



DIPLOMA OF GENERAL STUDIES

Looking for a pathway into your desired career?
Need further preparation for entry into a degree?

Some people are not ready for study following their high school years. Others are disadvantaged in various ways. These individuals often benefit from a course of study that gives them a chance to demonstrate their potential. The Diploma of General Studies is for students with marginal academic qualifications. As a two-year higher education course, it sits just below bachelor's degree level.

On successful completion of the Diploma of General Studies students can seek entry into a range of higher education degree programs at Avondale and Australian Universities and/or secure employment.

Students successfully completing the first one or two semesters of the Diploma of General Studies may articulate into an Avondale Bachelor's degree and receive academic credit for any relevant degree units successfully completed in their Diploma of General Studies course.



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Course Name:

DIPLOMA OF GENERAL STUDIES

Locations Offered: Lake Macquarie Campus
Study Mode: Full-time or part-time on campus
Course Duration: Four semesters full-time or eight semesters part-time*

*Students are not required to complete the full two years of the diploma before transferring to a bachelor's degree. They can transfer after one or two successful semesters. Academic credit earned as a diploma student is portable; relevant units can be applied to a bachelor's degree.

ENTRY Requirements:

1. Students who have completed the final year of high school (e.g. Year 12 Australia, Year 13 New Zealand) but whose ATAR (or equivalent) is 45 or above but does not permit entry into their desired course;
2. Persons of mature-age (normally over 19 years) who do not hold an ATAR and whose STAT result does not give entry into a degree course;
3. Persons over 19 years of age whose first language is not English and whose English language proficiency score is likely to be a barrier to tertiary success;

Normal Entry: ATAR of 45.00 (OP 23) or suitable STAT result (age 19 and over).

Special consideration may be given to those unable to meet the normal requirements, especially those who have been disadvantaged in some way. Applicants may demonstrate suitability for higher education by:

- Providing a recommendation from their Year 12 school Principal (or Principal's nominee).
- Providing report/s of their most recent educational attainment.
- Providing Year 10 school results (if available).
- Providing reference/s from relevant industry/work experience.
- Undertaking an interview with the Diploma of General Studies Coordinator.
- On site testing at Avondale.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Diploma of General Studies (DGS) program provides individual help with:

- Critical thinking
- Essay and assignment writing
- Managing a study program
- Other academic skills

It is not necessary to complete the DGS before applying to start a degree course. Most students are able to start their degree program after one or two semesters in the DGS program.

Students qualify to enter a degree program by demonstrating satisfactory performance in the diploma.

Students using the DGS as a pathway to a degree take their academic credits with them when they transfer to a degree course.

WHERE IT COULD TAKE YOU

The DGS program is designed to ensure that students have the skills needed for success in a range of other higher education programs or to secure employment. Generic skills units are available for those needing to consolidate particular skills. Since the program was introduced in 1991, many students have qualified through the DGS to apply to start and ultimately complete an Avondale degree.

Two-thirds of the DGS students who start an Avondale degree successfully complete an Avondale degree. To date, former DGS students have graduated with Bachelor's degrees in Nursing, Education, Theology, Arts, Business and Science.

Since 1994 every Avondale graduating class has included students who entered their degree via the DGS. These graduates find employment in hospitals, schools, businesses, churches and work places around Australia and overseas.



COURSE STRUCTURE

Avondale is able to individualise students' programs, tailoring their course to meet their individual needs by selecting units that are appropriate for those needs. Students choose units to suit their educational needs from the following list of units. Units are chosen in consultation with the Course Convenor.

CORE UNITS

Units that form the core of the Diploma of General Studies course.

CSTD14300	Christian Studies I
GSEN15000	Effective Tertiary Writing
GSEN16600	Academic English
ARTS16000	Critical Thinking

SAMPLE ELECTIVES

ACCT16300	Introduction to Accounting
ACCT16500	Financial Accounting and Reporting
BBNT16000	Gospels A
BBNT17000	New Testament Epistles A
CCCR16000	Media Interpretations
CCCR11500	Writing for Media
CHEM16300	General Chemistry
DTFN11100	Food, Nutrition and Health
GEOH11000	Global Issues and Humanitarian Response
GEOH12000	Environmental Issues
HESC11900	Introductory Psychology and Sociology
HESC14800	Health Science II
HIST16300	Australia: Prehistory to the Present
HIST16400	The Ancient World
HPPD10300	Fitness and Food for Health
HPPD10400	Biomechanics for Physical Educators
ICTM16400	Introduction to Information Management
ICTM16800	Introduction to Programming
MATH16300	Business Statistics
MATH16400	General Mathematics
MNGT14500	Organisations in a Business Context
MUPF10800	Performance and Aural IA
PSYC16500	General Psychology
THCH16500	SDA History and Ministry of Ellen White
VISC12000	Painting and Drawing I
VISC12300	Photography and Sculpture
VISC13000	3D Studies
VISC14000	Design Principles and Practice

Individual programs are designed in consultation with the Course Convenor.

