

3. GETTING ADVICE

Students should be fully aware of degree regulations and course structures. Faculty of Science staff are always prepared to discuss and advise on such matters. The Associate Dean is available to discuss general course issues and other matters such as advanced standing (exemptions from subjects or credit for tertiary studies already completed), leave of absence, degree regulations and variation of enrolment.

You can change your major at any time at Student Central, Building 17, but if you would like to apply to change to one of the BSc Prescribed Majors or one of the specialist four-year degrees you will need to obtain approval from the relevant degree coordinator and the Associate Dean. Experience shows that students who come into the University with fixed ideas about areas of study quite often change their minds as new horizons open up, further enhancing the value of the BSc program. For most students, however, the most important decisions about study directions need to be made at the end of the first year.

The Associate Dean can also advise students who are having problems with their studies. These problems may be procedural, academic or personal. All matters are treated as confidential. If the Associate Dean is not available in his office, make an appointment by contacting the Faculty Administrative Assistant or the Faculty Executive Officer (see Section 3.2).



Associate Professor Paul Carr, Associate Dean

Tel. 4221 3804, Room 41.259 in the Faculty of Science Office

Each School in the Faculty has nominated academic staff members to provide advice concerning their discipline. When you have questions about planning major studies you are strongly advised to consult with the academic adviser from the appropriate School, as follows:

Biological Sciences:

Professor David Ayre, Tel. 4221 3440, Room 35.G03

Chemistry:

Associate Professor Stephen Wilson, Tel. 4221 3505, Room 18.102A

Students with specific questions about first year Chemistry should contact the Director of First Year Studies: Dr Glennys O'Brien, Tel. 4221 3072, Room 18.112

Earth & Environmental Sciences:

Professor Lesley Head, Tel. 4221 3124, Room 41.G14

Ms. Marina McGlenn (Student Liaison), Tel. 4221 4396, Room. 41.G15

Additionally, the three Schools have mentoring systems in which students who have indicated an intention to major in a discipline will be allocated to a particular academic adviser. Until a major has been identified, "uncommitted" students are the particular responsibility of the Associate Dean, and are invited to make contact with him as required. For general course information and appointments to see the Associate Dean, contact the Faculty Office.

Settling into Uni – maybe it’s harder than you thought?

Help is available to assist you to make the most of your time and opportunities while at Uni.

If you are a 1st Year Faculty of Science Equity student :

(www.uow.edu.au/student/services/SEDLO/equity)

we invite you to explore some choices for support on offer, in your early days at Uni, through the 1st Year Science Equity Assistance Program.

The aim of the program is to help 1st year Equity Faculty of Science students’ move into University life to be as smooth and stress-free as possible. A current Science student will act as a mentor / buddy to help you navigate the University system and lifestyle.

Please contact Jenny Walsh who is our Student Liaison Officer (known as a SEDLO across campus). Jenny will provide you with more details about what support and services are available for you. You can find Jenny in Building 41, Room 230, phone her on 4221 5332 or on email at jenwalsh@uow.edu.au

The program will work better if you take advantage of the support as early as possible, in your first session at University.

University Terminology / Commonly Used Terms

Academic Advisor: The academic member of staff who has the delegated authority to sign administration forms. Usually, but not always, the Academic Advisor is the Head of School.

Core: A “core” subject is a compulsory subject for a particular degree or major. If you do not complete this / these subjects during your degree, you will not be permitted to graduate.

Co-requisite: A “co-requisite” subject is a subject that you must complete while studying another subject. Studying one subject without the other (the co-requisite) will impede your ability to graduate.

Course Coordinator / Major Coordinator: This academic member of staff is responsible for a specific course / program / degree. You should consult with this person if you wish to discuss subjects within your nominated degree or if you wish to transfer into that degree

Credit Point: Credit point is the value attached to a subject that indicates the study load.

Elective: An “elective” subject is one that you may study if you wish but is not compulsory. You may be required to select from a list of electives (see “Recommended Elective”).

Pass / Clear Pass: A mark of 50% or higher.

Pre-requisite: A “pre-requisite” subject is a subject that you must complete before another subject. SOLS will note a “provisional” status on your enrolment record when you enrol in a subject for which you have not completed the pre-requisite.

Recommended Elective: Some subjects have a list of elective subjects in which you will be required to enrol. You may be required to enrol in one, two or three from the list. The number of subjects in which you must enrol will be clearly stated.

Subject Coordinator: This academic member of staff is responsible for a specific subject. You should consult with this person if you wish to discuss any issues, assessment tasks, examinations, practicals, tutorials, withdrawing from or adding yourself to this subject.