

## Course Progression Policy

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| <b>Document Name</b>              | <b>Course Progression Procedure</b>                                                                                                                                                  |                 |                       |
| <b>Approved by</b>                | <b>PEO</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Date</b>     | <b>01/11/24</b>       |
| <b>Responsible Officer</b>        | <b>Academic Manager</b>                                                                                                                                                              |                 |                       |
| <b>This procedure is used by</b>  | <b>ECA College</b><br>(RTO Code 45012; CRICOS Provider Code 02644C)                                                                                                                  |                 |                       |
| <b>Related Documents</b>          | Student Handbook<br>Student Support Policy<br>Assessment Policy<br>Training and Assessment Strategies<br>Student Code of Conduct                                                     |                 |                       |
| <b>References and Legislation</b> | Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 Standard 1<br>The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 Standard 8 |                 |                       |
| <b>Version</b>                    | <b>Change description</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Approved</b> | <b>Effective Date</b> |
| v19.0                             | Updated for new logo and alignment with ECA Group.                                                                                                                                   | PEO             | 1/06/19               |
| v19.1                             | Update details of letters to students                                                                                                                                                | PEO             | 2/07/19               |
| v19.2                             | Clearer definition of study period and term                                                                                                                                          | PEO             | 16/07/19              |
| v19.3                             | Review and update domestic student processes                                                                                                                                         | PEO             | 13/11/19              |
| v20.0                             | Align with online forms; update procedures for trainers; add satisfactory progress definition                                                                                        | PEO             | 26/02/20              |
| v20.1                             | Update procedures – streamline.                                                                                                                                                      | PEO             | 15/05/20              |
| v20.2                             | Aligned with internal procedures                                                                                                                                                     | PEO             | 20/06/20              |
| v21.0                             | Update CRICOS code                                                                                                                                                                   | PEO             | 18/05/21              |
| v21.1                             | Update course completion (4.8.)                                                                                                                                                      | PEO             | 01/11/24              |

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to provide ECA Group students (both International and Domestic) and staff clear information about ECA Group's position in relation to monitoring the progress of students in their course and approaches to intervention. ECA Group supports all students to progress in their chosen studies toward achieving completion within the expected duration as identified in the student's Confirmation of Enrolment Letter or written agreement. ECA Group monitors and assesses international students' course progression and participation to ensure students engagement towards complete their course within the expected duration. ECA Group does not extend the duration of a student's CoE without evidence of compassionate and compelling circumstances.

### 2. Scope

The policy applies to all international students enrolled with ECA Group. Domestic students are not required to follow a formal Course Progression policy and procedure, however details on monitoring domestic students' course progress are included in this document.

### 3. Definitions

| Item                                             | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CoE</b>                                       | Confirmation of Enrolment: A document registered with DHA to confirm a student's acceptance into a course for a specified duration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Compassionate or compelling circumstances</b> | Are generally those circumstances beyond the control of the learner which have an impact upon the learner's course progress or wellbeing. These could include, but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the learner was unable to attend classes for a stated period of time;</li> <li>b. bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents;</li> <li>c. major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the learner's studies; or</li> <li>d. a traumatic experience which could include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident;</li> <li>• witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime and this has impacted on the learner for a (these cases should be supported by police or psychologists' reports);</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. where ECA Group was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit; or inability to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Competent (C)</b>                             | Student's work submitted and assessed as meeting the required performance criteria, knowledge and performance evidence to achieve a satisfactory outcome for the unit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Course progress</b>                           | Advancement within a course towards its completion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>DHA</b>                                       | Department of Home Affairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Intervention Process</b>                      | Identify and provide notification and support to students at risk who are not meeting satisfactory academic progress. The intervention process starts when a student does not achieve 50% completion of units studied to date. Students results are monitored per term.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Intervention Strategies</b>                   | Those actions that ECA Group recognises as required for a student to successfully complete a course within the duration of the CoE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Language, Literacy and Numeracy</b>           | The purpose of an LLN is to assess the initial skills of an applicant to ensure they meet the Australian Core Skills Framework requirements for language, literacy and numeracy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Not Yet Competent (NYC)</b>                   | Student's work submitted and assessed as not meeting the required performance criteria, knowledge and performance evidence to achieve a satisfactory outcome for the unit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Satisfactory Course Progress</b>              | A student has satisfactory course progress if the student is achieving 50% competent (C) results or more for units undertaken and is on track to successfully complete their course within the expected duration of study as per their CoE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Students at Risk</b>                          | Identifying Students at Risk includes three 'at risk indicators' that will be monitored in any given study period. The risk indicators are attendance, participation in learning and assessment, and demonstration of Competence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Study Period</b>                              | A discrete period of study within a course, namely term, semester, short course, or as otherwise defined by ECA Group as long as that period does not exceed six months. At ECA Group, a VET study period refers to an approximate 10-week period of study and is generally labelled as "term".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <b>Unsatisfactory Course Progress</b> | For this policy, unsatisfactory progress is defined as a student not successfully completing 50% or more of units studied to date in any study period or longer period of time. |
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#### 4. Procedure for International Students

