

Student Attendance Recording, Monitoring and Reporting Policy and Procedure HEPP70

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to outline Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education)'s processes for recording, monitoring, and reporting students' attendance at scheduled classes, ensuring compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 (HESF 2021), the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000, and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code 2018).

SCOPE

This policy and procedure apply to all Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education) staff responsible for recording, monitoring, and reporting the attendance of students. The 80% attendance requirement applies to courses that involve professional placements, are subject to accreditation conditions, or where attendance is essential for maintaining academic integrity and achieving learning outcomes. For other courses, attendance is monitored to support academic progress but is not mandatory unless specified.

DEFINITIONS

At Risk	A student is considered "At Risk" when their class attendance is significantly low (i.e., below 80%) in all available classes for a unit or course in a study period, has failed a prerequisite unit, has not achieved satisfactory academic progress (50% or higher), or has not demonstrated satisfactory engagement in learning activities.
CoE	Confirmation of Enrolment
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
ESOS Act	Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000
Intervention	A procedure where Student Welfare Officer (SWO) and Academic Support Coordinator (ASC) assist students to ensure satisfactory academic progress and general wellbeing by providing specific support services to the student or refers to an external support service.
PRISMS	Provider Registration and International Student Management System
SCEI-HE	Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education)
Student	A <i>student</i> at Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education) is either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an international student, defined as a person (whether in or outside Australia) who holds a student visa under the <i>Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000</i>, but does not include those exempted under the ESOS Regulations; or a domestic student, defined as a person who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or holds an Australian permanent residency or humanitarian visa.

POLICY

- The academic staff of Southern Cross Education Institute (Higher Education) (SCEI-HE) will record attendance for all classes, observe students' progress in their units and course regularly, contact the Student Welfare Officer (SWO), Academic Support Coordinator (ASC), Course Coordinator, or Academic Director about students not making satisfactory progress, and help implement appropriate intervention strategies to support satisfactory progress.
- All international students are responsible for their own attendance to scheduled classes to comply with visa conditions under the ESOS Act and National Code 2018.
- Students in courses with professional placement or accreditation requirements, or where attendance is critical to academic integrity (HESF 5.2.2), are required to attain a minimum of 80% of scheduled or available class attendances for a study period, unit, or course (if 1 study period in duration) to comply with National Code 2018 (e.g., Section 8.8). For other courses, attendance is monitored to support academic progress but is not mandatory unless specified.

- To join SCEI-HE's professional placement programs, students with a minimum of 80% class attendances of all available classes they attended for a study period, unit or a course will get priority. The Academic Director, in consultation with the Course Coordinator, may consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis if the minimum requirement is not met. These circumstances are:
 - .1 compassionate or compelling circumstance (e.g., medical illness, bereavement, or significant personal hardship) with documentary evidence (e.g., medical certificate, statutory declaration), assessed by the Academic Director;
 - .2 SCEI-HE's intervention strategy as a part of less than 80% class attendance requirement;
 - .3 Credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) are provided; or
 - .4 Co/Prerequisite units are not available in that study period.
- All lecturers are informed of this policy and procedure and the importance of accuracy when completing the Attendance Record through induction, periodic training, and regular monitoring by Course Coordinators.
- Students are made aware of the 80% attendance requirements outlined above through pre-enrolment information, at enrolment, at orientation, in the first 4 weeks of the semester, via Moodle, and throughout the study. Communications will be sent to students using their SCEI-HE email addresses. This policy is publicly available on the SCEI-HE website (www.scei-he.edu.au) to comply with HESF 2021 Standard 7.3.2.
- Students may appeal attendance-related decisions (e.g., warning letters, placement ineligibility) through the Student Complaint and Grievance Policy and Procedure HEPP03, in alignment with HESF 2021 Standard 1.3.4 and National Code 2018 Standard 8.13.
- For international students failing to meet the 80% attendance requirement after intervention and appeals, SCEI-HE will report the student to the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) via PRISMS, as required by National Code 2018 Standards 8.13–8.14.
- For domestic students, failure to meet the attendance requirements in courses where attendance is mandatory (e.g., due to professional placement or accreditation standards) may lead to academic consequences, including:
 - Ineligibility for placement;
 - Failure of the unit or course;
 - Referral to intervention and support services;
 - Possible exclusion from the course under the Student Progress and Exclusion Policy (where applicable).

