



## St Leo's College Academic & Studies Policy

### St Leo's Academic Mission

Enlightened by the life of Christ the men of St Leo's are supported and challenged to grow the 'whole man' and thereby the College community so that together they can better take their place in the world and actively serve its brighter future.

At the heart of St Leo's mission is a commitment to providing a supportive academic environment that enables St Leo's men to achieve to their fullest academic potential and challenges them to strive to be the best they can be.

This primary purpose, supporting young men to achieve their very best academic results en route to professional careers, informs St Leo's daily decisions and strategic direction.

### Background

St Leo's came into being to provide matriculating students from St Joseph's Nudgee College with a place to reside while they undertook their UQ undergraduate studies. In 1915, there was not a Catholic college in Queensland, although there was an Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and non-denominational college – St John's, Emmanuel, King's and Women's Colleges, respectively.

In 1917, the College's inaugural year of affiliation with The University of Queensland, James Baxter won St Leo's first of many Rhodes Scholarships. In 2013 and then again in 2014, St Leo's residents were named UQ Graduates of the Year, that Award recognising the very best UQ graduate in a year.

The College has a history of celebrating academic success and has had and continues to have graduates who go on and enjoy significant professional careers in their chosen fields. Leonians have represented in our national and state parliaments, been at the forefront of medical research, achieved at the pinnacle of our national and state public services and in the judiciary and careers ranging from education, dentistry, commerce, engineering, nursing, social work, architecture, law to medicine.

### Academic Environment

An integral part of St Leo's whole person outlook is the College's tutorial program. This program is tailored to meet the needs of St Leo's residents, but is also supplemented with offerings from our colleague colleges in Duchesne, St John's and Women's Colleges. Without doubt, the learning support and academic strategies students experience in College tutorials assist them in their university exam and assignment submissions.

The College goes to some trouble to ensure newly arrived students make good progress in their first year of university study. To ensure good progress, the Academic Committee has identified further means of focusing the energies of the community on more effectively and efficiently achieving academic excellence.

From Weeks 5-13 inclusive, Mondays and Tuesdays are Study Days. On these days, there may be no College or Students' Club events or distractions in the corridors and Blocks that in any way impact College tranquility. From Wednesdays to Sundays there may be College, Students' Club, ICC and other scheduled events, but these events may not disturb the tranquility in St Leo's Blocks and corridors.

St Leo's commitment to its residents' academic success is holistic and is informed by setting aside days of the week for particular academic purposes while recognising that a balanced and whole life requires young men to have access to the Arts, sport, social and recreational leisure and social entertainment.

At Family Day, the day that families first bring their sons to St Leo's, as part of their welcome to the College, every first year resident is surveyed with respect to his academic aspirations and his vision for his progression through his degree studies to full professional employment.

At Easter each year, First Year residents' parents are telephoned by the Deputy Head of College or the Head of College to inquire after their sons' experience and the parents' perception how their sons have settled into the routines of College and their studies.

Immediately at the commencement of semester 2, First Year residents meet with the Deputy Head of College, Senior Tutor or Academic Dean of Students to reflect upon their respective performances in semester 1 and to chart a path to either ongoing personal excellence or improvement.

### **Change of Academic Program**

If a Resident is considering changing his program of study, he is encouraged to speak with the Deputy Head of College.

If the Resident changes his program of study, the Deputy Head of College must be notified immediately this change occurs.

It is a condition of a place at St Leo's that a Resident will study four courses per semester, except where a reduction has been negotiated with the Deputy Head of College.

### **Academic Progression**

All Residents are required to have read and understood St Leo's Academic Progression Practice and Procedures. Compliance with this document, noted further below is a Condition of Residence.

### **Academic Committee**

The Academic Committee meets once per semester. It comprises the Students' Club Vice President, the Senior RA, the Head of College, the Deputy Head of College and the Dean of Students.

### **The St Leo's College Students' Club & Academics**

St Leo's works in close collegial partnership with the St Leo's College Students' Club. The College supports the Club in almost all of its endeavours because these endeavours progress, indeed champion the College's mission.

First and foremost the Students' Club supports the College in achieving the academic vision set out above, and this academic priority is embedded in the Students' Club's Constitution.

The St Leo's College Students' Club Vice President is specifically charged with creating and sustaining the environment which permits the academic excellence to which St Leo's aspires. The Vice President is supported in his work through the College conferring an en suited room at shared en suite room rates. Throughout, the Vice-President is supported by the Dean of Students.

Amongst other initiatives and commitment to a College of academic excellence, the Vice President:

1. Chairs one Academic Committee Meeting per semester;
2. Assists in ensuring the Monday and Tuesday rule;
3. Facilitates a CV writing workshop, assignment writing workshop and Careers' Night, each year;
4. Encourages and facilitates resident students turning 4s into 5s and 5s into 6s and 6s into 7s;
5. Collaborates with the College Academic Committee and the Students' Club President to deliver an academic environment where the College's social and sporting and cultural life mutually co-exist to support the College's holistic/whole man development.
6. Focuses upon the processes students need to understand to apply for jobs.

### **St Leo's Academic Objectives**

Through this Policy, the College's Academic Committee delivers on St Leo's commitment to the whole man. The Committee aspires to an outcome where every Leonian's time at the College enriches, nourishes and improves his personal formative, academic and professional outcomes.

### **End of St Leo's College Academic & Studies Policy**

| <b>Responsible Officer</b> | <b>Council Approval Date</b> | <b>Review Date</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Head of College            | May 2024                     | May 2026           |