



**Course Outline**

**Advanced Certificate**

**in**

**Skin Aesthetics**

**2026**

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## Introduction

### Aims of the Course

This fully online, self-paced/directed course will provide opportunities for participants to investigate and extend their existing knowledge of aspects of skin aesthetics.

Operating as a sub-branch of ACD, a fully accredited (Australian Medical Council) professional Medical College, Dermatology Australasia is committed to providing participating students with a program of study centred on the most up-to-date approaches, scholarship, and research in the field of study.

The broad aim of this course is to empower the participant to investigate and extend their existing knowledge and skill in key aspects of practice in the domain of skin aesthetics, including: basic cutaneous anatomy; conducting effective consultations; carrying out surface active procedures associated with skin health management and the basics of the use of neurotoxins and tissue augmentation in general practice.

### Broad Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course, students should exit with:

- enhanced theoretically based foundational knowledge and skills in the areas of basic cutaneous anatomy, the structure of the skin and agents that affect its aging, and the concepts of beauty and appearance.
- an ability to conduct and obtain from patient consultations appropriate historic and clinical information to facilitate effective treatment planning and management.
- enhanced theoretically based foundational knowledge and skills associated with the selection, application and risks aligned with relevant surface-active procedures and an ability to make appropriate judgements on their application to their patients.
- enhanced theoretically based foundational knowledge and skills in the areas of the anesthesia, tissue augmentation techniques, the use and role of neurotoxins and other injectables to support patient outcomes.

**Note:** Each of the constituent modules in this course has content specific learning outcomes. These are listed within the individual Module Outline provided for participants via a link within the online module overview.

## Course Details

The **Advanced Certificate in Skin Aesthetics** should **normally be completed in a maximum timeframe of 50 hours (Student Workload)**. This includes the completion of online the content tutorials, (approximately maximum 35 hours), associated asynchronous virtual tutorials and associated 'Exit' quizzes (approximately maximum 15 hours).

In addition to the above '**expected minimum student workload**', it is recommended that students spend additional time to explore the additional resource materials provided in the various modules including the suggested readings/journal articles and other web-based resources. To complete the course, students must complete all components of each module that are associated with the '**expected student workload**' (See **Course Summary**).

A student who successfully completes the requirements for the course will be awarded the **Advanced Certificate in Skin Aesthetics** issued jointly by the Australasian College of Dermatologists and Dermatology Australasia.

**NOTE:** This Advanced Certificate does not accredit the holder to represent themselves as specialist in any of the domains of dermatological practice.

## Summary of the Course

This course is designed to be completed fully online in a self-paced/directed manner.

To successfully complete this course students must:

- Complete the **4 component modules** and all associated activities.
- Successfully complete the summative assessment tasks associated with each module comprising:
  - An MCQ based '**Exit**' quiz for each module (**Pass mark 65%**)

## Learning Support

A number of resources are provided to help students engage and learn in this course including:

- Pre course 'Self-reflection' exercise.
- Self-paced/directed content specific online modules, each consisting of a number of topic specific tutorials.
- Module/tutorial specific virtual seminars/lectures (pre-recorded webinars) where appropriate, designed to complement the module/tutorial content and support learning.
- Module/tutorial 'Check your understanding' quizzes.
- Module/tutorial specific suggested extension readings, journal article and resources links, where appropriate.
- Module specific 'Discussion spaces' to allow you to interact with fellow students.

## Course Structure

As outlined in the 'Course Summary', the course is comprised of 4 component modules which cover topics aligned with the aspects of skin aesthetics which may be encountered in day-to-day general practice.

The content within each unit has been split into specific tutorials to facilitate a more effective coverage of the specific complaints, treatments and on-going management approaches.

The **4 fully-online**, self-paced/directed modules are:

- An Introduction to Skin Aesthetics: (5 topic specific tutorials)
- The Patient Consultation: (6 topic specific tutorials)
- Surface Active Procedures (SAP) (9 topic specific tutorials)
- Injectables: Neurotoxins – Fillers (Tissue Augmentation): (5 topic specific tutorials)

## **Module 1: Introduction to Skin Aesthetics**

### **Tutorials:**

- 1: Introduction to Basic Cutaneous Anatomy
- 2 – 4: Aging and Photoaging
- 5: Concepts of Beauty and Appearance

