Avondale
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FAQ 2012 EDUCATION

1. I have a degree but I would like to become a teacher?
We have two (2) Post graduate degrees in Teaching:

- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary)

Both of these courses require a suitable undergraduate degree that meets the teaching requirements of the NSW Department of Education and Training for primary and secondary teaching.

2. Can I do any teaching degree part time?
Yes. All our teaching and education degrees are offered part-time, but you must keep in mind that your program can sometimes be tricky and you are required to liaise with the Course Convenor/s of your program so it can work for you.

3. Do I still have to do Christian studies subjects even if I am not a Seventh-day Adventist or religious?
As we are a Christian institution all students must complete three (3) Christian Studies units for their program. There are choices for Seventh-day Adventist and other Christian faith backgrounds.

4. What courses and units are available by Distance Education?

- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) – only selected units
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) – nearly the whole course
- Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) – selected units
- Degree Subjects (Distance Education)

More courses and units are being added at regular intervals, so please contact the Distance Education Department if the area of study you wish to pursue is not listed:
Phone: +61 2 4980 2365

5. Is Fee-Help available for Distance Education courses?
Yes. A course that attracts Fee-Help can utilise this financial option. This is only available to Australian Citizens.

6. How much does a Distance Education unit cost?
You will need to know the code of the unit you will be studying. This may be found at: http://www.avondale.edu.au/information::handbook/

As the costs may vary, you may go online to the DEEWR list at: http://www.avondale.edu.au/future_students::financial::Subjects_Offered_&_Fees/
The first two (2) units are half (½) price if you have never done a course or units at Avondale College of Higher Education before.

7. Do I need a Police check to work with children? What is the cost?
Yes, you will need a Police check. This requires 100 points of ID as when applying for bank accounts, passports and many other things in society now. This is to be noted for new students and all returning after absence students as well.

The Handbook states:
"Current legislation requires Avondale students who will be engaged in professional experience involving children or young people to sign a self-disclosure form (Prohibited Persons Declaration) and consent to a criminal records check. All Avondale teacher education students are required to undergo these checks."

NSW Police Force does not provide NCHRC (National Criminal History Record Check) for child related employment. Individuals seeking criminal record checks for child related employment should refer to the NSW Commission for Children and Young People website, www.kids.nsw.gov.au.

8. What Teaching fields are offered to become an Early Childhood teacher?
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)

9. What age group can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)?
From birth until age 8 or Year 2.

10. Where can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)?
Diverse range of early childhood settings, including pre-schools, Kindergarten/Prep till Year 2 primary classrooms and long day-care centres.

11. What teaching fields does Avondale College of Higher Education have for teaching Primary aged children?
- Bachelor of Education (Primary)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) may teach up to Year 2

12. What classes can I teach once I complete the Bachelor of Education (Primary)?
Kindergarten/Prep till Year 6/7 in NSW, and up to Year 7 in Queensland and Western Australia.

13. Can I teach in a non Seventh-day Adventist School once I complete a Bachelor of Education (Primary)?
Yes. Avondale College of Higher Education graduates can be found in the private, independent and state school systems in Australia and New Zealand, and in many other countries around the world.

14. Is the Bachelor of Education (Primary) accredited?
Yes. The Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree course is accredited by The NSW Department of Community Services and with the NSW Department of Education and Training. The CRICOS registration number for the Bachelor of Education (Primary) is 04795

15. What are the career options once I complete a Bachelor of Education (Primary)?
- Infant/Primary Teacher
- Primary School Administrator
- Primary School Specialist teacher (Music, Art, PE)
- Middle School (Year 7) Specialist Teacher (Music, Art, PE, Science, Maths, Humanities)
- Tutoring
- Special Education
- Teacher Librarian

In addition to education related careers, teachers often find careers in the corporate world where organisational and relationship skills are valued.

16. What teaching fields does Avondale College of Higher Education offer for teaching Secondary School?
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) has three (3) strands from which to choose:
  - Technology and Applied Science
  - Home Economics/Design and Technology
  - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

- Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary)

- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching
  - Major teaching fields:
    - English
    - Geography
    - History
    - Mathematics
    - Music
    - Religious Studies
    - Visual Arts

  - Minor teaching fields:
    - Biology
    - English
    - Communication
    - Geography
    - Graphic Design
    - History
    - International Poverty and Development Studies
    - Mathematics
    - Music
    - Religious Studies
    - Visual Arts

- Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Teaching
  - Major teaching fields:
    - Accounting
    - Human Resources
    - Marketing
  - Minor teaching fields:
    - Accounting
    - Economics
    - Information Technology
    - Legal Studies
    - Human Resources
    - Marketing

- Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Teaching
  - Major teaching fields
    - Biological Science- Biomedical Major
    - Biological Science- Environmental Major
    - Chemistry
    - Food and Nutrition (requires a biological Science minor-see Structure)
    - Geography
    - Mathematics
    - Physics
  - Minor teaching fields
    - Biological Science- Biomedical Major
    - Biological Science- Environmental Major
    - Chemistry
    - Food and Nutrition
    - Geography
    - Information Technology
    - Mathematics
    - Physics

