



Australian Curriculum Development Timelines

How is the Australian Curriculum being developed?

The Australian Curriculum is being developed progressively by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Development begins with a 'Shape paper' that describes the aims and rationale for the learning area, and how knowledge, understanding and skills will be developed. The Shape paper then informs the curriculum writing, which involves drafting of content descriptions and achievement standards.

Each phase of development involves comprehensive consultation, review and revision processes. Once approved by the ACARA Board, the curriculum is then presented to Australian education ministers for final endorsement prior to publication. ACARA's Curriculum Development Process paper (www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/development_of_the_australian_curriculum.html) describes the process that is being used to develop the Australian Curriculum.

Learning areas not yet included in the Australian Curriculum will continue to be the responsibility of state and territory education authorities.

What is the timeline for development of the Australian Curriculum?

The table below summarises the key development phases:

2008-2010	Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History. (Senior secondary curricula in these areas continue to be developed in 2011-2012)
2010-2012	Foundation to Year 12 Australian Curriculum for Geography, Languages and the Arts.
2011-2013	Foundation to Year 12 Australian Curriculum including a focus on health and physical education, technologies (information and communication technology and design and technology), economics and business, civics and citizenship

2008-2010

Initial consultation on the draft Foundation to Year 10 English, Mathematics, Science and History curriculum occurred between March and May 2010.

Feedback from consultation on the draft Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum was analysed and used to shape revisions and refinements. The revised curriculum was subject to further consultation with national panels of expert educators and with state and territory education authorities between July and October 2010. In December 2010, education ministers endorsed the content of this curriculum for online publication. In October 2011 the achievement standards were validated by education ministers.

Initial consultation on the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history took place between May and July 2010. The consultation focused on the curriculum content and the feedback has informed further development of the senior secondary curriculum content and achievement standards. Further consultation is planned for 2012.

2010-2012

Geography

The Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography paper was released for public consultation between June and August 2010. Analysis of the consultation feedback informed development of the final version of Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography paper, published in January 2011. Writing of, and consultation on, the geography curriculum is occurring during 2011.

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The Arts

The Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Arts paper was released for public consultation between October and December 2010. Analysis of the consultation feedback informed the development of the final version of Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Arts paper, planned for publication in August 2011. Writing of, and consultation on, the arts curriculum is occurring during 2011-2012.

Languages

Initial advice for languages was presented to a national forum of key stakeholders in October 2010. Public consultation occurred during January to April 2011 on a resulting draft Shape paper.

Consultation feedback informed the development of the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages paper, which is being finalised for publication late in 2011. Writing, consultation and publication of the languages curriculum is planned for 2011-2012.

2011-2013

Australian education ministers have agreed that subsequent development work will include a focus on health and physical education, technologies (information and communication technology, design and technology) economics and business, civics and citizenship.

http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/development_of_the_australian_curriculum.html