

**Seminar:** Acquiring and applying a shared meaning of quantitative skills across core first year science units

**Speaker:** Dr Jacqueline Reid, University of New England

**Time:** 3 pm

**Date:** Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Place:** Room 310 (Ace Room), Physical Sciences 2 building, La Trobe University Bundoora

The OLT Extension Grant Project, *Acquiring and applying a shared meaning of quantitative skills across core first year science units with a focus on distance education*, was designed to map the quantitative skills (QS) across the first-year (FY) science units at a regional university, while addressing issues that may impact on students' development of quantitative skills when studying at a distance.

This project extended the work of Mathews et al. (2013) in a number of ways. The project resulted in a detailed mapping process of the QS in the FY STEM curriculum that:

- identified which QS were taught, practiced and assessed;
- indicated which week of each trimester these activities took place;
- described and identified the level of attainment;
- allowed consideration of issues relating to the development of QS for different student cohorts (Trimester 1 v Trimester 2 intake; full-time v part-time enrolment; on-campus v off-campus modes of study).

In this seminar, Jackie will outline the development of the project and discuss the outcomes, which included detailed mapping tools and QS maps, changes to the FY STEM curriculum, revision of the FY mathematics curriculum and input into course reviews, as well as enhanced interdisciplinary communication and collaboration among academics from different disciplines and schools.

**Reference:**

Mathews, K. E., Simbag, V., Rylands, L., Coady C., Belward, S. & Adams, P. (2013). Quantitative skills (QS) in science: curriculum models for the future. Sydney: Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.

Jackie Reid is a lecturer in Statistics and the First Year Learning and Teaching Coordinator (Science and Technology) at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Her research interests include statistics education and STEM education more broadly, with a focus on the development of students' quantitative skills in the STEM curriculum.