17. What classes can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Education (Secondary)?
Year 7 to Year 12 in the strand that you choose to complete:
- Technology and Applied Studies Pattern 1 can teach Design and Technology and a second teaching field in the area of the minor selected and possibly third teaching field in the technology option selected – wood, textiles, metal, food, information technology, graphic design, etc
- Technology and Applied Studies Pattern 2 can teach Design and Technology and a second teaching field and potentially third teaching field in the technology options selected eg Industrial Technology, Food Technology, Textiles Technology, Information Technology or Graphics and Multimedia Technology
- Home Economics/Design and Technology can teach Design and Technology, Food Technology, Textiles Technology (if choose textiles design project) also potentially year 11 and 12 Community and Family Studies.
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

18. What classes can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching course?
Year 7 to Year 12 in the strand/s that you choose to complete:
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Visual Arts

19. What classes can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Teaching course?
Year 7 to Year 12 in the strand/s that you choose:
- Year 9 and 10 Commerce (NSW)
- Year 11 and 12 Business Studies (NSW)
- Accounting
- Human Resources
- Marketing

20. What classes can I teach once I complete a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Teaching course?
Year 7 to Year 12 in the strand that you choose to complete:

- Biological Science-Biomedical Major
- Biological Science-Environmental Major
- Chemistry
- Food and Nutrition (requires a biological Science minor)
- Geography
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Physics

21. Is Advanced Standing available from the Diploma of Children's Services for the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) and Bachelor of Education (Primary)?
A student will gain up to 35 days credit towards their professional experience upon presentation of the original transcript and a copy of the complete unit outlines. There is also the equivalent of 6.5 units credit made up of three (3) full units credit and six (6) partial units credit.

22. How many hours will I have to work for professional experience if I have a Diploma of Children's Services?
A student will complete just 100 days of the 135 days of professional experience required of full-time students.

23. I have a Certificate III in Early Childhood and work in this industry. Am I able to request Advanced Standing?
You may gain Advanced Standing (credit) for EDEP20000 unit and also professional experience credit in recognition of industry experience. You will need to have two (2) years of relevant work experience.

24. What professional credit do I gain with a Diploma of Children's Services?
Full credit is given for professional experience days completed in 0-5 year settings. Some days are required to be completed during the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) degree program in 3-8 year settings. The exact number of days required will depend on the amount of recent industry experience you have accrued, since attaining your Diploma of Children's Services.

25. Is a Commonwealth Supported Place (HECS or FEE Help) available for an Education course?
Commonwealth Supported Places (HECS-HELP) and FEE-HELP options are available for our Education courses; meaning that students do not have to pay any tuition costs upfront.

26. If I complete a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) with the discipline of TAS (Technology and Applied Science), what areas can I teach?

- Design and Technology
- Food Technology
- Textiles
- CAFS (Community and Family Studies)

27. Can I do a minor with Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) major?
Yes. There are five (5) units that are available to complete a minor.

28. Is it possible to complete a Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) by distance education?
With the sixteen (16) units that are needed to be completed for the B Tch (Sec) you may check for cross institutional work available in another university which will cover two (2) units in the Curriculum Studies area of your choice. Eg: Southern Cross University

29. What if I decide to change my mind on the area of focus for my Bachelor of Education?
Once completing the first semester, all is not lost. You will be guaranteed two (2) units of credit whether moving from/to Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), Bachelor of Education (Primary) or Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

30. When do I do my first practical teaching time?
In your first semester of study

31. What is the highlight of completing an Education degree at Avondale College of Higher Education?
You will have the choice to be a part of a practical teaching experience overseas and have the Commonwealth help you with the finances for this. Secondary students may do this in their second, third and fourth years, while the Primary students have room in their time table to complete this in their second year of study. Countries may include:

- India
- Cambodia
- Nepal

32. Can I do social work or counselling as a minor?
Yes, this is now available in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching course.

33. Is there a double degree at Avondale College of Higher Education?
We have combined degrees available.

34. I have a Bachelor of Arts. What do I need to be a Primary or Secondary teacher?
The Teaching Institute requires six (6) units for the major, while Avondale College of Higher Education requires eight (8) units. As these may have been completed in your Bachelor of Arts, you will need four to six (4 – 6) units in your Curriculum Studies area as well as the professional experience (practical teaching times).

If your pre-degree is not in a teaching field, you may find that you will require an extra semester of units to complete the Education degree

35. I don't know if I wish to do Early Childhood or Primary. What do I do?
The first year of the teaching degrees will allow you to make up your mind once you have been on your first practical teaching experience at the end of your first semester of study. The units of study are comparable with at least two units of study being available for Advanced Standing from one teaching field to another. You may try and discover.

36. Can I do study to become a Teacher's Aide?
There is the Associate Degree of Classroom Support that is available. The study of units is the same as the first year of the Bachelor of Education (Primary).

37. Why should I come and do an Education degree at Avondale College of Higher Education?
The focus for all education students will develop:

- Leadership skills
- A teacher who is creative on their feet
- A reflective practitioner
- Know why I do what I do
- Presentation ability
- Public speaking
- A good communicator
- Highly organised person
- A very flexible person

38. Are their job interviews on Campus?
There are state and Church interviews that will be held on the Lake Macquarie Campus each year for those who are about to graduate.