

Accreditation of Architecture Programs in Australia

Accreditation Resource

37 NSCA Performance Criteria that must be demonstrated

Primary Reference: [National Standard of Competency for Architects](#).

The NSCA **Performance Criteria** are evaluative statements which specify the performance required to demonstrate a **standard of competency**. Performance Criteria are grouped into nine **Elements** describing major practice areas, with the nine Elements grouped into four broad **Units of Competency**. A description of the four Units of Competency [can be read here](#). The five **Knowledge Domains** are the core areas of knowledge that underpin architectural practice, and **are relevant in demonstrating competency across all performance criteria** – further information on the Knowledge Domains [can be ready here](#).

Colour coding: Required Level of Student Achievement for each Performance Criterion	Knowledge Acquisition	K
	Skills Acquisition	S
	Application Of Knowledge And Skills In [Proxies For ¹] Architectural Practice	A

PC No	Performance Criterion (evaluative statement)	K, S, or A
UNIT 1 - DESIGN		
Element 1: Design: Project Briefing		
1.1	Preparation & endorsement of an agreement between client and Architect. This agreement will clearly communicate terms, services to be provided, and fees appropriate for the scale and type of project.	K
1.2	Establishment, analysis and evaluation of client project requirements and objectives.	S
1.4	Identification of factors that may impact on client project requirements and objectives.	S
1.5	Knowledge of different procurement processes available and evaluation of the impact these have on the project.	K
1.7	Preparation of project brief for approval by client and relevant stakeholders.	S
Element 2: Design: Pre-Design		
2.1	Identification, analysis and integration of information relevant to siting of project.	A
2.2	Application of principles controlling planning, development and design for the project site.	A
2.3	Evaluation of factors influencing and impacting on project cost.	K
Element 3: Design: Conceptual Design		
3.1	Design response integrates the objectives of brief, user intent and built purpose.	S
3.2	Application of creative imagination, aesthetic judgement, and critical evaluation in formulating design options	A
3.3	Design response incorporates assessment of the physical location and relevant wider regional, contextual and environmental issues.	A
3.4	Design response incorporates assessment of relevant legislation, codes and industry standards.	S
3.5	Exploration and application of ordering, sequencing and modelling of three-dimensional form and spatial content.	A
3.6	Assessment of the economic impact on the project of design strategies and options.	K
3.7	Assessment and integration of construction systems and materials consistent with project brief.	S
3.8	Application of manual and digital graphic techniques and modelling to describe three-dimensional form and spatial relationships.	A

¹ In University study, this should occur through authentic project-based tasks that provide a practice-oriented experience in the educational environment

PC No	Performance Criterion (evaluative statement)	K, S, or A
Element 4: Design: Schematic Design		
4.1	Evaluation of design options in relation to project requirements.	S
4.2	Evaluation of design options against values of physical, environmental and cultural contexts.	A
4.3	Application of creative imagination aesthetic judgement to produce coherent design	A
4.4	Inclusion of expertise of relevant specialists and consultants in developing the project design.	K
4.5	Investigation and integration of appropriate structural, construction, service and transport systems in the project design.	A
4.6	Investigation and integration of appropriate material selection for the project design.	A
4.7	Coordination and integration of appropriate environmental systems, including for thermal comfort, lighting and acoustics.	A
UNIT 2 - DOCUMENTATION		
Element 5: Documentation: Detailed Design		
5.1	Application of creative imagination and aesthetic judgement in producing a resolved project design in regard to site planning, physical composition and spatial planning as appropriate to the project brief.	A
5.2	Resolution of project design addressing all building occupancy and functional aspects including spatial requirements and relationships and circulation aspects.	A
5.3	Evaluation and integration of regulatory requirements.	S
5.5	Integration of materials and components based upon an understanding of their physical properties.	S
Element 6: Documentation: Documentation		
6.2	Continuing coordination and integration of information and project material from relevant consultants, specialists and suppliers.	K
6.4	Timely completion and communication of accurate and comprehensible documents that will include, as required, drawings, models, specifications, schedules and other relevant modes of information.	S
6.5	Nomination of quality and performance standards with regard to selected materials, finishes, fittings components and systems.	K
UNIT 3 – PROJECT DELIVERY		
Element 7: Project Delivery: Procurement		
7.1	Identification of available procurement methods and assessment of relevance and application to the project.	K
Element 8: Project Delivery: Construction Stage		
8.1	Selection process for appropriately qualified contractors is in accordance with procurement method and project contract.	K
UNIT 4 – PRACTICE MANAGEMENT		
Element 9: Practice Management		
9.1	Knowledge and implementation of appropriate practice model to ensure efficient, effective and ethical professional service.	K
9.5	Knowledge of the legal and ethical obligations relating to copyright and intellectual property requirements.	K
9.6	Knowledge and application of professional ethics and ethical practices in respect to practice management and provision of professional service.	K
9.7	Knowledge of legal and regulatory requirements and obligations in regard to architectural practice, practice management and registration as an architect.	K
9.8	Clear and consistent communication with client and relevant stakeholders throughout project.	K