Guide to Interpreting Unit Codes – Higher Education

What is a Unit Code?
Along with a name, each unit of study at ACAP has a corresponding code. The code is the key identifier and conveys information about the unit, such as the discipline area, the level study and the School responsible for managing the unit.

Some units may have the same name, but different unit codes depending on the level of study that is being completed. For example Conflict Management has two associated unit codes, COUN1031 or COUN5021.

What does a Unit Code tell me?
The code is made up of 8 characters, 4x alpha followed by 4x numeric characters, representing information about the unit, as indicated in the example below:

This is the unit Counselling Skills 1 at Graduate Diploma level:

The first four letters are determined by the discipline area of the unit content. The main discipline areas currently in use at ACAP are:
- COUN – Counselling
- PSYC - Psychology
- BESC - Behavioural Sciences
- SOSC – Social Sciences
- BUSM – Management

The first number indicates level of study:
- 1= first year, introductory or first level undergraduate unit
- 2= second year or second level undergraduate unit
- 3= third year or third level undergraduate unit
- 4= fourth year or fourth level undergraduate unit or honours unit
- 5= graduate certificate / graduate diploma level unit
- 6= masters course-work level unit
- 7= masters research level unit
- 8= any other postgraduate unit (other than at doctoral level)
- 9= doctoral level unit

The last number indicates which School owns the unit:
- 1= School of Counselling
- 2= School of Psychological Sciences

The next two numbers are used by ACAP for internal purposes

What is my discipline area?
Courses are made up of units from various disciplines areas, although the main thread of the course may be in one particular discipline area.
Where can I find the code for my unit?
You will find the unit code next to the unit name in the Course Guides, on the timetable, in the online enrolment system within my.acap, on your academic transcript and statement of results and, going forward, in all correspondence from ACAP where a unit is mentioned.

Why is a Unit Code important?
Along with conveying important information, Unit Codes help to ensure that students are enrolled into the correct unit at the correct level of study.

Why do some codes have 9 characters?
You may notice that some codes have an additional character (W, X, Y, or Z) at the end. These are used for course requirements beyond the core curriculum, such as workshops and in some cases placement. For example, BESC2021Y is the code for Student Placement 1 in the Bachelor of Applied Social Science. The first 8 characters are the same as the unit Developing Professional Practice (BESC2021), indicating that Student Placement 1 has a relationship with Developing Professional Practice.

How will these new codes affect me, as a student?
As a student, you don’t need to do anything differently as a result of these new coding conventions. The units themselves are not changing, only the code. However, as ACAP will be using these new codes from Term 2, 2011 it’s a good idea to become familiar with them.