Staying on Track
Information Session

Student Affairs Unit
Idena Rex - Head, Student Affairs Unit
Student is not:

- achieving the minimum progression rate specified by the Faculty; and

- passing the number of units of study specified as the minimum for a defined period; and

- passing any compulsory or barrier unit(s) of study, field or clinical work, practicum or other professional experience as stipulated by the Faculty
Identifying and supporting Students at Risk
(current policy, ends Semester 1, 2010. Student Academic Progression Policy begins Semester 2, 2010)
Factors that trigger the progression report

Where a student:

- fails to complete more than fifty percent of the credit points
- fails to achieve a satisfactory Weighted Average Mark (WAM)
- fails to achieve an average mark of fifty or above – unless an average mark above fifty is required
- fails to complete compulsory or barrier unit(s) of study, field or clinical work, practicums or professional experience;
- fails to pass a unit of study for a second time;
- has an unsatisfactory attendance record; and/or
- is unable to complete the award course within the maximum permitted time while carrying a normal student load.
What is ‘good cause’?

> Circumstances beyond your reasonable control, for example:

- Serious ill health or misadventure

Does not include demands or pressure from employment or non-university activities
3 main reasons students find it difficult to progress in their studies

- Lack of academic ability
- Inappropriate choice of course or career (or difficulty in making a change)
- Individual factors, eg
  - psychological
  - emotional
  - financial
  - family and friends
  - disabilities and impairments
  - heavy parental expectations
  - cultural factors
Seeing an Academic Adviser
Staying on Track Information Session
Semester Two 2010
What my students have said about seeing an academic adviser before and after …
BEFORE

“You want me to do WHAT?”
I never thought of an academic as a human being before!

My adviser told me that he had so many problems when he first went to uni, he dropped out and didn’t come back for five years.

He was actually quite impressed that I was sticking with it!
“I don’t really think I can face up to seeing an adviser! It’ll be like I’m back in school …”
Believe it or not, my advisor treated me as a responsible adult.

She explained that her job was to give me some guidance about completing my degree program.

Thanks to her, I found out that it wasn’t too late to change my major. That’s made tons of difference to my motivation!
“Boy – is this going to be a total waste of time.”
I am SO glad I went.

I didn’t manage to get completely back on track in one semester, and ended up having to show cause.

But, thanks to my adviser, I knew I had to provide documentary evidence about my situation, and I was re-admitted.

Things are going much better this semester.
“Ok – I’ll do it. But I’m not going to like it!”
It was actually really encouraging!

My adviser reminded me about why I had started this degree program in the first place.

She gave me some great ideas about what I could do after graduating!
Learning Centre
Key Problem Areas for Students

› Time Management
› Concentration Loss and Procrastination
› Essay/Assignment Writing
› Academic English
› Reading skills
› Oral Presentation and Discussion
Resources which can help

› Workshops:
  - Academic Writing
  - Reading
  - Oral Presentation / Discussion
  - Studying at University
Resources which can help

› Online learning resources:
  - Clearer Writing (interactive)
  - WriteSite (interactive)
  - WRiSE (Writing a report in Science and Engineering)
  - Links to other sites

› Resources for downloading:
  - Guidelines for Referencing
  - Skills of Essay Writing series
  - Report writing in the Sciences
  - Study Skills
  - Orientation Lecture Notes
Learning Centre

› We are an academic centre

› Our services are available to all enrolled students at this university

› Our central workshops and individual learning programs are free of charge

› Our objectives are to facilitate and develop student learning
Workshop Program: Semester 2

› August/September Program
  9 August – 11 Sept
    Online registration: Monday 2 August

› Honours Program
  27 September -1 October
    Online registration: Monday 20 September

› Exam Preparation
  18 October – 29 October
    Online registration: Monday 11 October
Learning Centre
Level 7, Education Building
Manning Road

Phone: 9351 3853
Fax: 9351 4865
Email: learning.centre@sydney.edu.au
Website: sydney.edu.au/lc
Promoting Academic Success