### **Learning outcomes:**

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of cutaneous anatomy and function.
- Demonstrate and understanding of facial anatomy and align it with safe practice.
- Demonstrate the development of an in-depth understanding of healthy and ageing skin.
- Differentiate extrinsic and intrinsic changes in skin of all types.
- Utilise the concepts of beauty and appearance in developing a comprehensive understanding of the aesthetic aspects of the anatomy of the face.
- Demonstrate an ability to synthesise an in-depth knowledge of cutaneous anatomy and the concepts of beauty and appearance to evaluate the ageing face.
- Demonstrate an in depth understanding of sexual dimorphism.
- Evaluate the impact of sexual dimorphism on individuals, their families and the practice of Cosmetic Dermatology.

## Module 2: The Consultation

### Tutorials:

- 1: The Patient Consultation
- 2: Facial Assessment
- 3: Patient Photography
- 4: Variations in Individuals
- 5: Treatment Planning
- 6: Risk Management

### Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of patient assessment considerations including medical and family history, personality, gender and generational issues, environmental considerations, individual variations and recording and storing patient data (photography).
- Demonstrate the ability to develop a comprehensive understanding/assessment of the 'cosmetic patient'.
- Demonstrate an ability to apply the information gained from a cosmetic patient's assessment to cosmetic treatment options, planning and risk assessment/management
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of what constitutes a comprehensive and appropriate treatment plan and the associated risk.
- Apply an ethical framework to cosmetic dermatological practice including critical reflection on personal values and behaviours with reference to appropriate guidelines

## Module 3: Surface Active Procedures

### Tutorials:

- 1: Lasers, Lights and RF Devices
- 2: Special Considerations for Lasers, Lights and RF Devices
- 3: Cosmetic Treatments for Specific Conditions Part 1
- 4: Cosmetic Treatments for Specific Conditions Part 2
- 5: Other Non-Laser Surface Active Procedures Part 1
- 6: Other Non-Laser Surface Active Procedures Part 2
- 7: Skin Care Part 1
- 8: Skin Care Part 2 – Presentation
- 9: PDT – An overview

### Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the physics and safety of surface- active procedures (SAPs).
- Demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and application of techniques involved in skin rejuvenation, utilizing theories and concepts to analyse current practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop treatment plans based on current practice and patient history and presentation.
- Compare and contrast surface active treatment options to develop surface active cosmetic treatment plans for specific skin conditions.
- Compare and contrast non-laser SAPs including photo-rejuvenation using visible and infrared light.
- Demonstrate an ability to apply a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of skin care products and integrate their use within cosmetic treatment plans.
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the mechanisms of action, safety and efficacy profiles and common and serious side effects and contraindications of treatment with laser devices.

## Module 4: Injectables (Neurotoxins and Fillers- Tissue Augmentation)

### Tutorials:

- 1: Anaesthesia
- 2: Neurotoxins - Basics
- 3: Neurotoxins - Advanced
- 4: Tissue Augmentation – Fillers - Basics
- 5: Tissue Augmentation – Fillers - Advanced

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Recount anaesthetic considerations supporting the use of injectables in dermatological practice.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and role of Botulinum toxin in treating cosmetic conditions.
- Demonstrate an ability to assess the characteristics and role of dermal fillers in treating cosmetic conditions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the processes involved in formulating injectable treatment plans for the aesthetic patient utilizing a comprehensive understanding of the products to be used and the risks associated with their use.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms, and the ability to assess, the risks, complications and aesthetic ‘correctional’ procedures associated with the use of neurotoxins. (Advanced).
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms, indications and complications associated with the use of non-HA fillers. (Advanced).
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the risks and complications associated with long term use of permanent fillers and the relate these to the indications of adjunctive aesthetic procedures such as peels and dermabrasion. (Advanced)

## Teaching Strategies

As a fully online, self-paced/directed course, there is no formal F2F teaching however, 'Learning and Teaching' in each module is, where appropriate, supported/enhanced by:

- content/topic specific online modules,
- pre-recorded presentations/tutorials,
- self-diagnostic tutorial specific quizzes,
- targeted/recommended chapters/journals and websites.

Questions associated with the delivery or technical operation of this module should be directed to Dermatology Australasia. [enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au)

## Assessment Strategies

Assessment of the student outcomes from each module will involve:

- Non-compulsory, self-diagnostic MCQ quizzes to provide formative feedback to students associated with each of the tutorial components within each module.
- An online auto-marked exit examination consisting of:
  - a combination of MCQ and T/F format questions,
  - timed,
  - two attempts,
  - minimum passing standard 65%.

