



Inclusive Curricula and Teaching

Centre for Teaching and Learning

academic practice | academic skills | digital resources



Southern Cross
University

The Inclusive Curricula and Teaching project investigated current practice at SCU to identify strategies to promote success for all students. In 2014 over 1000 second year students from across all schools were surveyed asking about the diversity group/s they belonged to, and their first year learning experience. Academic staff workshops and interviews asked staff about good practices and strategies for teaching, diversity and success. Also the challenges inclusivity held for staff in their face-to-face and online interactions with students. From this data and research, SCU developed a model and a range of resources to support an inclusive approach to curricula and teaching.



Inclusive Curricula and Teaching

The model and resources developed are based on SCU's approach to and definition of inclusivity:

Inclusive curricula and teaching in higher education is defined as an approach to course and unit design and to teaching and learning practice which aims to improve access and successful participation of groups traditionally excluded from tertiary education.

SCU Model for Inclusive Curricula and Teaching

The evidence based model has a clear focus on students and centres around the core aims of SCU education: Retention, academic achievement, and academic progression. The two key enablers identified by the research for student success within the teaching context, Powerful Design and Empowering Delivery contain the four model elements.

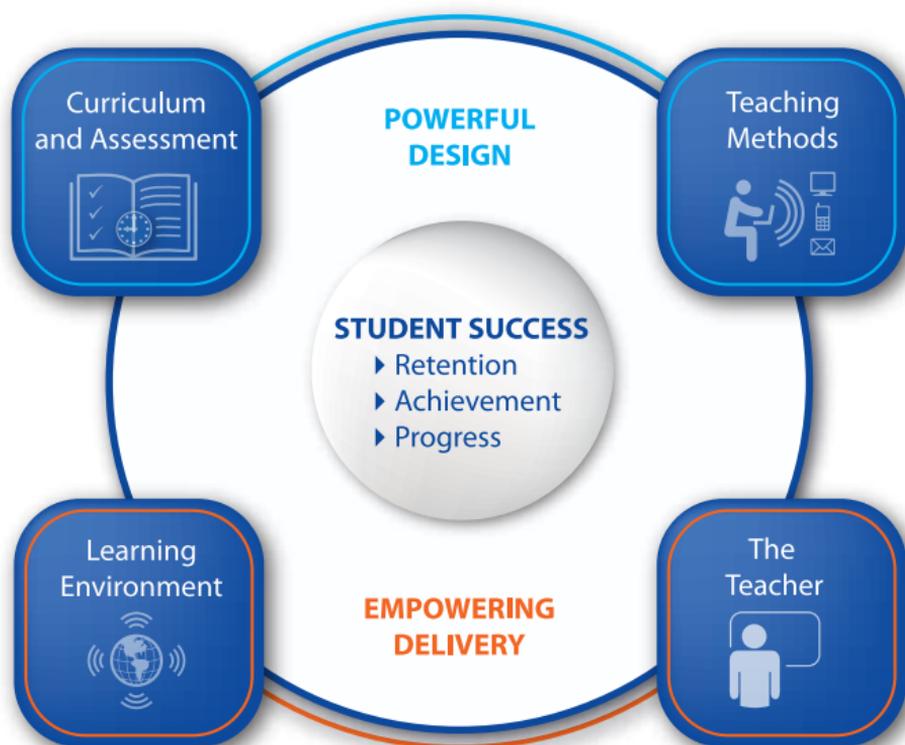
The model shows Powerful Design to include the design of the **curriculum and assessments**, and the design of the **teaching methods** used. The model shows Empowering Delivery to include how the **learning environment** and **the teacher** empower students to become autonomous, motivated and successful learners.

When combined together, the literature shows that powerfully designed curriculum, assessment and teaching methods when delivered within an empowering learning environment by an empowering teacher enables student success irrespective of background.

Interactive online toolkit

The toolkit resource focuses on the four elements and has been designed as an introduction to Inclusive Curricula for new teachers, and as a summary reminder for experienced teachers. The toolkit provides strategies for inclusive teaching and learning informed by research and scholarship. The toolkit comprises of:

- **Videos** which deliver an overview of the model and discuss the two key enablers and four elements
- **Web pages** which provide an overview of each model element and contains several resources
- **Information sheets** which provide key ways to assist unit and course design, and teaching and learning practice
- **Postcards** which highlight the educational exchange between staff and students, the challenges identified by teachers and student comments which they felt would help their learning.



Unit design and delivery

Powerful Design resources

Curriculum and Assessment

Establish high expectations | Set the stage for higher order thinking | Sequence, connect and recycle for success | Design assessments to be catalysts for learning | Levels of readiness | Differing backgrounds | Juggling life and study

Teaching Methods

Active learning for deep understanding | Active guided teaching to develop competent independent learners | Best ways to deliver | The right pitch | Balancing learning needs

Empowering Delivery resources

Learning Environment

Support self-regulation | Develop social connectedness | Time poor students | Modes and campus | Student engagement

The Teacher

Be a good academic role model and mentor | Empower students to take responsibility for their own success | Confidence | Motivation | Transference of skills and knowledge

Centre for Teaching and Learning support

The toolkit resources have important messages from both the student and staff perspective. The individual resources guide staff to consider the various aspects of teaching. Use the toolkit resources individually or work with the academic practice representatives in the Centre for unit and course planning.

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