



Uni Step-Up 2026 Program Ballarat Campus

ACU's Uni Step-Up is your chance to experience university life by studying two first-year units while you are in Year 11.

Get a head start on a degree and university study by completing two undergraduate university units alongside other Year 11 students during the winter and summer school holidays.

GET A HEAD START

Uni Step-Up is a great way to test out a subject area and develop your skills in academic writing and referencing. You'll learn to use university systems and support services to help you get ready for university life.

THERE IS NO COST

Uni Step-Up is HECS-free and there is no cost to participants. All tuition costs and resources are covered by ACU.

EARN UNIVERSITY CREDIT

The units delivered in Uni Step-Up are the same units delivered to first-year undergraduate students. This means that you will receive credit for your Uni Step-Up units if you continue to study in a related course at ACU.

PATHWAY TO FURTHER STUDY

Participants who successfully complete two units become eligible to receive an early entry offer to a related ACU course.

What can I study?

NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND PARAMEDICINE

When you pursue a career in nursing, midwifery and paramedicine, you'll provide care, comfort and support to those at their most vulnerable, and help to build healthier communities.

Pathway to:

- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Midwifery
- Bachelor of Paramedicine.

Dual degrees are also available.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapists play an important role in the lives of individuals and communities, enabling participation in occupations of self-care, productivity and leisure.

Pathway to:

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Ballarat Campus)

How does Uni Step-Up run?

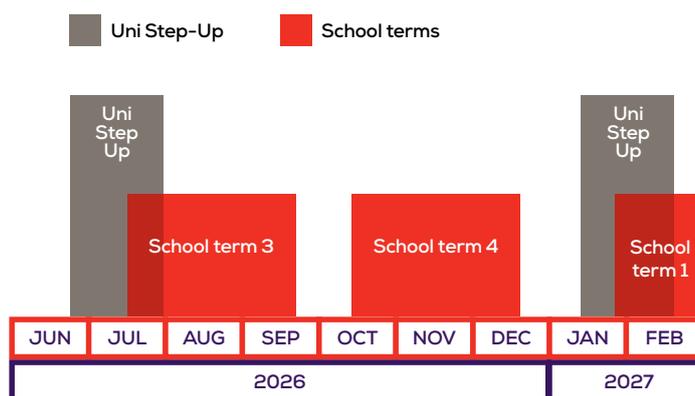
Uni Step-Up is delivered on campus at ACU during the winter and summer school holidays. Additional online support sessions are held to help you with assessment tasks and coursework.

Classes are taught by an ACU academic staff member on campus at ACU. You will also receive additional support from an allocated Uni Step-Up staff member in addition to support from current ACU student ambassadors.

When does Uni Step-Up run?

Classes for the first unit start in the winter school holidays in 2026. Classes for the second unit take place during the summer 2027 school holidays.

Each unit is taught over six-days with additional online support sessions held when you return to secondary school study.



UNI STEP-UP CLASS SCHEDULE

WINTER 2026	TIME	DATE	LOCATION
Orientation	10am – 1pm	Saturday, 20 June 2026	ACU Campus
On-campus classes	9am – 4pm	Wednesday 1 July 2026 Thursday 2 July 2026 Friday 3 July 2026 Monday 6 July 2026 Tuesday 7 July 2026 Wednesday 8 July 2026	ACU Campus
Online class	5.30 – 6.30pm	Wednesday 15 July 2026	Online
SUMMER 2027	TIME	DATE	LOCATION
On-campus classes	9am – 4pm	Wednesday 6 January 2027 Thursday 7 January 2027 Friday 8 January 2027 Monday 11 January 2027 Tuesday 12 January 2027 Wednesday 13 January 2027	ACU Campus
Online class	5.30 – 6.30pm	Wednesday 20 January 2027	Online

WHERE ARE CLASSES HELD?

All classes are held on site at the ACU Ballarat Campus, 1200 Mair St, Lake Wendouree, which is set on sprawling grounds and boasts stunning gardens, open spaces and historic buildings.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR UNI STEP-UP?

To participate in Uni Step-Up, you must be in Year 11 and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- attend a widening participation partner school; *or*
- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; *or*
- live in a regional or remote area.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are open until Friday 22 May 2026 unless all spaces are filled earlier. To apply, you'll need to upload a copy of your most recent school report and provide two short answer written responses.

For more details and to apply visit acu.edu.au/usu
Still have questions? Email wp.vic@acu.edu.au

Uni Step-Up study areas



Nursing, midwifery and paramedicine

A career in nursing, midwifery or paramedicine allows you to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

You will have the knowledge, skills and attitude to improve people's wellbeing, and will provide vital care when they need it most.

The units delivered this Uni Step-Up program can lead to further study in the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Midwifery, Bachelor of Paramedicine and several dual degrees.