## Assessment Overview

Module Learning Materials	Assessment Task(s)	Time	Weighting
<b>1. Introduction to Skin Aesthetics:</b> 5 Online self-paced content tutorials. Pre-recorded seminars/lectures where appropriate.	5 self-diagnostic quizzes. <b>NA*</b> 5 Summative/time limited 'Exit' quizzes	During and at end of relevant tutorial	Contribute to an overall course mark of >65%
<b>2. The Patient Consultation:</b> 6 Online self-paced content tutorials. Pre-recorded seminars/lectures where appropriate.	6 self-diagnostic quizzes. <b>NA*</b> 6 Summative/time limited 'Exit' quizzes	During and at end of relevant tutorial	Contribute to an overall course mark of >65%
<b>3. Surface Active Procedures:</b> 9 Online self-paced content tutorials. Pre-recorded seminars/lectures where appropriate.	9 self-diagnostic quizzes. <b>NA*</b> 9 Summative/time limited 'Exit' quizzes	During and at end of relevant tutorial	Contribute to an overall course mark of >65%
<b>4. Injectables – Neurotoxins and Fillers:</b> 5 Online self-paced content tutorials. Pre-recorded seminars/lectures where appropriate.	5 self-diagnostic quizzes. <b>NA*</b> 5 Summative/time limited 'Exit' quizzes	During and at end of relevant tutorial	Contribute to an overall course mark of >65%

**NA\*** These self-diagnostic quizzes are designed to provide students with formative data on their learning/understanding. They are not compulsory nor are scores stored/or a component of a student's overall assessment.

## **Student Scheduled Contact Load**

This course is fully online and does not involve any 'protected student' F2F teaching time.

## **Course duration and Student Private Study Load**

The **Advanced Certificate in Skin Aesthetics** should normally be completed in a timeframe of **35 hours (Student Workload)** on a part-time student basis. This does not include the completion of the online tutorials and associated 'Exit' quizzes and the individualized activities noted below.

Students may find the need to spend additional time on their individual needs/desire to explore further materials including the suggested readings/journal articles and web-based resources.

## Enrolment

Enrolment is open only to persons who meet the 'minimum' criteria set out below:

- A bachelor degree in medicine or its equivalent.
- Registration to practice medicine within Australia.

Expressions of interest in enrolling must be lodged with Dermatology Australasia administration personnel prior to the commencement of the current trimester. [enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au)

## Attendance

As this course is a fully online self-paced/directed course, there is no formal physical attendance requirement.

## Course Contact Details

For information regarding the **Advanced Certificate in Skin Aesthetics**, contact any of those persons listed below:

Position	Name	Email	Availability; times and location	Contact
Course Coordinator: Director of External Education- Dermatology Australasia	Magda Dickerson	magda@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au	Via email	email
Course Support	Enquiries	<a href="mailto:enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au">enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au</a>		Web
Course Administrator	Magda Dickerson	Magda@dermcoll.edu.au	Via email	email
Student Contact	Sonia Kalsi	sonia@dermcoll.edu.au	<a href="mailto:enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au">enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au</a>	email

## Graduate Attributes

Dermatology Australasia (DA) aims to produce graduates from all its courses and programs of study with the following overarching attributes:

- Scholars capable of independent and collaborative enquiry, rigorous in their analysis, critique and reflection, and able to innovate by applying their knowledge and skills to the solution of novel as well as routine problems;
- Global citizens who are culturally adept and capable of respecting diversity and acting in a socially just and responsible way.

## Personal

- Apply analytical and critical thinking leading to creative problem solving.
- Commit to ethical practice and social responsibility.
- Engage in lifelong learning and reflective practice.

## Applied Knowledge and Skills

- Utilise relevant and current information for quality practice and decision making in their activities as a specialist dermatologist.
- Strategically plan and manage resources in the treatment and ongoing management of patients.
- Manage quality in their practice as independent decision makers.
- Manage risk associated with their practice as independent specialist.

## Interactional Skills

- Communicate across a range of disciplines and communities
- Work within and contribute to local and international processes in the practice and ongoing development in the field of dermatology.
- Enhance collaborative and multidisciplinary teamwork.

