

Environmental Scan

1. **Institution** Curtin University
2. **Contact Person (and contact details)** Jim Elliott, Associate Director, Student Transition
(j.elliott@curtin.edu.au)
3. **Name of Program/Initiative** UniPASS
 - 3.1 URL: http://unilife.curtin.edu.au/learning_support/unipass_program.htm
 - 3.2 Start Date/Duration: Began Semester 1 2011 on a small scale basis. Expanded in 2012 across all faculties involving 13 units in semester 1 and 14 units in semester 2.
4. **Brief outline of program** The UniPASS program at Curtin is a voluntary, peer-facilitated, cooperative, academic assistance program that targets historically difficult courses and assists in the transition and retention of first and/or second year students. The program is 100% funded from HEPPP sources in 2011 and 2012.
5. **Purpose/Aims** The program follows the standard PASS model. However, as a HEPPP funded initiative, it seeks to target discipline areas with a higher than average enrolment from low SES students. That is, the program indirectly supports low SES students by focusing on areas where they are likely to participate rather than by deliberately seeking to identify and target individuals from low SES backgrounds.
6. **Breadth of program** The list of participating units is available from the program web site. It is focused on undergraduate students, mostly in 1st year units. The 2nd year units in the program have been included as they contain many new students entering at 2nd year level with RPL.
7. **Category (please select all that apply and provide explanation where necessary)**

Category	Y?	Explanation
Policy		
Curriculum		
Program	Y	Standard PASS program conforming to program principles at described by University of Wollongong
Other (please specify)		

8. **Resources**
 - 8.1 Start up budget: 2011 - ~\$50,000
 - 8.2 Ongoing budget: 2012 - ~\$330,000

9. Outcomes

- 9.1 Uptake:** There has been variable participation across the differing units. In broad terms, between 15-25% of enrolled students choose to attend voluntary sessions. There is very strong interest from teaching academics to extend the program to additional areas, but resources have limited the program to a relatively small number of units.
- 9.2 Evaluation(s) conducted to date:** Internal evaluation reports have been circulated but are not publicly available.
- 9.3 Evidence of success: Findings indicate that** UniPASS attendees average ~12% higher grades and have a ~13% lower fail rate.
- 9.4 Evaluation(s) planned (and dates for this/these):** Evaluation reports are written at the end of each semester.
- 9.5 Major challenges:** We are especially interested in students at the borderline between passing and failure. UniPASS is certainly not publicised as a remedial program but it will have a substantial impact if we are able to encourage higher participation rates amongst students who (in the absence of this support) would probably have obtained grades in the 40-49 range. Such students would almost certainly pass the unit if they attended PASS. A second area of challenge is to develop the PASS delivery model to accommodate students enrolled entirely on-line.
- 9.6 Other (Please specify):**

10. Publications/Reports (including links to those publically available) -