

Course progress and attendance policy

This policy is available to staff and to students.

1. Course Progress

- a) West Moreton Anglican 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 at the end of each (semester) of enrolment.

An international student will need to meet the majority of the following criteria to be assessed as achieving "Satisfactory Course Progress" at West Moreton International English Language Centre:

- 1. Demonstrated improvement in the use of English Language, based on the NLLIA ESL Band scales.
- 2. Demonstrated academic improvement
- 3. Active involvement in class
- 4. Meeting of all assessment deadlines
- 5. Utilisation of support serviced provided by the College
- 6. Evidence of self-discipline

An international student will need to meet the majority of the following criteria to achieve "Satisfactory Course Progress" at West Moreton Anglican College:

- 1. Sound level of Achievement in 3-4 subjects
- 2. Satisfactory or better results in reporting criteria including 'effort' and 'homework'
- 3. Demonstrated improvement in the use of the English Language
- 4. Demonstrated academic improvement
- 5. Active involvement in class
- 6. Meeting of all assessment deadlines
- 7. Utilisation of support services provided by the College
- 8. Evidence of self-discipline

- c) Students who have begun part way through a semester will be assessed after one full study period.
- d) If a student does not demonstrate satisfactory course progress in any study period the Director of International Student Programs in collaboration with the Director of Curriculum will formally contact the parent(s) to advise 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
- e) A copy of the student's individual strategy and progress reports in achieving improvement will be forwarded to parents.
- f) The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by the academic counsellor and records of student response to the strategy will be kept.

- g) If the student does not improve sufficiently academically and achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next study period, West Moreton Anglican 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. 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 West Moreton Anglican College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. This must be done within five working days. Please see West Moreton Anglican College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- h) West Moreton Anglican 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
 - ii. withdraws from the complaints and appeals process, or
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process results in favour of the school

2. Completion within expected duration of study

- a) As noted in 1.a., West Moreton Anglican 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 course within the expected duration of the course.
- c) The College will only extend the duration of the student's course in the following circumstances:
 - i. Compassionate or compelling circumstances (see Definitions below)
 - ii. Student participation in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
 - iii. An approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with West Moreton Anglican College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- d) Where West Moreton Anglican College decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the College will report this change via PRISMS within 14 working days and/or issue a new CoE if required.

3. Monitoring Course Attendance

- a) Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours.
- b) Student attendance is:
 - i. checked and recorded daily
 - ii. assessed regularly
 - iii. recorded and calculated over each study period
- c) Late arrival at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d) All absences from school 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 Director of International Student Programs and the Head of School.
- e) Any absences longer than two (2) consecutive days without approval will be investigated. [5 days is the maximum allowed under NC St 11.4]

- f) Student attendance will be monitored by the sub school receptionist every five (5) weeks 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.]
 - ii. Any period of exclusion from class will not be included in student attendance calculations. [See [School Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy](#) points 5 and 6.]
- g) Parents of students at risk of breaching West Moreton Anglican College's attendance requirements will be contacted by email and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have attendance totalling 90 % of any study period.
- h) If the calculation at 3.f. indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, West Moreton Anglican College will 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 school's internal complaints and appeals process except in the circumstances outlined in 3.j.
- i) The school 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. withdraws from the complaints and appeals process
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process results in a decision for the school.
- j) [If applicable: see NC St 11.9] 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's attendance has not fallen below 70% attendance.
- k) The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f. with the following change; number of study days x contact hours x 30%.
- l) If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period, the Director of International Student Programs will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per West Moreton Anglican College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- m) If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under the West Moreton Anglican College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance, the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance for the study period (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 school 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.

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) School day – any day for which the school has scheduled course contact hours.
- d) Study period - West Moreton Anglican College defines a "study period" for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a *semester*.

THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING COURSE DURATION, PROGRESS AND ATTENDANCE WAS LAST UPDATED BY ANNE SHAW ON 28/3/2017