



Uni Step-Up 2026 Program Blacktown 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 AND MIDWIFERY

When you pursue a career in nursing and midwifery, 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

Dual degrees are also available.

CRIMINOLOGY

Take the first step on your path to a range of exciting career opportunities in areas such as cybersecurity, law enforcement, intelligence and investigation, and more.

Pathway to:

- Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice/ Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Human Rights Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice

EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE

Exercise science courses will equip you for a future developing healthy minds, bodies and even health policies. You'll make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities.

Pathway to:

- Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science
- Bachelor of Nutrition Science

Dual degrees are also available.

BUSINESS

Become a business leader who thinks independently, has a global outlook, and applies skills practically and ethically.

Pathway to:

- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Accounting and Finance

Dual degrees are also available.

How does Uni Step-Up run?

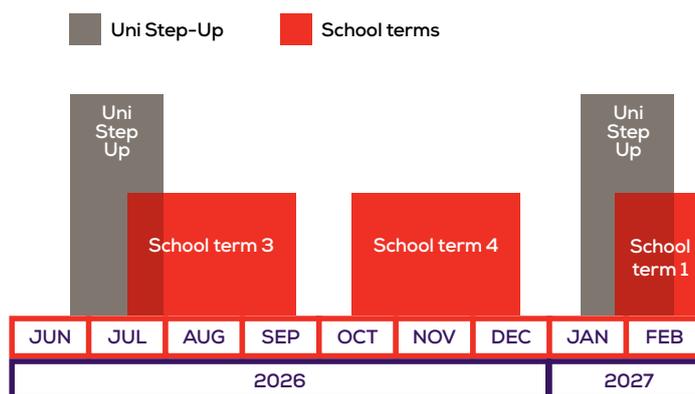
Uni Step-Up is delivered on campus at ACU during the winter and summer school holidays. Additional online support sessions are held to help you with assessment tasks and coursework.

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	6 – 7.30pm	Wednesday 24 June 2026	Online
On-campus classes	9am – 4pm	Wednesday 8 July 2026 Thursday 9 July 2026 Friday 10 July 2026 Monday 13 July 2026 Tuesday 14 July 2026 Wednesday 15 July 2026	ACU Campus
Online class	5.30 – 6.30pm	Wednesday 22 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?

Classes are held at our ACU Blacktown Campus, 22 Main St, Blacktown. Our campus is just a two-minute walk from Blacktown Station.

Students undertaking the exercise and sport science program will complete some classes at the Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology (BEST) Hub in Rooty Hill.

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 Sunday 8 June 2025 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.nsw@acu.edu.au.

Uni Step-Up study areas



Nursing, midwifery and paramedicine

A career in nursing or midwifery 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, 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 and midwifery. .</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 and midwifery.</p>



Business

A career in business opens doors to countless opportunities. With ACU, you will gain more than a standard business degree – you’ll learn how to lead and a drive positive and sustainable change in the world.

The units delivered in this Uni Step-Up program can lead to further study in the Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor Accounting and Finance and several dual degrees.

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
BUSZ105	FINANCIAL LITERACY	JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026

Without knowledge of ethical accounting and financial analysis skills, the business world would face significant risks. This unit provides a foundational understanding of accounting and financial management, helping you to appreciate the financial aspects of business decisions.

Topics will include:

- organisational structures and operations
- business strategy and planning
- measuring and reporting accounting information
- corporate social responsibility and ethical professional values
- corporate governance
- fundamental finance and risk
- cost behaviour analysis.

Financial Literacy is the first unit you will study in Uni Step-Up business. .

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
ITEZ100	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION	JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2027

Technological advances over recent decades have fundamentally changed the way we work and communicate. As technology continues to evolve rapidly, employees need to understand its impact on various aspects of life and work. This unit integrates Microsoft’s Excel Associate curriculum, offering students the opportunity to gain industry certification by completing the Microsoft Excel Associate exam as part of their assessments.

