

Coordinated curriculum renewal, a whole-of-school approach

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In a climate in which budget cuts impact on teaching quality and there is an increasing need for accountability, Murdoch University has begun an institution-wide teaching and learning project that links existing structural university processes to curriculum development and renewal.

This initiative, the School Development Process, involves the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) in a coordinated, whole-school approach to enhancing teaching and learning. Every five years, each School of Study undergoes a review and in the year prior to this review the TLC is now undertaking a range of activities designed to assist the School in curriculum development and collection of data for the review. The process of curriculum renewal and/or development involves:

- ensuring students graduate with the skills and knowledge expected by the field of study and by employers in relevant professions and industry;
- ensuring that in a degree program students are exposed to Murdoch's Graduate Attributes and that attributes identified as key to the field of study are integrated into the curriculum;
- assisting staff to renew their units to ensure currency, flexibility and high quality;
- working with academic staff to improve teaching and learning in the School, and
- seeking input from employers on their expectations of graduates.

While the School Development Process addresses broader strategic planning issues, the focus for the TLC is curriculum renewal and development. This entails promoting and integrating several existing initiatives: mapping graduate attributes across a degree program, alignment of curriculum, conversion of units to a flexible unit model, and conducting focus groups with employers.

This session outlines the stages of the School Development Process, the approach taken by the TLC in developing and implementing the process, issues related to its adoption and the strategies used with established and new Schools of Study.