and the College's [Strategic Plan](#). 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 for postgraduate courses will be made based on the delivery mode of the course:

- Fully online delivery – minimum 5 new enrolments in a course (either full-time or part-time) will make the course viable to be delivered for that intake;
- Fully on campus delivery – minimum 10 new enrolments in a course (either full-time or part-time) will make the course viable to be delivered on campus for that intake;
- Blended delivery (some online, some on campus) – minimum 10 new enrolments in a course (either full-time or part-time) will make the course viable to be delivered in blended mode for that intake.

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 Executive Director, Higher Education, 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 an 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 Executive Director, Higher 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 international students studying on a student visa are provided with 2 weeks' notice regarding the cancellation of any course or intake of that course. If the College cancels a course or an intake of that course, this is considered to be 'provider default'. For further information regarding provider default refer to the [Refund Policy – International](#). The same period of notice will be given to domestic students.

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 semester (including online semesters). 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 Executive Director, Higher Education decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 10 students per on-campus subject (can be overridden by Executive Director, Higher Education decision only);
- Summer School and Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by Executive Director, Higher 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.

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 Executive Director, Higher

- Education decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 5 students per online subject (can be overridden by Executive Director, Higher Education decision only);
 - Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by Executive Director, Higher Education.

Subject Viability - Postgraduate

Each department is responsible for the planning of the subjects it offers, and the mode in which they are delivered in each semester (including online semesters). 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) – 10 students per on-campus subject. (Note that the cancellation of such a subject can be overridden by Executive Director, Higher Education decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 5 students per on-campus subject (can be overridden by Executive Director, Higher Education decision only);
- Summer School and Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by Executive Director, Higher 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.

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

- New subject (never offered before) – 5 students per online subject. (Note that the cancellation of such a subject can be overridden by Executive Director, Higher Education decision only, based on the needs of the College);
- Continuing subject – 3 students per online subject (can be overridden by Executive

Director, Higher Education decision only);

- Teach-out subject – decision to be made on a case by case basis by Executive Director, Higher Education.

Related Procedures:

[Course & Subject Viability Procedure - HE](#)

[Course Review Procedure - HE](#)

Definitions:

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.

Further Information:

Related Policies:

[Refund Policy – International](#)

[Course Discontinuation Policy – Higher Education](#)

Benchmarking:

Christian Heritage College; internal (Endeavour, ACPE)

Supporting Research N/A

and Analysis:

Related Documents:

[Learning and Teaching Plan - HE](#)

[Strategic Plan](#) (individual for all Colleges)

Related Legislation:

N/A

Guidelines: N/A

Policy Author:	National HE Compliance Manager
Policy Owner:	Executive Director, Higher Education
Contact:	Executive Director, Higher Education
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Policy Status:	New – harmonised
Responsibilities for Implementation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Higher Education • Directors of Education • Director, Student Services & Retention • Heads of Department / Program Leaders
Key Stakeholders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Higher Education • Corporate Boards • Directors of Education • Director, Student Services & Retention • Admissions team • Student Services teams • Timetabling team • All Students