

1. Overview

The Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine (“SITCM”) has designed this policy to detail the rules for meeting course progression requirements and to define the grounds for exclusion of a student due to lack of satisfactory progress.

SITCM requires that the academic achievement of each student is monitored so that students who are determined to be ‘at risk’ can be provided with advice and support to ensure successful course completion whenever possible.

2. Maximum candidature

Students must meet the requirements of a course within a prescribed number of years from the date of first enrolment. The rationale for placing a timeframe on course completion is to ensure that the qualification awarded reflects currency of knowledge and skill.

2.1 Years to complete

The number of years allowed to complete the requirements of a course is listed in the table below. The time elapsed will be calculated from the date that the student commenced their first study period. SITCM will send students a courtesy reminder after three years of inactivity to notify students of the maximum period of candidature.

Course	Years
Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine	10

2.2 Applications for an extension of time

Students who fail to complete within the prescribed period and who can reasonably be expected to meet the course requirements within two additional study periods may apply for an extension of time. Each application will be considered on its merits and with reference to the student’s academic performance to date.

Applications for an extension of time to complete the course must be made in writing to the Dean at least one study period prior to the expiry of the student’s prescribed period of maximum candidature. The application must include reasons for the student’s inability to complete the qualification in the prescribed time period. The Dean will provide a written response to the student within twenty working days outlining their decision and informing the student of their right to appeal the decision.

2.3 Students who fail to complete within the time limit

Students who fail to complete course requirements within the specified time limit (including any extension of time granted) will have their enrolment terminated and a statement noting that the maximum period of candidature has been exceeded will appear on the final record of results issued to the student. The student will be advised in writing of the decision to terminate their enrolment and will also be advised that they have twenty working days from receiving notification of the decision to terminate their enrolment to appeal the decision.

3. Requirement to attain minimum academic standards

Students are required to attain the following minimum academic standards in order to be deemed to be maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course:

- Not more than one failure in a particular unit of study; and/or
- Not fail 50% or more of the units attempted in a study period.

The registrar monitors the academic performance of each student against the minimum academic standards at the end of each study period. Where a student has failed to meet the minimum academic standards the Dean will deem that student as being 'at risk'.

3.1 Students deemed 'at risk'

The registrar will contact each student who is deemed to be 'at risk' and arrange an appointment for an academic counselling session with the Dean. The student will also be advised of the possibility that conditions may be placed on their enrolment.

During the academic counselling session, the Dean and student will determine what additional support will be provided to the student and an intervention strategy will be put in place. This may include, but is not limited to, the student:

- attending academic skills workshops;
- attending tutorial or study groups;
- receiving individual case management;
- attending counselling;
- receiving assistance with personal issues which are influencing progress;
- receiving mentoring; or
- a combination of the above and a reduction in course load.

A record of the academic counselling session will be signed by the Dean and the student and placed on the student's file.

3.2 Students who continue to fail to meet minimum academic standards

If a student continues to fail to meet minimum academic standards after an intervention strategy has been put in place, the Dean will request that the student provide a written statement within twenty working days outlining reasons why they should be permitted to continue their enrolment in the course.

A student who does not submit a written statement by the due date shall have their enrolment terminated.

The Dean shall consider the written statement and may:

- terminate the student's enrolment; or
- permit the student to continue with or without specific conditions.

The Dean will provide a written statement to the student within twenty working days outlining their decision and informing the student of their right to appeal the decision.

A student who is permitted to continue their enrolment in the course, but with conditions imposed, who again fails to attain the minimum academic standards or breaches the conditions imposed, will have their enrolment terminated due to unsatisfactory academic progress.

3.3 Consequences of termination of enrolment

Students whose enrolment is terminated due to unsatisfactory academic progress or exceeding the maximum period of candidature and who wish to undertake further study will need to apply to SITCM for re-admission in line with the *Student Selection and Admissions Policy and Procedure*.

4. Academic Literacy and English Language Proficiency

Academic literacy and English language proficiency is an important factor in a student being able to satisfactorily progress through their course.

'Academic Literacy' refers to the capacity of a student to undertake formal study and to understand and communicate discipline-specific knowledge. 'English language proficiency' refers to the student's ability to understand and communicate knowledge effectively in both written and spoken English.

