

Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

**ACEReSearch**

---

[ACER eNews Archive](#)

[ACER Archives](#)

---

2-2007

## ACER eNews 02 February 2007

ACER

Follow this and additional works at: [https://research.acer.edu.au/enews\\_archive](https://research.acer.edu.au/enews_archive)



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

ACER, "ACER eNews 02 February 2007" (2007).  
[https://research.acer.edu.au/enews\\_archive/76](https://research.acer.edu.au/enews_archive/76)

This Article is brought to you by the ACER Archives at ACEReSearch. It has been accepted for inclusion in ACER eNews Archive by an authorized administrator of ACEReSearch. For more information, please contact [repository@acer.edu.au](mailto:repository@acer.edu.au).

Published February 2007

In this issue:

- [Report makes strong case for core curriculum in key Year 12 subjects](#)
- [ACER UPDATE](#)

## Report makes strong case for core curriculum in key Year 12 subjects

The case is now strong for a common curriculum core in at least some senior school subjects, the chief executive of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Professor Geoff Masters, said upon the release of a new report commissioned by the Federal Government. Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop released the report, *Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards*, prepared by ACER on 1 February.

The study, commissioned in May 2006, examined the content, curriculum and standards of Year 12 subjects across Australia in English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Australian History.

It reveals that there is already a high degree of consistency in course content across the country in key subjects increasing the feasibility of a common curriculum in at least some subjects.

The ACER report estimated that 90 per cent of the content of Advanced Mathematics courses, 85 per cent of the content of Physics courses, and 95 per cent of the content of Chemistry courses in the senior school was common across all Australian states and territories.

The study also found a high level of consistency in what subject experts considered 'essential' curriculum content in these three subjects.

"It is difficult to justify the development of essentially the same Chemistry syllabus seven times across Australia, the use of seven different ways of examining this syllabus and seven different formats for reporting student results," Professor Masters said, adding that the situation was untenable in the long term.

**Published February 2007**

“National examinations in Chemistry, Physics and Advanced Mathematics would provide results that could be compared across Australia for the first time,” Professor Masters said.

The study also investigated Australian History and English subjects and found a lower level of consistency in course content although there was significant agreement on the kinds of skills students should develop in Australian History courses and the general types of texts that should be studied in English courses. The report calls for the establishment of a common curriculum ‘core’ in each of the key subjects to be expressed in terms of subject matter and skills, together with national standards for assessment to provide comparable student results across the country.

*The report, Year 12 Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards*, by Gabrielle Matters and Geoff Masters is available on the DEST website at <http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/year12study>

Published February 2007

## ACER UPDATE

### Australian Scholarships Group grant

ACER has been successful in applying for a research grant from the Australian Scholarships Group. The grant will fund an analysis of responses to ACER's Social-Emotional Well-Being Survey. In particular, the analysis will investigate the impact of students' gender, year level and socioeconomic status on their well-being. Professor Michael Bernard, Principal Fellow, University of Melbourne and the College of Education, California State University, Long Beach, California, will present seminars on the findings of this research work for ACER. These seminars will be conducted in Australia's major capital cities in late 2007.

### Academic standards model

ACER has been successful in applying for a research grant from the Australian Scholarships Group. The grant will fund an analysis of responses to ACER's Social-Emotional Well-Being Survey. In particular, the analysis will investigate the impact of students' gender, year level and socioeconomic status on their well-being. Professor Michael Bernard, Principal Fellow, University of Melbourne and the College of Education, California State University, Long Beach, California, will present seminars on the findings of this research work for ACER. These seminars will be conducted in Australia's major capital cities in late 2007.

Published February 2007

## University of Ulster adopts ACER selection test

ACER's proposal for a selection test for applicants to Allied Health Professional courses at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland has been accepted. The test, to be administered annually, contains components of Critical Reasoning, Interpersonal Reasoning and Written Communication modelled on ACER's MSAT (Medical School Admissions Test) used by three graduate-entry medical schools in UK. The first administration of the test, involving 850 candidates, took place on 27 January at three test centres in Northern Ireland.

## CEET seminar: European Approaches to Competence Development

The Monash University-ACER Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET) will conduct a free seminar entitled 'European Approaches to Competence Development,' by Professor Jonathon Winterton, Professor of Human Resource Development and Director of Research and International Development at Toulouse Business School, France. This seminar reports on a study that analyses how far strategies for promoting competence development at work are influenced by national conceptions of competence, systems of vocational training and models of social dialogue. The work confirms that diversity in these three domains presents challenges both for developing coherent policies at EU level and for implementing consistent trade union actions locally.

The seminar will take on Monday 26 February from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Monash University Law Chambers 472 Bourke Street Melbourne. For bookings and further information please visit <http://www.education.monash.edu.au/centres/ceet/> or contact Normal Coull at CEET. [\(.JavaScript must be enabled to view this email address\)](#)

Published February 2007

**Copyright © Australian Council for Educational Research 2015**

All rights reserved. Except under the conditions described in the Copyright Act 1968 of Australia and subsequent amendments, no part of this electronic publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without written permission. Please address any requests to reproduce information to [communications@acer.edu.au](mailto:communications@acer.edu.au)

[Subscribe](#)

Australian Council for Educational Research  
Private Bag 55, Camberwell, Victoria Australia 3124  
Tel: + 61 3 9277 5555  
Fax: + 61 3 9277 5500  
Web: [www.acer.edu.au](http://www.acer.edu.au)