TYPICAL PROGRAM

Semester One:

GSEN15000	Effective Tertiary Writing
ARTS16000	Critical Thinking
CSTD14300	Christian Studies I
GSEN16600	Academic English <u>OR</u> Elective degree unit

Semester Two:

Any four elective units (chosen by student in consultation with course coordinator)

Semester Three:

Any four elective units (chosen by student in consultation with Course Convenor)

Semester Four:

Any four elective units (chosen by student in consultation with Course Convenor)

Faster pathways involving more degree units are available to those with suitable entry requirements (contact the Enquiry and Enrolment Centre or Course Convenor about this).

In two years of full-time study (96 credit points) you qualify to graduate with a Diploma of General Studies.

ADMISSION TO UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COURSES

Appropriate performance in Avondale's DGS program may be used as a pathway to degree studies. Performance may be demonstrated by successfully completing the first one or two semesters of the program. Upon successful completion of the first four units in the DGS program, Australian and New Zealand students may apply to enrol in a bachelor's degree.

International students may also choose the DGS as a pathway to a degree course. Depending on their prior level of achievement, international students normally enrol for at least two semesters of the program.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Applicants from a country where English is not the first language must demonstrate proficiency in English in one of the following ways:

Provide documentary evidence that all senior secondary schooling was conducted in the English language, AND evidence of a satisfactory pass in English in a British O-level examination or local equivalent.

OR

Obtain an overall IELTS score of 6.0 or better with no individual band score less than 6.0.

International applicants are also required to satisfy Australian Government visa requirements.

COURSE ASSURANCE

In the event that Avondale is unable to continue to offer courses of study and confer degrees, agreements have been developed with other higher education providers that offer comparable courses. If Avondale is unable to continue to offer the Diploma of General Studies, students will be offered a transfer of their course of study to the Australian Catholic University and 'block credit' will be approved for the semesters that have been successfully completed at Avondale.

FEE ASSURANCE

If

- (i) Avondale ceases to be able to provide a course of study and
- (ii) Avondale has not transferred to another provider with whom the student has enrolled

the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited has provided a guarantee that students enrolled in the Diploma of General Studies would either receive a refund of the student contribution or tuition fee paid for any incomplete units of study, or the funds paid for such incomplete units of study would be transferred (with the student's agreement) to an alternate provider with whom the student has enrolled. A full explanation of Tuition Assurance and Fee Assurance is located on the Avondale website.

DELIVERY APPROACHES

Most of the teaching is classroom face-to-face, and some units require labs and fieldwork. Increasingly, course materials are available online.

ACCREDITATION

The Diploma of General Studies course is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The CRICOS registration number for this course is 057321A.

FEES

See Avondale's current fee sheet for information on tuition, residence and meal costs, or refer to Avondale's website at www.avondale.edu.au.

FEE-HELP is available for the Diploma of General Studies course. This means if you are an Australian citizen that you do not need to pay any tuition fees upfront for the duration of the course. More information about your entitlements and conditions is available at www.goingtouni.gov.au.

SCHOLARSHIPS

For a complete list of scholarships that are available to students, refer to Avondale's website www.avondale.edu.au, then choose **future students>financial>scholarships**.

HOW TO APPLY

For an information pack and application form contact the **Avondale Enquiry & Enrolment Centre** or apply online at www.avondale.edu.au.

Phone: **+61 2 4980 2377**

Free phone: (within Australia) **1800 991 392**

Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au

NEW STUDENT ENQUIRIES:

Avondale Enquiry & Enrolment Centre

PO Box 19

Cooranbong NSW 2265

Phone: +61 2 4980 2377

Free phone (within Australia): 1800 991 392

Fax: +61 2 4980 2151

Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au

DIPLOMA OF GENERAL STUDIES - COURSE CONVENOR

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