“...her extensive knowledge on the subject and ability to relate topics to current events and most of all her wonderful sense of humour which kept us all entertained.” (student)

Mary Toohey, Senior Lecturer
School of Accounting & Law

OJD110 Introduction to the Australian Legal System and legal methods

The JD program has many students who are enrolled through OUA, and therefore study off campus. Off campus study can be an alienating experience for the student and a frustrating experience for the instructor, therefore staff involved in teaching these students need to develop techniques to ensure that these students have a quality educational experience.

Off campus students T & L needs are unique, listening to them and identifying their needs is a more complex task than the regular class contact. Despite this one mustn’t cause them to be dependent on you, independent thinking and learning are skills that they require if they are to progress satisfactorily in their studies.

Engaging off campus students in discussion is absolutely imperative, the instructor learns their abilities not by seeing them in the class room but by what they have to say on discussion boards, telephone calls and maybe the occasional visit to campus, what the instructor learns by the engagement should be reflected in the adaption of on line discussions and possibility course adaptations in future semesters if the issues identified would seem to be of a permanent nature. Encouraging them to research takes planning and flexibility and off campus materials are generally more comprehensive than that available to the on campus students. Off campus students generally believe that all materials required should be in the off campus materials and prescribed texts. This poses problems in a post graduate program and / or is required to undertake research as part of their assessment or as part of the academic development. On line research skills session are possible however the task often overwhelm the student, frequent contact via electronic means and ‘small steps’ are imperative.

Some feedback from students on the course:
- “Excellent study materials and straightforward and logical approach”
- “Good Feedback and interaction from the lecturer”
- “Well prepared notes by the lecturer”
- “The expectations were extremely clear”
- “The course work was current and covered a broad spectrum of topics”
- “The overall learning experience, being able to connect and learn with others in the comfort of my own home”