



NEW CORE CURRICULUM

A New National Core Curriculum Program – Fact Sheet:

The Core Curriculum at the University of Notre Dame Australia is changing. As of semester 1, 2023 there will be a new national Core Curriculum programme. The new Core is intended to:

1. Change the framework of the Core Curriculum so that the focus is on inviting students into the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (and the Objects of the University)
2. Develop a national formative approach to delivering the Core Curriculum that engages our students, with the history of Catholic Intellectual thought

The New National Core – the basic facts:

1. At the undergraduate level, the new national Core Curriculum will consist of two standard 13 week courses (or equivalent)
2. The first course will be a compulsory first year level offering that integrates faith and reason, theology and philosophy. This course will be called Foundations of Wisdom
3. The second course will be an elective second year (or above) offering. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be able to choose one course from five types of electives:
 - (i) Electives in philosophy and/or theology
 - (ii) Professional embedded electives that integrate studies in a profession with philosophy and/or theology
 - (iii) An option to undertake a pilgrimage embedded in the study of the philosophy and theology of pilgrimage, e.g., World Youth Day
 - (iv) An option to undertake a course that integrates philosophy & theology with community service and charity work
 - (v) An option to undertake an elective in philosophy, theology, and the liberal arts contained within an international experience
4. At the postgraduate level, the Core Curriculum programme for all students enrolled in a Graduate Diploma or Masters by Coursework will be a single elective course selected from a range of offerings, the same as those types available to the undergraduate students (see point 3 above)
5. We plan to offer a version of the new national core curriculum that could be taken as an intensive four week program. Versions of this intensive version of the core curriculum program may involve:
 - (i) A four week intensive international experience
 - (ii) A four week intensive at Broome

*This new international intensive version of the core curriculum may take a few years to implement

6. The new national Core Curriculum will be offered in a variety of delivery modes. The general rule of enrolment will be that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, students would be required to enrol in a delivery mode consistent with that of their program

What does that mean for the student?

1. No student will be disadvantaged or be required to do extra courses of study in making the transition to the new Core Curriculum programme
2. If a student has already finished the Core Curriculum programme this will have no impact on their studies
3. If a student has started the Core Curriculum, but hasn't finished they will have a few choices, depending on the program they are enrolled in:
 - a) We will offer the current Core Curriculum courses for a final time in Summer Term 2023. Students could finish the Core Curriculum then if it fits with their studies
 - b) Students may be able to enroll in one (or two) of the new Core Curriculum offerings as a course substitution within their program
 - c) Students may be given an opportunity to move into a new set of program requirements and transfer into the new Core Curriculum (with automatic exemption for any Core Curriculum courses they have already completed)
4. The University will make sure that the new Core Curriculum is offered and delivered in a mode that works for the student in their program. By way of example:
 - If a student is in a program with 8-week teaching sessions, they will be able to undertake the new Core Courses with 8 weeks face to face, and 5 weeks of online study
 - If a student is enrolled in an online program, they will be able to do the new Core Curriculum courses online
 - In short, whatever the length of teaching period or mode of delivery available in a program, will also be made available in the Core courses