

ELITE ATHLETE AND ELITE PERFORMER PROGRAM

Policy

DEFINITIONS

Terms in this document, for which definitions are not provided in the text or may not be self-evident or for which usage at ACC may differ to that in other higher education institutions are as follows:

Elite Athlete Student: a student who participates in sport at the level of state, national or international competition, and who can demonstrate their endorsement by one of the following organisations:

- a. Australian Institute of Sport;
- b. State and Territory Institutes or Academies of Sport;
- c. AFL Players' Association;
- d. Australian Cricketers' Association;
- e. Rugby Union Players' Association;
- f. Rugby League Players' Association;
- g. Australian Basketball Players' Association;
- h. Australian Netball Players' Association;
- i. Australian Hockey Players' Association;
- j. National squad members from Australian Sports Commission funded sports;
- k. Australian eSports Association;
- l. Senior/head coaches from state and territory institutes/academies of sport, national teams from Australian Sports Commission funded sports or participating professional sports.

Elite Performer Student: a student who participates in significant state, national or international performances, productions, installations, competitions or events, and who can demonstrate endorsement by a State, National or International level performance organisation in one or more of the following fields: Art, Culture, Orchestra, Opera, Music, Dance, Theatre, Film and Television. These include but are not limited to:

- a. ABC Concerts;
- b. Actors Equity Australia;
- c. Australian Chamber Orchestra;
- d. Australian Dance Council;
- e. Australian Dance Theatre;
- f. State Theatre Companies;
- g. Musica Viva;
- h. Opera Australia;
- i. The Symphony Australia Orchestras;
- j. State Opera Companies.

PURPOSE

This Policy outlines:

- the College's commitment to supporting Elite Athletes and Elite Performers;
- how the College identifies elite athletes and elite performers; and
- the flexible study options and support available to elite athletes and elite performers to help them achieve academic success and excellence.

It is to be read in conjunction with the College's Elite Athlete and Elite Performer Program Procedure.

SCOPE

The Policy applies to all commencing and continuing students of the College who wish to be recognised as Elite Athletes or Elite Performers and who are seeking adjustments to their academic program in order to accommodate their Athletic or Performance requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

Commitment

The College recognises the unique challenges that Elite Athletes and Elite Performers encounter as they pursue their sporting, performance and academic goals.

The College will support Elite Athletes and Elite Performers in these pursuits wherever possible, while ensuring that academic standards are rigorously applied. The College will therefore endeavour to provide support for student Elite Athletes and Performers but will not compromise the integrity of academic programs and the maintenance of appropriate academic standards.

Students identified as Elite Athletes or Elite Performers are eligible for:

- special admissions provisions; and
- flexible study and assessment options; and
- additional administrative support.

Identification/Verification of Elite Athlete or Elite Performer status

If a student applying for recognition as an Elite Athlete cannot demonstrate their endorsement by one of the organisations indicated under the definition of Elite Athlete above, they may submit a request to be considered an Elite Athlete. In these cases, ACC will contact an independent external assessor, who will be asked to consider and advise the College on the applicant's Elite Athlete status.

If a student applying for recognition as an Elite Performer cannot demonstrate their endorsement by state, national or international level performance organisations indicated under the definition above, they may submit a request to be considered an Elite Performer on the basis, of having:

- achieved significant success in a major artistic performing arts competition (outside of the applicant's HSC curriculum); or
- undertaken a major role in commercial arts production as a performer or producer; or
- contracted with a major commercial music label or producer or equivalent commercial partner in any of the fields listed above; or
- achieved significant success as an independent artist/producer with a documented track record in any of the fields listed above.

Admission Provisions

The College will provide all students with information on Policy and Procedure concerning Elite Athletes and Elite Performers once their admission to a College program of study has been confirmed, in order that they may apply for reasonable adjustments to the normal requirements of that program and have the outcome of their application confirmed, prior to enrolment in units of study and commencement of teaching.

Flexible Study and Assessment Options

Subject to the limiting provisions of any applicable Program Requirements, for Elite Athletes and Elite Performers:

- a. the College will incorporate individualised study sequences, which take into account sporting or performing commitments to enable students to achieve their highest academic potential, where possible;
- b. Program Coordinators, in consultation with Lecturers, may provide alternative timeframes and modes of study for completion of units, where possible;
- c. Special Consideration in the form of extensions or variation of time normally required to complete a program of study, including provision for numerous or extended periods of absence and waiving of minimum attendance requirements, will be provided where possible;
- d. interim grades will be extended to cover approved absence(s);
- e. the Program Coordinator may propose to the Academic Dean for approval the substitution of units within a program structure for other units where sporting or performing requirements prevent standard completion; ;
- f. examinations may be undertaken by students at approved alternative off campus venues under approved supervision where sporting or performing requirements prevent them from attending scheduled examinations;
- g. Special Consideration in the end of unit examinations will be granted where sporting or performing requirements have negatively impacted examination performance;
- h. where commitments at State, National or International level negatively affect a student's attendance and assessment performance, they may apply for Special Consideration to withdraw from the unit without academic penalty (that is without a grade of fail on their academic record for units being undertaken in the current study period). Such a request must be submitted by the student before the end of the study period and include relevant documentation for approval by the Academic Dean.

Additional Academic and Administrative Support

The Academic Operations Manager will:

- a. provide an initial point of contact for applicants;
- b. coordinate the provision of advice regarding admission and enrolment requirements and procedures;
- c. liaise with Program Coordinators and Lecturers regarding matters of academic planning;
- d. provide support to Elite Athletes and Elite Performers within the College study environment;
- e. maintain adequate records as required by Policy;
- f. coordinate the provision of advice about cross institutional study and credit transfer options; and
- g. communicate and promote the flexible arrangements enshrined in this Policy and Procedure and its associated documents;

Program Coordinators will provide students with:

- a. advice and guidance about academic planning; and
- b. support in negotiating flexibility to meet academic requirements and ensure that such decisions are communicated to other academic staff within the program, and to relevant College Services.

The Academic Dean will ensure that College stakeholders are made aware of and implement the support principles and flexible approaches provided for within this policy and will be responsible for approving reasonable adjustments to Elite Athlete and Elite Performer programs of study.

If a student is dissatisfied with the Academic Dean's decision, the student is eligible to appeal in accordance with the Student Grievance and Appeals Policy and Student Grievance and Appeals Procedure.

REVIEW

The Elite Athlete and Elite Performer Program Policy is reviewed every three years.

It is a policy of the ACC that any Policy or Procedure may be reviewed earlier as indicated by internal or external factors (including but not limited to such factors as changes in the guidelines of regulatory authorities, accreditation/registration requirements of the profession, or relevant legislation at state or federal level) as determined the Board of Directors and/or Academic Board.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Elite Athlete and Elite Performer Program Procedure
- Inherent Requirements Policy
- Inherent Requirements Statement – Bachelor of Chiropractic
- Inherent Requirements Statement – Diploma of Health Science
- Student Grievance and Appeals Policy
- Student Grievance and Appeals Procedure.

VERSION CONTROL

Document: Elite Athlete and Elite Performer Program Policy		
Responsible Officer: Academic Dean		
Approved by: Academic Board		Date: 24 May 2022
Approved by: Academic Dean, in accordance with delegated authority from the Academic Board to amend for organisation restructure.		Date: 9 July 2025
HESF	3.3 Learning Resources and Educational Support	3.3.4
Version: V2.0	Replaces Version(s): -V1.0	Next Review: June 2028
Nature of Change	26 June 2025 Update details according to the new governance structure.	