



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD)

Master of Dermatology (Coursework)

Course Outline

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This document is also available on the ACD website: www.dermcoll.edu.au

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Contact Details

For information regarding the Masters of Dermatology (MDerm) you should in the first instance contact the Director of Education Services (Jennifer Chowdhury – jennifer@dermcoll.edu.au or Claire Kennedy – claire@dermcoll.edu.au) at the College during normal business hours. Lecturer/tutor details are provided in the eLearning Portal

Aims of the Course

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is committed to providing students with a program of scholarship, advanced study and research, which enables them to make a significant contribution to knowledge and practice in their professional dermatological context. In doing so, they may also contribute to scholarship within the discipline of dermatology generally or in some specific area(s) of interest.

The ACD believes post-graduate students should be required to apply their research and study to problems, issues or other matters of substance which produce significant benefits in professional practice and to this end, the MDerm degree developed by the ACD is designed to encompass and provide opportunity for candidates to learn in environments that nurture the:

- scholarship of discovery;
- scholarship of integration;
- scholarship of application; and
- scholarship of teaching.

The Master of Dermatology (MDerm) is designed to provide an opportunity for students to learn in environments that nurture the scholarship of discovery; integration, application and teaching. It extends the depth of knowledge and understanding of key areas of the current specialist training program's curriculum through course work and research to equip students to apply this in making clinical decisions and making a positive contribution to advancing dermatological understanding.

It is aligned to the 4 year post graduate specialist medical training program conducted by the ACD. Successful students receive a recognised higher education qualification in the area of dermatology.

Student Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students will be able to:

- Critically assess and synthesise specialist medical dermatological knowledge of disease process, presentation and epidemiology to develop effective differential diagnoses.
- Critically analyse appropriate investigations to develop and justify well-reasoned diagnoses.
- Evaluate results of investigations and then develop and assess effective management plans appropriate to the diagnosis and the patient's context
- Critically apply specialist medical knowledge and diagnostic skills to develop best practice treatment options in procedural dermatology
- Synthesise anatomical understanding of the skin and underlying soft tissues with technical skills in the performance of dermatological procedures using aseptic technique
- Plan, execute and report on substantial research projects in specialty dermatology fields

Course Structure

The MDerm is comprised of 12 subjects divided into three groupings, Foundation, Advanced (compulsory and elective) and a Research project:

Foundation (Compulsory):

- Research Methods I (3 Credit Points)
- Research Methods II (3 Credit Points)
- Clinical Procedures (3 Credit Points)
- Clinical Sciences I (3 Credit Points)
 - Anatomy
 - Immunology A
 - Genetics and Molecular Biology
 - Metabolism, Haematology and Endocrinology
 - Pharmacology
- Clinical Sciences II (3 Credit Points)
 - Microanatomy and ultrastructure of the skin and appendages
 - Dermatopathology
 - Aging and Carcinogenesis
 - Infections
 - Photobiology, lasers and ionizing radiation
- Dermatology I (3 Credit Points)
 - General principles of dermatology
 - Procedural dermatology
 - Dermoscopy
- Dermatology II (3 Credit Points)
 - Eczema and Psoriasis
 - Acne and Rosacea
 - Skin cancer, melanoma, moles and other lesions
 - Dermatological emergencies

Advanced (Compulsory):

- Research Methods III (3 Credit Points)
- Dermatology III (3 Credit Points)
 - Skin signs of systemic disease
 - Skin diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - Advanced clinical dermatology

Advanced (Electives):

Electives A: (Select **two** 4 Credit Point topics)

- Professionalism and practice in dermatology (4 Credit Points each)
 - Intercultural competency for medical specialists
 - Clinical Ethics
 - Teaching and learning in a medical context
 - Mentoring in the workplace

Elective B: (Select one 4 Credit point topic)

- **Advanced Dermatology Subspecialties** (4 Credit Points each)
 - Advanced procedural dermatology/Mohs Micrographic surgery
 - Cosmetic dermatology
 - Contact dermatitis and patch testing
 - Phlebology and Microsclerotherapy

Research Project:

- **Minor Thesis of 10,000 to 15,000 words (max)** (9 Credit Points)

Further details on each of the subjects in this course, including areas of the curriculum covered in each, expected learning outcomes, teaching and assessment information are available on the website.

Course schedule

The table below represents a suggested typical course schedule for a full-time student completing the ACD MDerm program. The distribution and actual sequence within a semester may vary as required based on enrolments however, full time students will not at any stage be required to complete more than 15 credit points in any one semester except by their own choosing, availability of teaching staff/resources and approval case by case approval by the Academic Standards Committee.

Subject	Year(s)	Semester(s)	Credit points
Clinical Sciences I	1	1	3
Clinical Sciences II	1	1	3
Dermatology I	1	1	3
Dermatology II	1	1	3
Clinical Procedures	1	2	3
Research Methods I	1	2	3
Research Methods II	1	2	3
Research Methods III	1	2	3
Dermatology III	2	1	3
Elective 1A	2	1	4
Research Project	1/2	1 and 2	9
Elective 2A	2	2	4
Elective B	2	2	4
			48

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Teaching in the MDerm and its component subjects may take the form of:

- Independent/Self Directed Problem Based Learning
- Virtual teaching sessions (lecture/tutorial) using online synchronous webinar technologies
- Online open discussion spaces (synchronous/asynchronous)
- Work-place based tutorial and combined assessment of clinical knowledge and skills
- Independent/self-directed study/problem based exploration

Assessment Strategies

The form and weighting of assessments may vary from subject to subject and from time to time. In general, the assessment of performance in both the component subjects and the MDerm as a whole is as follows:

The MDerm program will consist of a:

- Coursework component of not less than 60% weighting and
- Research component of not more than 40% weighting.