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
HLSZ120	INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND CULTURE	JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026
<p>The social-historical-political context, cultural knowledges, and related health issues of Indigenous peoples of Australia and across the world are the focus of this unit. You will examine the historical context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health, contemporary issues in healthcare provision, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing.</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare provision • cultural competence in healthcare • introduction to community engagement in health. <p>Indigenous Health and Culture is the first unit you will study in Uni Step-Up nursing, midwifery and paramedicine.</p>

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
HLSZ122	EVIDENCE FOR PRACTICE	JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2027
<p>This unit provides foundational knowledge and skills for sourcing, appraising and reflecting on literature and information sources used in the healthcare environment. To assist health students to deliver evidence-based care, approaches to knowledge development in the health disciplines, including the generation of new knowledge, the refinement of practice and the delivery of quality care are explored.</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction to evidence-based practice • the five steps of evidence-based practice • evidence-based healthcare. <p>Evidence for Practice is the second unit you will study in Uni Step-Up nursing, midwifery and paramedicine.</p>



Occupational therapy

Occupational therapists play an important role in the lives of individuals and communities enabling participation in self-care, productivity and leisure.

Occupational therapists need to know how humans function and have the skills to practice competently and safely. You will learn how to analyse and assess occupational performance; apply and evaluate interventions to enable occupational performance; and collaborate and communicate effectively with clients and their families and colleagues.

Entry requirements: To be eligible for admission to this program students must be undertaking one of VCE biology, chemistry, or physics.

The units delivered in this Uni Step-Up program can lead to further study in the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy on the Ballarat Campus. Participants must also obtain a study score of at least 25 (Units 3 and 4) in one of biology, chemistry or physics to be eligible for an early offer to the bachelor program.

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
OTHZ100	FOUNDATIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026
<p>This unit introduces you to the role, terminology and key concepts of occupational therapy including the type of occupations and the relationship between participating in occupations and health. Students will begin to develop therapeutic skills needed to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with clients to identify and achieve their goals</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction to occupational therapy theory and practice • activity and occupational performance analysis • facilitating occupational performance • professional behaviour and ethics. <p>Foundations of Occupational Therapy is the first unit you will study in Uni Step-Up occupational therapy.</p>

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
ALHZ106	PSYCHOLOGY FOR ALLIED HEALTH	JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2027
<p>This unit introduces you to psychological theories and constructs that are crucial to working within the allied health professions. You will receive an overview of contemporary perspectives in psychology along with an understanding of the alignment of psychological principles with the allied health professions.</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction to psychology • memory and intelligence • motivation and emotion • health psychology • interprofessional education and practice. <p>Psychology for Allied Health is the second unit you will study in Uni Step-Up occupational therapy.</p>

Frequently asked questions

For more information about the Uni Step-Up program, visit acu.edu.au/usu or email: wp.vic@acu.edu.au

WILL I BE ENROLLED AS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT?

Yes. We'll set you up with a university email account and access to ACU's online learning platforms. As an ACU student, you will have full access to support from our academic skills unit, library services and peer mentors.

CAN I APPLY IF I'M NOT ON AN ATAR PATHWAY?

Yes. You can participate if you are a current Year 11 student, and you are on a pathway to complete a recognised Year 12 certificate.

CAN I APPLY IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

Uni Step-Up is for domestic students. If you are unsure whether you are classified as a domestic student, we recommend contacting us at usu@acu.edu.au

WHAT TYPE OF ASSESSMENTS ARE INVOLVED?

University unit assessments vary and can include multiple choice quizzes, posters, short answer questions, essays and exams. You will be guided and supported through all your assessments during your study.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND EVERY DAY?

Your attendance at every session is required. Please check the dates to ensure your availability.

WHO WILL BE IN MY CLASSES?

You will be in a small class with other Year 11 students. The class size is kept small to ensure that you can get to know other students and receive close support from university staff and peer mentors.

WHAT DO I NEED BRING TO CLASS?

Learning resources are supplied for you as part of your participation in the program. Students are required to have access to a laptop to access online course materials.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AND DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE?

It's okay to change your mind – this is part of the journey as you learn about your interests and goals for the future. Once you start the program, we'll be there to support you, but if you do change your mind, you can exit the program early.

HOW DOES UNI STEP-UP HELP ME TO GAIN ENTRY TO ACU?

By completing the Uni Step-Up program, you will be eligible to receive an early offer to study at ACU. You will need to pass two Uni Step-Up units to be eligible to receive an early offer. Full details on early offers and conditions will be communicated after you complete the program.

I AM NOT SURE IF I SHOULD APPLY?

Uni Step-Up offers you a unique opportunity to try out university study before completing your schooling. Talk with your teacher and parent/guardian about your readiness to take on this extra challenge.