



COURSE PROGRESS AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Overseas students are required to meet and maintain satisfactory course progress and attendance requirements under visa condition 8202 and under Standard 8 of the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*.

1. Course Progress

- a. The College will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- b. The course progress of all students will be assessed the end of each study period /semester of enrolment according to Gold Coast Christian College's course assessment requirements.
- c. Students who have begun part way through a study period / semester will be assessed according to Gold Coast Christian College's course assessment requirements after completing one full study period.
- d. To demonstrate satisfactory course progress the College acknowledges that ESL students who do not meet age-related benchmarks when assessed against learning area achievement standards are not necessarily 'underperforming', but rather they are achieving at levels commensurate with their phase of English language learning. We honour the silent time as students observe and adapt to being immersed in the English-speaking environment. We respect the 3-5 year period it takes to become orally proficient in English as a Second Language and the 4-7 year period it takes to become academically proficient. While many of our applicants have been studying English in another country for a number of years before applying to our College, we need a graduated set of progress requirements to accommodate for a range of backgrounds, yet we need to ensure the students in the higher grades are equipped to study at a senior level.

At the end of the first full study period:

- i) **Year P-6 students** must achieve a satisfactory or above for effort.
 - ii) **Year 7-8 students** must achieve a C grade or above for Maths and be working at Level 3 in English (Bandscales).
 - iii) **Year 9 students** must achieve a C grade or above for Maths and be working at Level 4 in English (Bandscales).
 - iv) **Year 10 students** must achieve a C grade or above for Maths and be working at Level 5 in English (Bandscales). They must not fail more than 2 elective subjects to proceed to Year 11 and 12.
 - v) **Year 11-12 students** must achieve a satisfactory or above for at least 80% of their subjects and they must meet the senior attendance requirements.
- e. If at the end of a study period a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the International Student Coordinator will formally contact the

parent(s) to advise that the student is at risk of breaching the course progress requirement and that there will be a meeting with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include;

- i. After hours tutorial support
 - ii. Subject tutorial support in class time
 - iii. Mentoring
 - iv. Additional ESL support
 - v. Change of subject selection, or reducing course load (without affecting course duration)
 - vi. Counselling – time management
 - vii. Counselling -academic skills
 - viii. Counselling - personal
 - ix. other intervention strategies as deemed necessary which may incur additional costs to the student
- f. A copy of the student's individual strategy for academic improvement and any relevant progress reports will be forwarded to parents.
- g. The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by Primary Coordinator or Secondary Coordinator or their nominee and records of student response to the strategy will be kept. Parents will be kept informed of the student's academic progress while the student is receiving formal intervention.
- h. The College may take into consideration a students' effort and behavior when assessing overall achievement, if the academic requirements are not met, based on working through a supported intervention plan as in point e) i. – ix. Effort may include:
- i. Handing in assessments on time
 - ii. The use of extra tutorial support
 - iii. Timely completion of homework
 - iv. Communicating to the teacher when struggling with assessment tasks
- i. If the student does not achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next study period, Gold Coast Christian College will advise the student in writing of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access the school's internal complaints and appeals process. Student will be notified within 10 days of intention to report. The notification of intention to report will be issued to the student prior to the commencement of the next semester. Following the outcome of the internal process, if the student wishes to complain or lodge an external appeal about a decision made or action taken by Gold Coast Christian College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see Gold Coast Christian College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- j. The College will notify THE NATIONAL ESOS AUTHORITY via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress as soon as practicable where:
- i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days, or the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Gold Coast Christian College in writing, or
 - ii. the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the College

2. Completion within expected duration of study

- a. As noted in 1.a., the College will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- b. Part of the assessment of course progress at the end of each semester will include an assessment of whether the student's progress is such that they are expected to complete their studies within the expected duration of the course.
- c. The College will only extend the duration of the student's study where it is clear that the student will not be able to complete their course by the expected date because of:
 - i. the student can provide evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances
 - ii. the student has, or is, participating in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
 - iii. an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Gold Coast Christian College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy (found in this handbook and on the College website).
- d. Where the College decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the College will report this change via PRISMS within 14 days and/or issue a new COE if required. In this case, the student will need to contact the Department of Home Affairs to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

3. Monitoring Course attendance

- a. Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours. [NB the National Code St 8 specifies a minimum attendance requirement of 80%, or under certain conditions, of 70% as outlined in St 8.15. School policy can require a higher minimum attendance rate.]
- b. Student attendance is:
 - i. checked and recorded daily
 - ii. assessed regularly
 - iii. recorded and calculated over each study period.
- c. **Late arrival at the College will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.**
- d. All absences from College will be included in absentee calculations and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, an explanatory communication from the student's carer or evidence that leave has been approved by the Principal/Head of College.
- e. Any absences longer than 3 consecutive days, and no longer than 5 days, without approval will be investigated.
- f. Student attendance will be monitored by the class teacher or home room teacher every week over a study period to assess student attendance using the following method:
 - i. Calculating the number of hours the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a semester e.g. number of study days x contact hours x 20%. For example, a 20 week study period with 5 contact hours a day would equal 500 contact hours. 20% of this is 100 hours. Gold Coast Christian College calculates attendance using a formula based on the number of days absent. For example, a 20 week study period with 5 days a week would equal 100 school days. 20% of this is 20 school days.]

- ii. Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under Gold Coast Christian College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- g. Parents of students at risk of breaching Gold Coast Christian College's attendance requirements will be contacted by email or phone and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 10% in any study period.
- h. If the calculation at 3.f. indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, Gold Coast Christian College will assess the student against the provisions of Item 3.i. (below). Where the student has failed to meet the minimum attendance requirement, and Item 3.i. does not apply, the school will promptly advise the student of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access the College's internal complaints and appeals process except in the circumstances outlined in 3.j.
- i. The College will notify THE NATIONAL ESOS AUTHORITY via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
 - i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days
 - ii. the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Gold Coast Christian College in writing,
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the College.

[If allowing a 70% attendance threshold for compelling or compassionate circumstances under NC St 8.15, include the following:]

- j. Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period where:
 - i. the student produces documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances e.g., medical illness supported by a medical certificate or as per Definition, below, and
 - ii. the student has not fallen below 70% attendance for a study period.
- k. The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f. with the following change; or number of study days x number of days per week x 30%.
- l. If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period, the class teacher / home room teacher will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per Gold Coast Christian College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- m. If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under the Gold Coast Christian College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for the study period, the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa condition 8202) will occur as outlined in 3.h – 3.i.

4. Definitions

- a. Compassionate or compelling circumstances - circumstances beyond the control of the student that are having an impact on the student's progress through a course. These could include:
 - i. serious illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes

- ii. bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (with evidence of death a certificate if possible)
 - iii. major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their emergency travel that has impacted on their studies
 - iv. a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists' reports)
 - v. where the College was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit
 - vi. inability to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.
 - vii. For other circumstances to be considered as compassionate or compelling, evidence would need to be provided to show that these were having an impact on the student's progress through a course.
- b. Expected duration – the length of time it takes to complete the course studying full-time. This is the same as the registered course duration on CRICOS.
- c. College day – any day for which the College has scheduled course contact hours.
- d. Study period – a discrete period of study within a course which cannot exceed 24 weeks. Gold Coast Christian College defines a “study period” for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a semester.

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