The component subjects shall have the following internal assessment weightings

- Online, invigilated MCQ examinations (not less than 20% and not more than 50%)
 - Includes but not limited to: theoretical concepts; scenario based problem solving
- Written submissions (not less than 50% and not more than 80%)
 - Includes but not limited to:
 - Analysis of cases
 - Investigation of research innovation;
 - Subject targeted essay,
 - Thesis
- Work-place based (WpBA)* Assessments: Note: These are competency based assessments. Students are only required to reach competency.
- Portfolio of Work-place based (WpBA) Assessment comprising but not limited to:
 - demonstration of application of knowledge and skills in a clinical setting
- Contribution to F2F, virtual classroom and/or online discussion sessions (not more than 10%)

The actual assessment process adopted in each component subject is detailed in the Subject Outline for each subject. Dates for submission of assessments and conduct of exams and their locations will be detailed at the time of commencement of each semester.

Assessment Task Completion/Submission

The schedule for completion/submission of assessment tasks will be provided to students at the commencement of the semester in which the subject is offered. Where appropriate, the completion/submission of assessment tasks will be via the 'protected' ACD e-Learning portal.

Credit Points

To complete the MDerm a total of 48 credit points must be attained. The MDerm will normally be completed in 2 years/4 semesters (full time) and 4 years/8 semesters (part time).

Each semester requires the successful completion of subjects totaling a minimum of 12 credit points (F/T) or 6 credit points (P/T).

***Note: The research project may be extended to facilitate the completion of more complex research projects and/or revisions of projects where necessary.**

Private Study Load

For each component subject of the MDerm, students are expected to complete a minimum of 2.5 to 3 hours of individual study per week for each credit point allotted for the subject.

This time is independent of the time spent during teaching sessions.

For example, if the subject carries a credit point load of 3 points, students should spend 7.5 to 9 hours per week on individual study. This includes content, reading and preparation of assessment tasks and total some 150 – 180 hours over the semester.

Attendance

Students are expected to maintain a 90% attendance rate for all teaching sessions (F2F and Virtual). Other teaching/tutorial activities requirements may vary from time to time. Attendance is monitored by the State Head of Training (for face to face) and via online records/access for virtual content.

Expected Resources for students

A major source of content based material and supporting resources are provided for students, through access to the College e-Learning portal via their own private and protected accounts. Other resources, specific to the individual subjects are listed in the Subject Outlines for each subject. They include but are not limited to:

- journal papers centred on topics pertinent to the subject,
- research reports and data,
- case studies specific to the subject,
- online seminars and.
- chapter readings/study from prescribed texts

Other information useful information

Students are expected to participate in the MDerm program in alignment with the policies and procedures that govern the program and the operation of the College as an Institute of Higher Education (IHE) and as such should be familiar with the full list of such policies and procedures available on the College website.

Examples of the key policies/policies include:

- Academic Awards-Framework Policy
- Academic misconduct
- Academic Honesty and plagiarism
- Complaints and grievances
- Graduate attributes
- Reasonable Adjustment
- Special consideration

Students may from time to time, find themselves in situations where they need to seek specialized advice or support. Converge International is the appointed Employee Assist Program provider for the College. This service is available to all Fellows and trainees.

Services offered include confidential and private workplace and personal support, counselling, crisis management and referrals. Converge counsellors are qualified professionals experienced in the delivery of mental health and psychological support.

Converge services are available online and on the phone 24 hours a day. Visit [Converge International](#) or call 1300 687 327 to make an appointment with a Converge counsellor.

Appendix 1: WpBA Assessment Schedule

Prescribed Work-place based Assessments (WpBA)

These assessments are Competency Based Assessments. Students may be required to re-do any of the agreed assessments until deemed competency.

Case-based Discussions (CbD):

- Should be specific to subjects being studied in year/semester.
- Two should be completed per semester

Dermatology Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Derm-CEX):

- Select, based on subjects being studied, four per year; first year must include an appropriate, satisfactory full skin examination in at least one Derm-CEX.

1. Eczema	14. Disorders of sweat glands
2. Psoriasis	15. Injectables
3. Exanthems	16. Anogenital diseases
4. Drug eruptions and reactions	17. Disorders of physical agents
5. Urticaria, erythema, purpuras and vasculitis	18. Sclerotherapy
6. Benign skin neoplasms	19. Mohs
7. Pre-malignant and malignant skin neoplasms	20. Disorders of subcutaneous fat
8. Infections	21. Vascular system disorders
9. Patch Testing	22. Old age
10. Compression Therapy	23. Paediatric dermatology
11. Wet Dressings	24. Compression therapy
12. Disorders of hair	25. Lasers
13. Disorders of nails	26. Non-laser treatments (eg., chemical Peels)

Clinical Procedural Dermatology Assessment (ProDA)

Year 1: Four ProDAs	Year 2: Four ProDAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy – punch • Biopsy – shave/saucerisation • Curettage – malignant lesion • Cryotherapy – benign lesion • Wet dressing • Electrosurgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excisional surgery – fusiform ellipse – simple closure • Cryotherapy – malignant lesion • Intralesional steroid injection • Photodynamic therapy • Mohs • Patch Testing • Sclerotherapy (injection technique)

Revisions/Version Control

Version 1: 2014 Director of Educational Development and Innovation: Submitted to TEQSA for accreditation

Version 1.2: 2015 -Minor revisions (Accredited by TEQSA May 2016)

Version 1.9: 2019 Update of contact details/minor course listings revisions Director of Educational Services (O'Neill) / IHE Consultant (Corderoy)

Version 2.0: 2023 Review and update of contact details/minor course details- IHE Consultant (Corderoy)