## FIRST YEAR UNIT HEALTH CHECK



## Unit Design – Peer Review

Is the unit design based on an understanding of the diversity of students?
Have issues raised in feedback from UTEI been addressed?
Are the learning outcomes and assessment alignment clear?
Do each of the learning and teaching activities link to success in assessment?
Is there an early formative or low stakes assessment task that provides feedback to students?
Are the learning resources accessible, authentic and varied?
Are key (threshold) concepts clearly identified and do learning resources and activities support students' engagement with these?
Is the workload for the unit achievable?
Are assessment tasks motivating and engaging (relevant and meaningful to students)?
Are the assessment task descriptions clear?
Are marking criteria/rubrics providing clear guidance to students on what is required to succeed?
Does the Blackboard site meet minimum requirements?
Are assessment feedback methods and timelines clear to students?
Build a sense of purpose
In the first class do you take time to discuss
How the unit fits in with the whole course – links to other units?
 How unit is relevant to future career options?
<ul> <li>What successful students in the unit do (come to class, ask questions, etc)</li> <li>– invite a previous student if possible?</li> </ul>
How revisions have been made to unit from feedback of previous years?

+How Blackboard site is set up - model navigation of all aspects?

+How you monitor engagement/ attendance and why it is important?

In the first weeks do you use a range of techniques to find out if students have questions/concerns they need addressed?

## Academic Preparedness

Do you limit your assumptions about prior knowledge and skills and provide resources for key concept revision?
Have you actively promoted learning support– including learning advisers, library sessions for all students?
Are underpinning skills for assessment tasks scaffolded i.e introduced in stages?
Are the requirements for each assessment task modelled?
Do you explain/check understanding of the discipline jargon you are using at the start of each class?
Have you incorporated the SLIDE modules to assist students navigate the digital learning environment?
Build a sense of belonging

Do you include an activity in the first week to ensure students meet their peers?

Do you provide an 'acknowledgement' of country?

Do you explain/demonstrate how email/discussion board works to communicate?

Do you outline teaching staff contact details and times and provide models of ways to communicate that are effective?

Do you set up your Blackboard site to monitor engagement?

## Support individual needs

Do you remind students that commencing university is exciting but challenging and ECU has many support services?