



COVID-19 POLICY RESPONSE 2021

Policy Suspension or Variation Instrument

Section 1 - Purpose and Context

- 1) This instrument is made under clause 16 of the Delegations of Authority Policy that enables suspension or variation of University policies where this is reasonably necessary to respond appropriately to an emergency or an urgent circumstance.
- 2) The Approving Authority has deemed that suspension or variation to a Policy or Policies, as detailed below, is reasonably necessary to respond appropriately to the current COVID-19 virus pandemic.

Section 2 – Details of suspension or variation

3) Policy/policies affected:

- a. Assessment Policy
- b. Enrolment Policy and Student Fees Policy
- c. Graduation Policy
- d. Progression Policy
- e. Special Consideration Policy

4) Details of changes or suspension:

All recommended changes will apply to HY2 2021: Quarter Three, Spring Term, Research R2, 1H, SCC Quarter Three, SCC Session Two. Refer to the Table in *Attachment 1*.

a. Assessment Policy

Clause (34) and (35) that relate to graded and ungraded assessment and how this will be outlined in the learning guides.

These clauses will be temporarily suspended. Students assessments will continue to be graded. However, after they have received their final unit results they may choose to have a final passing grade converted to a non-graded pass (S) which would not count towards the cumulative grade point average for the course.

For medicine students currently in year 4 of their program, as this unit is taught over 18 months, they will have the opportunity to have a non-graded pass (S) for their result in H2 session 2021.

Students will also be able to withdraw from units without academic penalty at any stage during the teaching session. If a student fails a unit, the fail grade will not be recorded. Instead, a withdrawal will be recorded on the academic transcript and this will not count towards the student's grade point average.

The conversion of Fail grades to Withdrawn Without Academic Penalty (WWAP) is only for students who are in their first attempt of a unit. If the student has already had one or more attempts of a unit they are not eligible to have a Fail grade converted to WWAP automatically. If they have extenuating circumstances, the student can apply for WWAP through the usual process.

b. Enrolment Policy

Students can withdraw without academic penalty (but with financial liability) up until the end of the teaching session. This is a variation to clause **(52)** of the **Enrolment Policy**.

Students can apply for W grade with abridged documentation, which includes a statement of intent. The need for certified documentation will be waived. Students are advised that they may be audited and should keep original copies of the relevant documentation for at least 12 months. This is a variation to clause **(126)** of the **Enrolment Policy**, and to clause **(113)** of the **Student Fees Policy**.

Clause (14b). *Commencing students are enrolled on completion of all of the following: 14b. acceptance of the offer of admission and fulfilment of any conditions attached to the offer;* relates to the change of provision of certified document conditions upon enrolment for International students. Students with conditions stipulating certified documents will be permitted to enrol on the condition they submit certified documents prior to census date;

c. Graduation Policy

Clause (14) The cumulative GPA will be calculated over the duration of a student's enrolment in a course. Please refer to the above information against the Assessment Policy changes.

d. Progression Policy

Exclusion rules have been amended to ensure no student is excluded for poor academic performance during this time period, including students who receive a Fail Non Submission (FNS) or Practicum Fail (PF). Instead of exclusion, students will be placed on conditional enrolment only, and referred to the Western Success program. This is a variation to clauses **(27)**, **(29)** and **(37)** of the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Students who are identified for exclusion for poor performance will continue to be referred to the Western Success program. In addition, their details will be provided to the relevant Director of Academic Program (DAP). If they cannot be contacted by Western Success or the DAP, the exclusion will be applied to their record. These students will be eligible to Appeal an exclusion decision.

Amendment to Clause (30) in the **Progression Policy** to include placement units.

The Progression Policy has been amended to ensure that students enrolled within placement units are supported during this time period but also demonstrate necessary performance and capacity to ensure fitness to practice. Following the GPA neutral scheme, the conversion of a

Fail grade to Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty (WWAP) in the student's first attempt at the placement unit is applied.

In alignment with clause (30), placement units will be capped at three attempts, including the WWAP. Therefore, students who fail a placement unit, including the application of the GPA neutral scheme, on three separate occasions, will fall under the 27 July approved variation to the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

e. Special Consideration Policy

Documentation needed - documentation does not need to be certified and statement of impact by the student can be included as evidence. This is a variation of clauses **(25) – (32)** of the *Special Consideration Policy*.

Commencement Date:

Seeking an extension of current Senate Executive Committee approved instruments that have expired.

End Date:

Note: End date must but no longer than 6 months from Commencement Date, but this instrument may be extended or renewed for a further period of up to 6 months.

