

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION 1

700209/900107

2020



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	March 2020
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Unit name	Introduction to Academic Communication 1
Unit number	700209/900107
Coordinator	Gabriela Jakubowicz
Session	2020.1
Handbook summary	This unit is designed to introduce students to academic culture as a culture of critical debate and equip students with the academic literacy skills necessary to perform successfully in this culture. In particular, the unit aims to help students access the conventions of academic English by focussing on attitudes to knowledge, and the ways in which ideas are structured and presented in academic texts and speech. The unit assists students to comprehend academic texts, identify key ideas and concepts, and identify and use the rhetorical moves used in academic texts. It also aims to help students compare and contrast ideas across texts, improve grammatical skills that relate to academic writing, summarise and synthesise information, and understand why, when and how to reference information.
Credit point value	10
Prerequisite/s	None
Corequisite/s	None
Unit level	700209 — Diploma level 900107 — University Foundation Studies
Attendance requirements	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
Enrolment restrictions	None
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. define academic culture and explain the use of evidence to support an argument 2. employ effective listening strategies to identify main ideas and supporting evidence 3. utilise appropriate reading strategies to comprehend academic texts 4. produce writing that successfully summarises and paraphrases the work of others 5. demonstrate a command of academic English, including grammar, phrasing, effective sentence structure, spelling and punctuation in a variety of written contexts 6. apply the conventions of academic presentations in written and oral formats, and 7. critically reflect on their own learning.

Unit content	<p>In this unit students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• academic culture as a culture of argument• active listening and note-taking skills• reading in an academic culture: the development of ideas• reading in an academic culture: the relative importance of ideas• reading in an academic culture: identifying arguments• writing in an academic culture: academic language skills and grammar• writing in an academic culture: paraphrasing/summarising and synthesising skills• writing in an academic culture: comparing and contrasting ideas across multiple texts• writing in an academic culture: research and referencing• speaking in an academic culture: the structure of presenting ideas, and• speaking in an academic culture: tutorial/presentation skills.
Mode of delivery	This unit will consist of six hours of classwork per week, plus online activities via the unit's vUWS site.
Online learning requirements	None
Essential requirements	<p>Essential text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The College <i>Introduction to Academic Communication 1 student workbook</i>, Western Sydney University The College, Sydney. <p>Further resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please refer to the Learning Guide for a list of reading resources.

ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. In-class listening and summarising task (300 words)	15%	1, 2, 4	Yes
2. Essay Part A: Essay plan — 300 words (10%) Part B: Expository essay — 1000 words (30%)	40%	3, 4, 5	Yes
3. Oral presentation including audience participation (3–5 minutes)	15%	6, 7	Yes
4. Final examination (2 hours)	30%	3, 4, 5	Yes
TOTAL	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

In order to transition to university, each course may require a different minimum English result and a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average). To identify these requirements for each course, please refer to [The College Guide](#) (p. 38) and/or organise a meeting with a First Year Experience Coordinator.