Higher Education Providers are responsible for ensuring their students are sufficiently competent in the English language to participate effectively in their studies¹. Furthermore, Provider Registration Standard 6.5 requires an institution to provide ongoing academic language and learning support for students.

To assist in the identification of students requiring further development of their academic literacy and English language proficiency skills, each unit during the first study period in an accredited course will contain a short-written paper that allows the lecturer to make an academic literacy and English language proficiency assessment. Following the assessment, and for students whose written skills are deficient, the lecturer and Dean will determine the most appropriate intervention strategy to assist the student to enhance their academic literacy and English language proficiency skills. This may include: attending academic skills workshops; and/or attending tutorial or study groups; and/or receiving one-on-one support and coaching services.

Information about support services to assist students to enhance their academic literacy and English language proficiency skills will be provided at Orientation prior to the start of a student's first study period, via the website and in Unit Guides. Students may self-refer to student support for assistance with academic literacy and English language proficiency at any time.

5. Failing a prerequisite unit of study

Normal course progression rules require that a student who has not passed a prerequisite for entry to a particular unit cannot be enrolled in that unit. However, where a student believes that this rule may adversely affect their course progress, the student may seek a review of this rule by writing to the Dean. The Dean will assess the student's academic record and, if the Dean believes the student has a fair chance of success, they may allow the student to repeat the prerequisite unit concurrently with the unit for which it is a prerequisite.

6. International students

International students are expected to complete their course in the standard number of years for a student undertaking a full-time load (the registered CRICOS course duration) less any time compensating for credit garnered by SITCM. This time period is noted on the student's CoE.

The registrar will monitor international students' enrolment load and academic progress at the end of each compulsory study period to determine if the student has met the minimum academic standards and will be able to complete their studies within the registered course duration. Where necessary an intervention strategy will be put in place (as described in 3.1 above).

The Dean may extend the duration of an international student's study where it is clear that the student will not complete the course within the expected duration, as specified on the student's CoE, as the result of:

- a) compassionate or compelling circumstances (e.g. illness where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes); and/or
- b) an intervention strategy being implemented for students who are at risk of not meeting minimum academic standards.

¹ Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). (2009). Good practice principles for English language proficiency for international students in Australian universities. Report to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. p.3)

Where an international student has failed to meet minimum academic standards the Dean may consider a reduction in their study load as part of the intervention strategy. All considerations for a reduction in study load due to failure to meet academic standards will be at the sole discretion of the Dean.

Following an intervention strategy being put in place, if an international student fails to meet the minimum academic standards in a second consecutive study period, the Dean will advise the student in writing of the intention to report the student for not achieving satisfactory academic progress. The student will also be advised that they have a right to appeal the decision within twenty working days. During the period for lodging an appeal and, if the student lodges an appeal, during the period the appeal is being considered, the student has a right to continue their studies in the course.

After all grievance and appeals processes are finalised, or if the student has chosen not to access the appeals process within twenty working days, the student's enrolment will be formally terminated and SITCM will report the student through PRISMS.

7. Appeals

A student may appeal against a decision made under this policy. The grounds for appeal are that the decision is inconsistent with this policy. Appeals must be made in writing and lodged with the Dean within ten working days of the student receiving written notification of the decision. The Dean will respond in writing to the appeal within twenty working days and may confirm or vary the decision. All decisions of the Dean in relation to appeals will be reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

If a student remains dissatisfied with the outcome of their appeal they may utilise SITCM's grievance handling procedures.

8. Version control

Document: Student Progression and Exclusion Procedure		
Policy Owner: Academic Board		
Policy Developer/Reviewer: Dean	Version #: 3.1	Date: 9 May 2017

Version History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Details
1.0	Academic Board	24 March 2011	Document creation
2.0	Academic Board	26 November 2014	Section 4 added – Academic Literacy and English Language Proficiency Section on graduation moved to new policy Clarification of responsibilities
3.0	Academic Board	19 August 2015	Changes in role responsibilities
3.1	Dean	09 May 2017	Minor change to Section 4 to clarify early assessment of academic literacy and English language proficiency testing