Topics will include:

- emerging technologies
- digital disruption
- cybersecurity, data privacy
- digital information and digital property
- ethical computing
- social and environmental impact of technology
- digital communication and productivity applications.

Information Technology in Action is the second unit you will study in Uni Step-Up business.



Exercise and Sports Science

Exercise science courses will equip you for a future developing healthy minds and bodies, and even health policies.

You can make a positive impact on individuals and communities, help people to achieve peak performance, optimal health and overall wellbeing. If you're passionate about sport, exercise and health this program is for you.

The units delivered this Uni Step-Up program can lead to further study in the Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science, Bachelor of Nutrition Science and several dual degrees.

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
EXSZ187	GROWTH, MOTOR DEVELOPMENT AND AGEING	JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026
<p>Understanding the effects of growth, motor development and ageing on the systems and motor output of the human body is central to all disciplines of exercise science practice. This foundational knowledge is essential for further study and the practical application of exercise science, and is critical in the attainment of exercise scientist accreditation.</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prenatal and postnatal growth • fundamentals of motor development and learning • timing and sequence of changes during adolescence • exercise and ageing. <p>Growth, Motor Development and Ageing is the first unit you will study in Uni Step-Up exercise and sports science.</p>

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
NUTZ101	INTRODUCTION TO NUTRITION	JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2027
<p>A solid understanding of nutrition is essential for practitioners in food, exercise and health-related fields. In this unit, students will explore key documents that inform dietary recommendations, including the Australian Dietary Guidelines and Nutrient Reference Values. They will examine macronutrients and how they are absorbed, gain an understanding of vitamins and minerals and how they work to maintain good health, and be introduced to dietary assessment methods and analysis.</p>		<p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physiology of digestion and absorption • energy metabolism, energy balance, and hydration • nutrient reference values and dietary guidelines for healthy eating • sports nutrition strategies • undernutrition and overnutrition in health and exercise • methods of dietary assessment and evaluation. <p>Introduction to Nutrition is the second unit you will study in Uni Step-Up exercise and sports science.</p>



Criminology

Take the first step on your path to a range of exciting career opportunities in cybersecurity, law enforcement, intelligence and investigation, and more.

A degree in criminology includes studies in forensic psychology, forensic science, cybercrime, border protection and biosecurity and, understanding violence and trauma.

The units delivered this Uni Step-Up program can lead to further study in the Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and the Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice/Bachelor of Laws.

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
LCRZ101	INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY	JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026
<p>To be effective in the field of criminology, you will need to know, understand and be able to apply the fundamental concepts and theories of criminology. The unit uses case studies to introduce you to these concepts and theories, and to paint a picture of crime and crime trends in Australia.</p> <p>The unit is not just an abstract theory unit, but a window into the minds and behaviours of criminals, and the ways these behaviours are discovered, predicted, portrayed, prevented and punished.</p> <p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fact and fiction in criminology and criminal justice • media framing of crime • psychological and social explanations of crime • institutional responses: criminal justice system and policy • First Nations justice. <p>Introduction to Criminology is the first unit you will study in Uni Step-Up criminology.</p>		

UNIT CODE	UNIT NAME	TIMING
LCRZ105	VIOLENT CRIME AND SOCIETY	JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2027
<p>In this unit students will begin by charting the historical development of violence as phenomena, and as a concept. The unit helps students identify what violence is, describe it, and then to consider it more analytically and theoretically in its different forms.</p> <p>Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is violence? • collective violence • young people and violence • gender and violence • intimate partner and family violence • responses to family violence • violence prevention. <p>Violent Crime and Society is the second unit you will study in Uni Step-Up criminology.</p>		

Disclaimer: These units are designed to explore fundamental concepts and theories in the field of criminology, aiming to equip students with a solid foundation for understanding criminal behaviour. Some of the topics covered may involve confronting content that discusses crime, criminal behaviour, and related subjects.

Frequently asked questions

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