ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies



**Design Specifications for R Units**

Board Endorsed 2016 Edition

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# Design Specifications for R Units

## 1. Background

The design specifications for ACT R units build on:

1. Recommendations from the *Review of the ACT Year 12 Certificate* 2014
2. Recommendations from the *Review of ACT Senior Secondary Curriculum* 2015
3. *Curriculum Design Paper* Version 3.1 June 2013.

## 2. Key Terms

R units will specify content and assessment.

1. R units are organised under five broad learning **courses**. These courses are college-based, work exploration, cultural, sport and recreation and community service.
2. A **unit** is a discrete area of learning that is part of a learning course. For example, the Sport unit is under the sport and recreation learning course.
3. A unit has **electives**. For example, Rugby is an elective of the Sport R unit.
4. **Content descriptions** refer to the knowledge, understanding and skills taught and learned within a given unit.
5. A **program of learning** is what a college provides to implement the unit. Colleges meet requirements for content set out in the R unit. Students follow programs of learning in schools as part of their senior secondary studies.

## 3. Structures

R Units will be organised under learning courses (i.e. college-based, work exploration, sport and recreation, cultural or community service activities). Learning courses list units. Units list electives.

The specifications for each unit will include the following key elements:

* goals
* content descriptions
* assessment.

Refer to Example 1 for a visual representation of the R Unit structure.

## 4. Goals

The goals will present high-level statements of the major purpose of the subject and the intended developments in student learning.

The goals will:

* contain a small number of statements for the subject (approximately 2-3)
* be common for all electives in a unit.

## 5. Content Descriptions

Content descriptions will state the knowledge, understanding and skills to be taught and learned.

Content Descriptions will be common for electives in a unit. They will provide sufficient detail for teachers and students to know what is expected to be taught and learned.

Content descriptions:

* statements that describe essential knowledge, understanding and skills
* describe skills using verbs
* use examples within the description to elaborate content as necessary.

## 6. Elective Titles

An elective title must be:

* applicable to a range of learning experiences
* descriptive and understood by diverse audiences
* generic and avoid specific reference to organisations, personalities and events.

Elective titles appear on the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate.

Refer to Example 2 for a visual representation of the R Unit template (sample).

# Example 1 - Structure of R Units

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Structure of R Units** | | |
| **Course** | **Unit** | **Electives (suggestions)** |
| **College-based** | Pastoral Care | Pastoral Care, Advisory Group etc. |
| Tutorial | French Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate *(all courses listed on the register are listed as an elective on this R unit)* etc. |
| Extension Program | Technology, Arts, Science, Mathematics, Business, Literature and Language *(no elective titles)* etc. |
| Personal Development | Expedition, Conference, Study Skills, First Aid, Road Ready |
| Leadership | Student Representative Council, Leadership Group, Event Management, School Magazine, Conference, Peer Education, Mentoring, Coaching, Publications etc. |
| Public Speaking | Speech, Debating etc. |
| ACT Scaling Test | Preparation etc. |
| Class Participation | Accounting, Business *(all courses listed on the register are listed as an elective on this R unit)* etc. |
| ASDAN | History, Personal Care Routines etc. |
| **Work exploration** | Work Placement | Program, Experience etc. |
| Training Program | Work Safety (White card & Asbestos Awareness), Bar Service, Clubstart, First Aid etc. |
| **Sport & Recreation** | Sport | Dragon Boating, Rugby, Rock Climbing, Cricket, Swimming, Oztag, Bushwalking, AFL, Cycling, Aerobics, Hockey, Basketball, Badminton, Triathlon etc. |
| **Community Service** | Community | Outreach, Projects, International Baccalaureate CAS etc. |
| **Cultural** | the Arts | Drama Performance, Dance Performance, Musical Performance, Media Performance etc. |
| Music Tuition | Clarinet, Guitar etc |

# Example 2 - R Unit Template



R Course: (insert title)

R Unit – (insert title) Type 2

An R unit is a learning experience. The purpose of an R unit is to recognise the time a student engages in a learning experience.

Colleges develop a program of learning based on the R unit. R units are delivered by the home college or conducted in partnership with external organisations. A partnership is a formal arrangement between the college and organisation. A partnership is recognised by a written agreement outlining the activity and signed by the principal.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title**: *(insert subject)* | |
| **Student group** |  |
| **Goals** | By the end of this unit, students: |
| **Content Descriptions** |  |
| **Suggested activities** |  |
| **Assessment criteria** | |
| **1.** | Required hours of attendance met |
| **2.** | To be determined. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adoption form for R Unit –** *insert subject* | | | | |
| **Elective title** | **Tick the desired options based on minimum number of hours** | | | |
| 🞏 (*insert elective*) | 🞏 0.2 (11 hours) | 🞏 0.5 (27.5 hours) | 🞏 1.0 (55 hours) | 🞏 all three options | |
|  | | | | | |
| **Principal Approval** | | | | | |
| Principal: | | Date: / / | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **Office use:**  Entered  Date: / / | | | | | |

# Process for Registering R Units and Electives

1. Request to develop a BSSS registered unit or elective
2. Request to develop BSSS registered unit or elective submitted to BSSS Curriculum Officer by April
3. Request reviewed by BSSS Director. The BSSS Director may approve addition or refer the request to the Curriculum Advisory Committee for a recommendation.
4. Request to create a new BSSS registered unit or elective

Request to develop R Unit or elective submitted to BSSS Director

BSSS Director approves development of new R unit or elective

Request to develop R Unit or elective referred to the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC advises the Board on development of the R Unit or elective

OBSSS calls for expressions of interest to develop R Unit or elective

R Unit submitted to BSSS Director for registration

Approved R unit or elective entered into ACS

BSSS Director approves development of new R Unit or elective

Proponent informed that request is declined

OBSSS calls for expressions of interest to develop R Unit

R Unit submitted to BSSS Director for registration

Approved R unit entered into ACS

R Unit uploaded onto BSSS website

R Unit uploaded onto BSSS website

Elective entered into ACS

# Request for an R Unit or Elective

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Request for an R unit or Elective** | | |
| **College Name:** | | | |
| Please indicate a request for either an R unit or elective.  🞏 Request for an R unit  🞏 Request for an elective | | | |
| **Description of request:** | | | |
| **Reason for request:** | | | |
| **College Principal signature:** | | | **Date:** |
| **BSSS Director signature:** | | | **Date:** |
| **Office use:**  🞏 New R unit entered into ACS  🞏 New elective entered into ACS | | 🞏 Amended R Unit document  🞏 Uploaded on BSSS website | |