Name of Approval Authority	Senate Executive Committee
Date of Signature	27 July 2021
Date of Publication	29 July 2021
End Date	31 December 2021

COVID-19 POLICY RESPONSE 2021 Policy Suspension or Variation – included Teaching Terms

Term	Description	Start Dt	End Dt	Census Dt
TCH-BLK-01	Block C	26-Apr-2021	04-Jun-2021	06-May-2021
TCH-BLK-02	Block D	21-Jun-2021	30-Jul-2021	01-Jul-2021
TCH-BLK-03	Block E	16-Aug-2021	24-Sep-2021	26-Aug-2021
TCH-BLK-04	Block F	11-Oct-2021	19-Nov-2021	21-Oct-2021
TCH-BLK-05	Block A	04-Jan-2021	12-Feb-2021	14-Jan-2021
TCH-BLK-06	Block B	01-Mar-2021	09-Apr-2021	11-Mar-2021
TCH-QUART1	Quarter 1	11-Jan-2021	28-Mar-2021	03-Feb-2021
TCH-QUART2	Quarter 2	06-Apr-2021	20-Jun-2021	28-Apr-2021
TCH-QUART3	Quarter 3	28-Jun-2021	12-Sep-2021	21-Jul-2021
TCH-QUART4	Quarter 4	20-Sep-2021	05-Dec-2021	13-Oct-2021
TCH-SCC-Q1	Sydney City Campus Quarter 1	11-Jan-2021	28-Mar-2021	03-Feb-2021
TCH-SCC-Q2	Sydney City Campus Quarter 2	06-Apr-2021	20-Jun-2021	28-Apr-2021
TCH-SCC-Q3	Sydney City Campus Quarter 3	28-Jun-2021	12-Sep-2021	21-Jul-2021
TCH-SCC-Q4	Sydney City Campus Quarter 4	20-Sep-2021	05-Dec-2021	13-Oct-2021
TCH-UEH1	UEH Quarter 1	11-Jan-2021	28-Mar-2021	03-Feb-2021
TCH-UEH2	UEH Quarter 2	06-Apr-2021	20-Jun-2021	28-Apr-2021
TCH-UEH3	UEH Quarter 3	28-Jun-2021	12-Sep-2021	21-Jul-2021
TCH-UEH4	UEH Quarter 4	20-Sep-2021	05-Dec-2021	13-Oct-2021
TCH-1H	First Half Year	11-Jan-2021	04-Jul-2021	31-Mar-2021
TCH-2H	Second Half Year	05-Jul-2021	19-Dec-2021	31-Aug-2021
TCH-AUTUMN	Autumn	01-Mar-2021	27-Jun-2021	31-Mar-2021
TCH-SPRING	Spring	19-Jul-2021	14-Nov-2021	31-Aug-2021
TCH-SUM-A	Summer A	30-Nov-2020	21-Feb-2021	20-Jan-2021
TCH-SUM-B	Summer B	11-Jan-2021	21-Feb-2021	20-Jan-2021
TCH-SCC-S1	Sydney City Campus Session 1	08-Mar-2021	13-Jun-2021	31-Mar-2021
TCH-SCC-S2	Sydney City Campus Session 2	05-Jul-2021	10-Oct-2021	31-Jul-2021
TCH-TERM1	The College Term 1	01-Mar-2021	06-Jun-2021	31-Mar-2021
TCH-TERM2	The College Term 2	28-Jun-2021	03-Oct-2021	31-Jul-2021
TCH-TRI-1	WSU Online Trimester 1	08-Feb-2021	02-May-2021	05-Mar-2021
TCH-TRI-2	WSU Online Trimester 2	24-May-2021	15-Aug-2021	18-Jun-2021
TCH-TRI-3	WSU Online Trimester 3	06-Sep-2021	28-Nov-2021	01-Oct-2021
TCH-UEH-T1	UEH Term 1	04-Jan-2021	09-May-2021	24-Jan-2021
TCH-UEH-T2	UEH Term 2	17-May-2021	22-Aug-2021	06-Jun-2021
TCH-UEH-T3	UEH Term 3	06-Sep-2021	12-Dec-2021	26-Sep-2021
TCH-UFC-T1	University of Florida Term 1	05-Jan-2021	21-Apr-2021	22-Jan-2021
TCH-UFC-T2	University of Florida Term 2	10-May-2021	06-Aug-2021	28-May-2021
TCH-UFC-T3	University of Florida Term 3	23-Aug-2021	08-Dec-2021	10-Sep-2021