University of Sydney

◆ International Student Support Unit (ISSU)
◆ Counselling Service

Using your time and talents well
What and why

› Resources and stress overload
› Unexpected difficulties
› Study skills challenges
› Health problems

Specific to International students:
› New culture and environment
› Foreign language
› New approaches to study
› Visa/immigration/ESOS requirements
First semester reports by students in this session

- Study organisation (30) expectations around study (18) poor prioritising (14)
- Disorganised student (4) Disorganised faculty (6)
- Poor subject choice (2) Uninteresting subjects (1)
- Motivation (29), sick of studying (12)
- Procrastination (12)
- Distraction by social activities (11) or by work (19)
- Living situation (6)
- Finances (7)
- Illness (16) relationships (21) emotional problems (18)
- Drug misuse (3)
Academic struggles

› Ebb and flow of the academic year –
time management and balance of
activities outside study – timetable

› If stress gets very high or motivation
very low access support services early

› Not unusual for students to fail
assignments, change their mind about
courses – confusion or disappointment
can be worked through

› Think: what can I do to improve and
where can I get help?
Personal struggles

› Stress is inevitable but struggling alone is not necessary

› Learn how to manage stress, anxiety and depression so that you are not so lost in these feelings that it puts your talents on hold

› Talk with counsellor about how personal or family illness is impacting on your plans

› Talk through the confusions and disappointments of relationships that are floundering
› Managing uncomfortable feelings: Stress, confusion, disappointment can be worked through: individual appointments, workshops and groups to provide skills and support

› Mindsets for developing your potential skills. How your thinking helps or hinders- explore how to manage your mind
Ways to make things worse

› Overload in an effort to catch up
› Trying to forget experiences in unsuccessful semesters, not learning from mistakes and possibly associated wishful thinking
› Assuming repeating a subject will be easier
› Isolating yourself from other students
› Skipping classes and convincing yourself that the course can be self taught
› Not seeking help and not talking to others about real experience of university
Ways to make things better

› Take responsibility and take action
› Seek help early and, if necessary, regularly
› Create flexible plans and make uni a top priority
› View mishaps as a basis for learning

› Services for students offer many resources to help you succeed at University
  › www.sydney.edu.au/stuserv/
  › www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/
  › www.sydney.edu.au/careers
How do we do this?

› By providing

› Individual, free confidential counselling
› ISSU services are also available to family members
› Other support services include:
› Workshops, online information
› Information and welfare advice
Important Dates 2010

Semester 1

- Last day to add a unit: Friday 12 March
- Last day for withdrawal: Wednesday 31 March
- Last day to discontinue without failure (DNF): Friday 23 April
- Last day to discontinue (Discontinued – Fail): Friday 4 June

Semester 2

- Last day to add a unit: Friday 6 August
- Last day for withdrawal: Tuesday 31 August
- Last day to discontinue without failure (DNF): Friday 10 September
- Last day to discontinue (Discontinued – Fail): Friday 30 October
Where are we: ISSU and Counselling Service?

› Level 5
› Jane Foss Russell Bld, City Rd (next to Wentworth)

› Counselling Service: 8627 8433
› www.sydney.edu.au/counselling

› ISSU: 8627 8437
› www.sydney.edu.au/issu
You may not think of yourself as having a ‘disability’ but the definition under the Disability Discrimination Act is broad and includes temporary or chronic medical conditions, physical or sensory disabilities, psychological conditions and learning disabilities. Examples may include:

- anxiety
- arthritis
- asthma
- asperger's disorder
- attention deficit disorder
- bipolar disorder
- broken bones
- cancer
- cerebral palsy
- chronic fatigue syndrome
- crohn’s disease
- cystic fibrosis
- depression
- diabetes
- dyslexia
- epilepsy
- hearing impairment
- learning disability
- mobility impairment
- multiple sclerosis
- post traumatic stress
- schizophrenia
- vision impairment

Students needing assistance must register with Disability Services - it is advisable to do this at the beginning of semester.

