

APPENDIX 1: INHERENT REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT

1 PURPOSE

This Statement supports implementation of the General Coursework Rules and the Admissions (Coursework) Policy and also relates to the Academic Progression Policy and the Student Disability Support Policy.

2 BACKGROUND

The aim of the Statement is to empower potential students to make an informed decision about their fitness to study a particular course at Macquarie University. Potential students interested in Practical, Clinical, or Professional Courses ([Schedule 2 of the Academic Progression Policy](#)) should review the course-specific inherent requirements prior to admission and be satisfied that they can meet these requirements. Current students in each subsequent enrolment period should review the inherent requirements specific to their course to ensure that they can continue to meet these.

3 SCOPE

This Statement applies to all domestic, international, undergraduate, and postgraduate coursework students enrolled in Practical, Clinical, or Professional Courses ([Schedule 2 of the Academic Progression Policy](#)) and the staff involved in the administration, assessment, and support of students in these courses.

4 DEFINITIONS

Commonly defined terms are located in the University Glossary. The following definitions apply for the purpose of this Statement:

Inherent Requirements:

Inherent requirements are the essential activities, capacities, and academic requirements that are necessary for a student to successfully achieve the core learning outcomes of a Macquarie University degree or course or unit.

5 STATEMENT

If there are course specific inherent requirements they will be published on a publicly accessible webpage and where possible listed under the relevant award in [the Handbook](#).

Students must meet the inherent requirements in order to complete their degree, course or unit, and to graduate.

Clearly defined inherent requirements provide students with a greater understanding of what essential activities, capacities, and academic requirements are required to successfully complete their degree, course, or unit. They also provide students with an opportunity to make informed decisions as to whether the degree, course or unit is suitable.

Students who do not meet the inherent requirement may be able to have reasonable adjustments made to enable them to meet these inherent requirements. In assessing whether an adjustment is reasonable, the University is entitled to maintain the academic

requirements and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to the degree, course, or unit. Reasonable adjustments must not fundamentally change the inherent requirement.

Inherent requirements are different from any legislative or professional requirements that might apply to a course.

Inherent requirements are part of a suite of course requirements.

Admission requirements	Admission requirements are the minimum standards for entry.
Compulsory course requirements and information	<p>Compulsory course requirements and information includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general and specific unit requirements to qualify for the course; • additional information about what participating in the course would involve; • reference to University learning and teaching policies and procedures; and • relevant accreditation information. <p>Course requirements may be compulsory but may also be waived without undermining the academic integrity of the program (e.g. attendance at some learning activities).</p>
Inherent requirements	<p>Inherent requirements are the essential activities, capacities, and academic requirements that are necessary for a student to successfully achieve the core learning outcomes of a Macquarie University degree or course or unit. Reasonable adjustments must not fundamentally change the inherent requirement.</p>

6 FRAMEWORK

Each inherent requirement is made up of the following three levels:

- Level 1 – Definition;
- Level 2 – Justification; and
- Level 3 - Course specific examples.

To provide clarity and consistency, the inherent requirements have been grouped under four categories:

- Physical;
- Cognition;
- Communication; and
- Behavioural.

Category Definition [MQ-wide]	Justification [MQ-wide]
Category 1: Physical	
<p>The physical inherent requirement is to have the physical capacities to safely and effectively perform the activities necessary to undertake the learning activities and achieve the learning outcomes of a degree.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Health and Safety legislation requires that students do not place themselves or others at risk. • Students may need to complete specific tasks in a timely manner and sustain performance over time. • Some courses include physical activities that require use of specific faculties, motor skills, and capacities.
Category 2: Cognition	
<p>The inherent requirement for cognition is possessing the intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative capabilities to undertake the learning activities and achieve the learning outcomes of a degree.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students need the capacity to read, comprehend, analyse, and integrate complex written materials. • Students need the capacity to reason and to synthesize knowledge in order to solve problems. • Students need the capacity to identify and apply important information to relevant situations. • Students need the capacity to prioritise and to complete tasks within the required timeframe. <p>Students need the capacity to use basic quantitative and other research skills to gather, interpret, and evaluate data as relevant for the course.</p>
Category 3: Communication	
<p>The inherent requirement for communication is the capacity to communicate information, thoughts, and ideas through a variety of mediums and with a range of audiences. Macquarie University is an English speaking university although students may be required to communicate in other languages in accordance with their course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students need to be able to understand and participate in verbal and non-verbal exchanges in informal, formal, and professional contexts. • Students need to be able to clearly understand and follow instructions and/or tasks. • To demonstrate their learning, students need to convey their own thoughts and understanding using various communication mediums such as writing, presentations, tutorials, etc.

Category 4: Behavioural	
The behavioural inherent requirement is the capacity to sustain appropriate behaviour over the duration of units of study to engage in activities necessary to undertake the learning activities and achieve the learning outcomes of a degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some courses require students to interact with fellow students, university staff, or external parties (e.g. organisational representatives, hospital patients, primary and high school students) in order to achieve learning outcomes in environments that may be sensitive, demanding, or dynamic. • Students need to function and adapt effectively and sensitively and manage their own emotions in an academic, clinical, or placement environment. • Students need to be open and responsive to constructive feedback.

Course-specific inherent requirements for the Practical, Clinical or Professional Courses ([Schedule 2 of the Academic Progression Policy](#)), aligned to these four categories must be developed to provide greater clarity to prospective and current students.

These course-specific inherent requirements must be recommended by the relevant Faculty committee and approved by the relevant Faculty Board.

For courses delivered by non-Faculty entities, Academic Senate will approve course-specific inherent requirements.

When inherent requirements are approved, a report will be provided for noting at the next Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC) meeting.

7 NOTES

7.1	Contact Officer	Chair, Academic Senate
7.2	Implementation Officer	TBC
7.3	Approval Authority / Authorities	Academic Senate (Resolution 20/45)
7.4	Date Approved	28 May 2020
7.5	Date of Commencement	28 May 2020
7.6	Date for Review	May 2023
7.7	Documents Superseded by this Policy	Inherent Requirements Framework
7.8	Amendment History	Nil