PROCEDURE

1. Recording Attendance

- 1.1 The Unit Lecturer is responsible for recording attendance during each scheduled class and updating it in the Student Management System (Paradigm). Where tutorials are led by a tutor, the tutor may take attendance and submit the records to the Unit Lecturer for entry into Paradigm. All attendance records must be entered promptly each week. Attendance data is stored securely in Paradigm in compliance with the Australian Privacy Principles and is retained for a minimum of two (2) years, in line with ESOS Act requirements.
- 1.2 For courses with professional placements, students are required to attend 100% of the scheduled placement hours, unless otherwise approved by the Academic Director in consultation with the Course Coordinator.
 - Placement supervisors must maintain a placement attendance log, which must be signed by both the student and the supervisor for each day of attendance.
 - Completed logs must be submitted to the Course Coordinator or designated placement officer at the end of the placement period for verification and recording in Paradigm.
 - Absences from placement must be supported by documentary evidence (e.g., medical certificate), and make-up hours may be required to meet course or accreditation requirements.
 - Failure to meet placement attendance requirements may result in ineligibility for course completion, failure of the unit, or delay in progression.
- 1.3 Paradigm automatically calculates the student's actual and projected attendance percentage based on the attendance data entered by the Unit Lecturer.
- 1.4 A student, who misses part of a class, shall be marked as absent for hours missed during the class. Only the hours attended will be recorded e.g., if a student attended from 9.00 am to 11.00 am, this is recorded on the attendance sheet.

1.5 Students who supply medical certificates for absences must still be recorded as absent for the period with a medical certificate. A copy of the medical certificate must be submitted to the **Student Services Officer** and filed in the Students Administration File and Paradigm.

2. Intervention Strategies

- 2.1 In consultation with the Course Coordinator and lecturer, the SWO and/or ASC will identify at-risk students within the first 4–6 weeks of the semester and ongoing, to ensure timely support as per HESF 2021 Standard 1.3.4.
- 2.2 The SWO or ASC will send a Student Attendance Warning Letter to those students identified at risk during semester break. Those students will be required to organise an appointment with SWO or ASC to discuss attendance records. SWO/ASC will identify and implement intervention strategies, and those need to be agreed upon, written, and signed by the student and SWO/ASC. Relevant lecturer and coordinator, and Academic Director will be informed and consulted as appropriate.
- 2.3 Copies of warning letters and all supporting documentation relating to attendance, including signed intervention strategies, must be placed in the Student's Administration File or Paradigm.
- 2.4 No action is required for students who maintain an average of 80% attendance of all scheduled classes for a unit, study period or course (if the duration is less than a study period).
- 2.5 For international students, if attendance remains below 80% after intervention and appeals, the Academic Director will initiate reporting to DHA via PRISMS, following the process outlined in the International Student Monitoring Course Progress Policy and Procedure HEPPS9.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Deferring, Suspending or Cancelling Student Enrolment Policy and Procedure HEPP58
International Student Monitoring Course Progress Policy and Procedure HEPP59
Student Complaint and Grievance Policy and Procedure HEPP03

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021
Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000
Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2001
National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018, Standard 8

RESPONSIBILITIES

Academic Director and Course Coordinators: Responsible for overseeing the implementation and compliance with this policy and ensuring that staff and students are aware of its application and implement its requirements.
Student Welfare Officer/Academic Support Coordinator: Responsible for implementing this policy and procedure.
Students: Responsible for abiding by this policy and procedure.

DOCUMENT AND RECORD CONTROL

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