

Foundation year health at Griffith University

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Foundation Year Health at Griffith University commenced in 2007 as a coordinated core first year program at the Gold Coast campus with an enrolment of 600 students across undergraduate degrees in Medical Science, Biomedical Science, Health Science, Oral Health, Pharmaceutical Science, Physiotherapy and Exercise Science. The key objectives in the introduction of Foundation Year Health are to better integrate teaching between disciplines and to facilitate seamless student transfer between degree programs in second year.

Core course elements are offered in Cells, Tissues and Regulation, Chemistry in Biological Systems, Anatomy and Physiology, Biophysics and Quantitative Biology and Cell Biology. The coherence of the Foundation Year Health program is emphasized by providing students with supporting materials, including lecture notes, laboratory guides and tutorial exercises on an integrated CD.

The overarching organizational structure of Foundation Year Health, including budgetary pooling, has enabled closer correlation in the sequencing of and approaches to content delivery between the different component course units and administrative elements. Experiences so far and future prospects of the Griffith model of Foundation Year Health will be discussed.