## Academic honesty and plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presenting the work of another person as your own, without appropriate acknowledgement. The following is a list of some examples which may apply depending on the structure/format of the course

- Having another person complete an examination for you, whether at a written or online/remote examination
- Utilising texts and other formats of pertinent content to complete an examination unless specified (i.e., and open book examination)
- Copying of another student's or author's exact sentences, paragraphs, or creative products (i.e., drawings, graphics) without clearly indicating that one is making a direct quote and/or without giving a reference (includes copying from books, articles, thesis, unpublished works, working papers, seminar and conference papers, internal reports, Internet, lecture notes or tapes);
- Trying to put other's ideas into one's own words by changing only a few words without clearly referencing the original source;
- Writing or presenting one's own version of another person's work (including words, music, computer source code, creative or visual artefacts, designs or ideas) or research data without clearly referencing;
- Submitting work which has been written by another person;
- Copying and submitting another person's work as if it were one's own;
- Copying computer files in whole or in part without indicating their origin;
- Submitting work completed in a group as if it were the work of an individual student.

## Resources for students

The major source of content-based material and supporting resources are provided for students, through access to Dermatology Australasia's e-Learning portal via private and protected accounts.

Other resources, specific to the individual program/course component courses are listed in the Module Outlines for the course component modules. They may include but are not limited to:

- Journal papers centred on units pertinent to the course,
- Research reports and data,
- Online seminar/presentation recording and.
- Chapter readings/study from suggested texts.

## Course development, evaluation, ongoing currency and Quality Assurance

Dermatology Australasia (DA) fosters a quality approach to the development of and the teaching and learning **in all Educational Programs** it offers.

The approaches and processes outlined below apply as appropriate to the nature and scope of the course or program.

To ensure the quality, currency and validity of the content provided in all programs of study are based and, that the content, concepts and ideas presented in these programs are reached and maintained, DA courses are developed with reference to:

- Module Matter Expert input by currently practicing specialist in the area pertinent to the course
- Benchmarking against other similar recognized programs of study and reference groups both National and International in respect of, **course domains, content and key expected learning outcomes**, may include those associated with:
  - AMC Standards for Specialist Medical Training
  - RACGP CPD requirements
  - Medical Board of Australia Guidelines
  - American Academy of Dermatology
  - Cardiff University Dermatology
  - Manchester University Dermatology program

Dermatology Australasia has in place a number of mechanisms for gathering, analyzing and acting upon information about the curriculum, the courses offered, the teaching and support resources in order to ensure ongoing currency and quality.

Quality and currency are established and maintained through evaluation and review by teaching and education staff as well as external Course Matter Experts (SMEs) of:

- Curriculum
- Course and courses (Content and instructional design)
- Teaching skill and performance
- Teaching and learning resources

Information may be gathered via a combination of any of the following mechanisms as and where appropriate:

- Regular stakeholder surveys
- Student exit surveys
- Focus groups (Teachers and students)
- Scheduled reviews of all teaching resources

- Internal and external audits
- Internal and External SMEs
- Risk assessment

The information from these surveys is reported to and acted upon by the management and education staff within Dermatology Australasia.

## Other useful information

Students may from time to time, find themselves in situations where they need to seek specialised advice/support.

The following College information/policy documents and resources may be useful to students. The following policies and more can be found on the Dermatology Australasia website, and within the e-Learning Portal.

- Work Health and Safety policy
- Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure policy
- EEO policy
- Academic Misconduct
- Academic Freedom Policy
- ACD Assessment Policy
- ACD Fees and Refund Policy
- ACD Admissions Policy
- Discrimination and Harassment Policy
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Disability Standards for Education
- Copyright
- Privacy Act

## Acknowledgements

The Advanced Certificate in Skin Aesthetics course has been developed by Fellows of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and academic educational staff. We particularly thank the dermatologists who have written and reviewed the course materials and supplied clinical images, as well as facilitating the webinars and case discussions.

- Prof Greg Goodman
- Dr Sarah Hannam
- Prof Elizabeth Dawes-Higgs
- Dr Ishana Dixit
- Dr Shreya Andric
- Dr Aakriti Gupta
- Prof Adrian Lim
- Dr Bob Corderoy

The course development process has been managed by members of the Dermatology Australasia External Education Team

- Ms Magda Dickerson
- Dr Bob Corderoy