- 4.1. Under Standard 8 of the National Code, a provider that implements the DET Course Progress Policy for its CRICOS registered courses is not required for ESOS purposes to monitor attendance for international students. However, ECA Group will closely monitor attendance as a means of promoting the successful progress of all students through their courses.
- 4.2. ECA Group will always employ a student-centred approach in resolving issues of unsatisfactory course progress. The course progress of the individual student (whether International or Domestic) will be closely monitored to ensure early intervention if necessary.
- 4.3. Trainer-assessors are responsible for entering the assessment outcomes into the RTO Manager system daily or weekly, and, where appropriate, counselling students who may be 'At Risk' of failing to meet the accepted course progress requirements.
- 4.4. An Unsatisfactory Course Progress result is noted when a student is assessed as Not Yet Competent (NYC), in 50% or more of units studied.
- 4.5. International students who have failed to maintain satisfactory course progress, after all alternatives have been exhausted, be notified of the Intention to Report for Unsatisfactory Course progress which may result in the student being reported to DET and DHA through PRISMS in accordance with the ESOS Act 2000.
- 4.6. This procedure is made available to international students through the ECA Group website and Student Handbook and is explained at the International Student Orientation.
- 4.7. The ECA Group will maintain up to date student records and use these records to consistently monitor student progress. Individual academic results and academic progress details for each student will be maintained on the RTO Manager system. Monitoring of students' results occurs twice per term. Intervention notices may be sent only once per term depending on the student's start date.
- 4.8. Students will have a maximum of 30 days from the official course finish date to complete any reassessments or rectify outstanding requirements. This rectification period is provided to ensure students have adequate time to address any areas needing improvement to meet the course's academic standards. During this time, students are encouraged to liaise with their instructors or relevant staff to finalize their assessments. Failure to meet the necessary requirements within the rectification period may result in the issuance of a final grade or outcome based on completed work, and students will receive a Statement of Attainment (SoA) rather than a full certificate unless otherwise approved under exceptional circumstances.