Types of Support and Academic Adjustments:

- Individual Academic Plans and Academic Liaison - these may include: a personalised assessment schedule, alternative assessments, deferred exams, adjustments to your learning environment, MP4 recording of your lectures.
- Special Examination Arrangements - additional time, separate supervision, use a computer, use of assistive technology.
- Assistive Technology Software and Hardware Loans - for example, text to speech and voice recognition applications.
- Peer Note-taking - receive notes confidentially by email.
- Library Assistance - locating books and database access.
- Specific Access Requirements.
International Office

International Student Advisers
Jude Roldan
Kirsten Saur
Katy Cuthbert

CRICOS Provider No. 00026A
International Students & Visa Issues

Mandatory Conditions for All Student Visa Holders

Include:

- Satisfactory academic progress
- Remain enrolled in a full time load (except when you have permission from your faculty)
- Notify the University of current address

There may be implications for your student visa if you continue to be identified as a student at risk.

CRICOS Provider No. 00026A
International Student Advisers

- Provide support to international students on visa, academic, enrolment and scholarship issues
- Refer students to support services on campus
- Interview students identified as At Risk
- Process documentation for students to apply for student visa extensions
- Send International Student Updates – 3x Sem
- Organise student networking activities

CRICOS Provider No. 00026A
How to Contact the International Student Advisers

Jude Roldan, Kirsten Saur and Katy Cuthbert

International Office, Jane Foss Russell Building, G02

- E-mail enquiries
- Individual Appointments
- Front counter enquiries

Email: international.studentadvisers@sydney.edu.au
Welcome to the SRC

1. student representatives who fight for the rights of students as a whole body of people.

2. casework staff members and a solicitor to fight for the rights for students as individuals.

Independent - free - committed to you
SRC HELP

› Academic Appeals & Special Consideration
› Centrelink
› Accommodation rights & tips
› Legal problems
› Plagiarism
› Discontinuing / Withdrawing
› Students with a Disability
› Harassment and Discrimination
› Work rights
› Show Cause and Exclusion appeals
problem → effect → SOLUTION
When Something Happens…

Help!
Special Consideration and Appealing a Grade

› Special Consideration allows you to be assessed fairly, at a time when you’re able to do your best without otherwise being distracted.

› If you get a mark you think was affected by your situation, you can appeal the grade. The SRC can help with this process.

› You might be able to apply for a DNF, even late in semester or after semester.

Talk to SRC HELP in any of these situations.
DEADLINES

› Special Consideration
  - 5 working days (1 week)
  You must have documentation for the day in question.

› Appealing a grade or academic decision
  - 15 working days (3 weeks)

  If you miss these deadlines you must have a very good explanation to have your application considered.

SRC HELP
Important dates

- **Census Date (Withdrawn)**
- **Normal DNF deadline**
- **DF deadline**

### Important Dates:

- **Start of semester**
  - 31 March or 31 August
  - Automatic fee refund
    - (local students full refund & international students 50% refund)

- **Normal DNF deadline**
  - 23 April or 10 Sept (approx.)

- **DF deadline**
  - 4 June or 29 Oct (approx.)

- **Possible application for DNFs (asap) & fee refunds (12 months)**

**SRC HELP**

*Not to scale*
Lighter Load

Consider doing less subjects.

Consider having a semester (or two) off.

Is this the right course for you?
(lapse of candidature / discontinuation)

SRC HELP
Who to Contact?

Undergraduate:

SRC HELP
- help@src.usyd.edu.au
- www.src.usyd.edu.au
- (02) 9660 5222
- Level 1 (basement) Wentworth Building
- Skype: srchelp
  (email for appointment)

Postgraduate:

SUPRA
- help@supra.usyd.edu.au
- www.supra.usyd.edu.au
- (02) 9351 3715
- Raglan St Building (G10)
Question Time/ Closing

Paul O'Donohue