The UWA Communications Skills Framework

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Review of Course Structures report, *Education for Tomorrow’s World: Courses of Action*

**Recommendation 12:**

That every undergraduate major include at least one unit with an explicit focus on oral and written communication skills.

A Communication Skills Working Party was established to provide advice on the implementation of this recommendation.
The development of the UWA Communication Skills Framework

• A conceptual schema for the coherent, incremental, explicit and cyclic development of students’ communication skills,

• Developed by Denise Chalmers, Siri Barrett-Lennard and Nancy Longnecker on behalf of the Communication Skills Working Party (June 2009).

• It is not intended to be applied rigidly.

• An expanded version of the framework, providing details of what might be covered for each of the four dimensions is available on the CATL website.

• http://www.catl.uwa.edu.au/projects/communication_skills_framework
## UWA Communication Skills Framework

*Level of development across the curriculum*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Professional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Writing skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Oral and presentation skills</td>
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<td>3 Critical information literacy skills</td>
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<td>4 Interpersonal skills</td>
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<td>1 Students demonstrate writing that is clear, well structured and appropriate to audience and purpose</td>
<td>Demonstrate and reflect on a limited range of basic writing concepts and skills within an area of study with extensive structured guidance</td>
<td>Demonstrate and reflect on a moderate range of competent writing concepts and skills within an area of study with limited structured guidance</td>
<td>Demonstrate and reflect on an extensive range of advanced writing concepts and skills within and beyond the area of study with little or no structured guidance.</td>
<td>Demonstrate and reflect on an extensive range of advanced writing concepts and skills within and beyond the area of study with little or no structured guidance.</td>
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Proposed criteria for implementing recommendation 12

1. At a minimum, every student’s degree-specific major must include at least one unit with an explicit focus on oral and written communication skills.

2. The requisite skill development can be offered at any level in a course.

3. It is highly desirable to develop communication skills progressively.

4. Communication skill development should be clearly identifiable in the unit content, pedagogy and assessment.

5. The required communications skills unit should specifically develop content, learning experiences and assessment in each dimension: (i) written skills, (ii) oral and presentation skills, (iii) critical thinking and information literacy skills, and (iv) relevant interpersonal skills.

6. The required unit should be developed and taught by staff with expertise in the theory and practice of communication skills.

7. The required unit should be integrated with the appropriate disciplinary and professional contexts.

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Professor Denise Chalmers,
Dr Alvin Lee, Lecturer
Associate Professor Nancy Longnecker
Professor Ian Saunders
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Professor Grady Venville
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