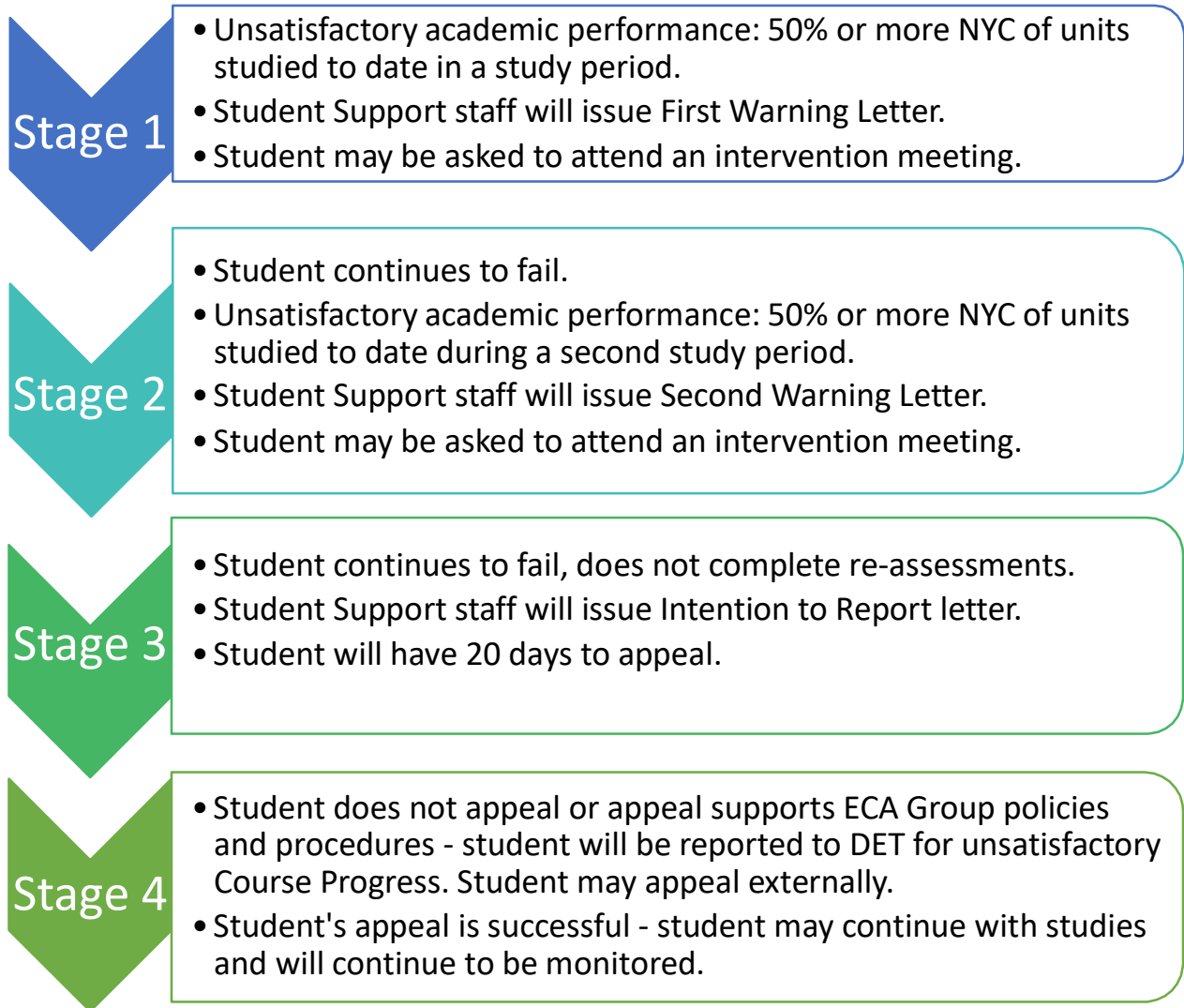
#### 5. Procedure for Domestic Students

- 5.1. Domestic students' course progress is monitored in order to be able to apply intervention procedures where necessary so that ECA Group maximises the benefits of study to each student. ECA Group supports all students to progress in their chosen studies toward achieving completion within the expected duration and this applies equally to domestic students studying an online course at ECA Group.
- 5.2. The ECA Group will maintain up to date student records and use these records to consistently monitor student progress. Individual academic results and academic progress details for each student will be maintained on the RTO Manager system.
- 5.3. Trainer-assessors are responsible for entering assessment outcomes into the RTO Manager system weekly, and, where appropriate, of counselling students who fail course requirements.
- 5.4. The Student Support Officer will monitor the course progress of each student and can identify those at risk of failing most of the course. The Student Support Officer will contact the student at various



stages of the course with up-to-date outcomes information, such as at 25%, 50% and 75% of course completion milestones. The Student Support Officer will offer support depending on the student's situation which could include counselling, LLN support, academic counselling, transfer to a more compelling course choice. The Student Support Officer will record all notes and actions on the student's file.

- 5.5. Where the student does not respond to the intervention process the Student Support Officer will record this on the student's file.
- 5.6. Where a student has failed a unit, re-assessment fees apply.

**Intervention Strategies and Reporting for International Students flowchart.****Stage 1: Unsatisfactory academic performance (50% or more NYCs of units studied to date) at end of a study period: First Warning letter and intervention meeting**

At the end of a study period the Student Support Officer will review the academic performance of each student. Any student identified as not yet competent in 50% or more of the course requirements for that study period will be contacted to arrange an intervention meeting to discuss academic performance and issued a First Warning Letter.

