

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR ARTS

700211/900097

2020



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	February 2020
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Unit name	Academic Skills for Arts
Unit number	700211/900097
Coordinator	Natalie Quinlivan
Session	2020.1
Handbook summary	This unit is tailored to provide students in the Standard and Extended Diplomas in Arts and the Standard and Extended Bachelor of Arts (First Year Program) courses with an introduction to the Arts as a discipline area, and to the Bachelor of Arts as a degree. Its second aim is to help students develop the basic critical thinking skills necessary for study at university level, and to assist them in identifying and employing strategies to deal with many of the obstacles that make the transition to tertiary study difficult.
Credit point value	10
Prerequisite/s	None
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	N/A
Unit level	Level Z — Non-award preparatory unit
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	
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an understanding of what an Arts degree is, its purpose, content and scope 2. use basic critical thinking to identify, analyse and assess the merit of arguments in academic and non-academic contexts, and 3. identify the major challenges of academic study, and employ strategies to overcome these.
Unit content	In this unit students will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what we mean when we refer to 'the Arts' and what does one do with an Arts degree? • critical thinking for university study, and • academic skills for success at university.
Mode of delivery	This unit will consist of two hours of classwork per week, 2 x 30-minute mentoring sessions per term, and keynote lectures in Weeks 2, 5, 8 and 12.

**Online learning
requirements**

**Essential
requirements**

Essential text:

- There is no essential text for this unit.

Further resources:

- Fisher, A, 2011 *Critical thinking: an introduction*, Cambridge University Press
 - Marshall, L & Rowland, F 2006, *A guide to learning independently*, 4th edn, Pearson Education, Frenchs Forest, Australia.
 - Turner, K, Ireland, L, Krenus, B & Pointon, L 2008, *Essential academic skills*, Oxford University Press, England.
 - Western Sydney University referencing and citation guide, Western Sydney University, Sydney, available online at http://library.westernsydney.edu.au/uws_library/guides-referencing-citation
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ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Self-assessment a. Two minutes spoken, or 300 words written evaluation of participation in mentoring project b. Two minutes spoken, or 300 words written evaluation of participation in mentoring project Individual assessment	25%	1, 3	Yes
2. Reflection – two x 200 word reflection/evaluation of keynote lecture topics and note-taking strategy (10% each) Individual assessment	20%	1, 3	Yes
3. Essay – 1000 words Individual assessment	30%	1, 2	Yes
4. Applied project – 500 words, plus five minutes presentation per group member Group assessment	25%	1, 3	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.

To pass this unit, students must:

- attain an overall mark of at least 50% for the unit
- submit/complete all required items of assessment and activities, and
- keep a copy of all work submitted.