Outcomes and actions from the meeting may include:

- Advising the student on the suitability of the course in which they are enrolled
- Undertaking a review of the student's results
- Allocating the student to a re-assessment class
- Providing support and counselling including the consequences of poor attendance and/or unsatisfactory course progression.

and/or the student:

- Undertaking reassessment in each of the failed units
- Undertaking a non-compulsory period of study during the scheduled break between study periods
- Repeating failed units during the next study period by
  - Attending additional classes
  - Undertaking a self-paced program
- Being required to undertake additional English language classes prior to reassessment

Records of this meeting will be documented on a Course Progress Intervention Strategy form, signed by both the Student Intervention Officer and the student, with a copy being given to the student and a copy kept on the student's file.

Students will be required to pay re-assessment fees which are listed on ECA Group RTO websites.

International students who fail to achieve competence in a majority of course requirements undertaken during a study period will be advised that unsatisfactory academic performance could lead to the student being reported to DET, with the possible cancelling of their student visa.

**Stage 2: Student continues to fail to meet the assessment requirements: Second warning.**

Students who continue to make unsatisfactory academic progress either in their new units or in units being repeated will be issued with a second warning letter for unsatisfactory academic progress.

They may be informed to attend an intervention meeting with the Director of Studies.

Second Warning Letter:

- Inform the student of the consequences of not achieving satisfactory course progress in further study periods
- To advise the International student that they must undertake re-assessment and to demonstrate competency in a majority of units
- To remind the student of past strategies identified for achieving satisfactory course progress
- To determine any other reasons for the ongoing unsatisfactory performance

Records of meetings will be signed by both the DoS and the student where appropriate, with a copy being given to the student and a copy kept on the student's file.

Students will be required to pay re-assessment fees which are listed on ECA Group RTO websites.

**Stage 3: Letter of Intention to Report for Unsatisfactory Progress for an International Student**

If the student is unable to demonstrate competency in a majority of course requirements at the end of further study periods and has not fulfilled re-assessments required in Stage 3 ECA Group will notify the student in writing of its intention to report the student to DET and DHA for unsatisfactory course progress.

This written notice ("Letter of Intention to Report for Unsatisfactory Progress") will be sent by email. The written notice will inform the student that (s)he will be able to access the ECA Group's complaints and appeals process, and that the student has 20 working days in which to do so. A copy of this letter is retained within the student's file. The letter outlines

- The overseas student's right to access the registered provider's complaints and appeals process within 20 working days
- the internal and external complaints process available to the student
- what happens if the overseas student has chosen not to access the internal complaints and appeals process within the 20-working day period or withdraws in writing from the internal or external appeals processes
- what happens when the overseas student has chosen not to access the external complaints and appeals process.

#### **Stage 4: Reporting of an International student's breach of visa conditions via PRISMS**

If the student chooses not to access the complaints and appeals processes within the 20-working day period, withdraws from the process, or the process is completed and results in a decision supporting ECA Group decision, ECA Group will notify as soon as practicable the Secretary of DET through PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress.

Copies of all outcomes and notifications related the appeal process is kept on the Student's file in accordance with ECA Group's complaints and appeals policy and procedure.

#### **Responsibilities**

The trainer-assessor is responsible for

- the provision of assessment feedback and
- early detection of academic performance issues for both International and Domestic students;
- for recording daily attendance and entering it into RTO Manager at the close of each session.

The Academic Manager or Director of Studies is responsible for

- checking all assessment outcomes are accurately recorded in RTO Manager by the due date.

The Student Support Officer is responsible for

- Monitoring course progress each term
- issuing warning letters
- advising students on re-assessment fees
- advising students on welfare options available
- issuing Final Warning letters.

The Academic Director is responsible for

- oversight of the timelines in this procedure
- reporting International Students to the Secretary of DET through PRISMS and may use the Student Services Manager as delegate for this purpose
- effective implementation and management of this policy
- the provision of information on ways to resolve complaints of breaches of this policy.

Any complaints or breaches in relation to this procedure should be reported to the PEO in person or by email.