



COURSE OUTLINE

NUT410 Nutrition and Dietetics Thesis

Course Coordinator: Fiona Pelly (fpelly@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this part of the Honours project you will complete your data collection, and analyse & interpret the research data on which your thesis is based. You will subsequently prepare & submit an honours thesis which includes a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal as the write up of your research outcomes. The article will comply with the style & presentation requirements of an appropriately selected journal. The thesis is the culmination of training in nutrition and dietetics research knowledge and skills acquired in the Bachelor of Dietetics.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1	2hrs	Week 1	9 times
Online – Online material and readings will be provided to complete in own time	13hrs	Week 1	Not Yet Determined
Independent Study/Research – Weekly meetings with your supervisor	1hr	Week 1	Not Yet Determined
Independent Study/Research – Work on individual research project and thesis as required	250hrs	Week 1	Not Yet Determined

1.3. Course Topics

- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Data interpretation
- Writing for research publication
- Research dissemination – thesis and oral

2. What level is this course?

400 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

24 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Demonstrate coherent and advanced theoretical knowledge in a core area of Nutrition and Dietetics	Knowledgeable Empowered
2 Demonstrate competence in gathering, analysing, consolidating, synthesising and reporting research data	Creative and critical thinker
3 Critically evaluate research results and discuss their implications for Nutrition and Dietetics	Creative and critical thinker Engaged
4 Conduct and report on research in accordance with the national statements on human ethics	Ethical Sustainability-focused
5 Clearly and coherently communicate research findings and evaluation to a professional audience in oral and written formats	Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

NUT333 and (NUT321 or NUT400) and enrolled in SC302 or SC353 Honours Pathway

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

ADR401 and RES401

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Students are expected to have completed a background literature review, research proposal and human research ethics proposal (if appropriate to study design) as part of the course NUT333 and submitted to the USC HREC and other relevant ethics committees prior to commencing this course.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In week 3 self-assessment of your progress on your research project and literature review revisions will be discussed in class and relevant feedback and guidance provided by the course coordinator and supervisors.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Report	Individual	5%	2-3 A4 pages 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes of questions	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral	Individual	15%	20 mins	Week 12	In Class
All	3	Thesis	Individual	80%	8000- 10,000 word thesis	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Research Progress Report

GOAL:	You will submit a research progress report documenting your progress in honours thus far, including a summary of changes made to your literature review, your progress in regards to data collection, analysis and interpretation, and writing of your thesis. You will also provide a timeline towards completion. As part of this assessment, you will be required to present a summary of progress to the honours cohort and supervisors. The written component will be submitted at the end of week 3. The presentation will take place in week 3,4 or 5 depending on supervisor availability.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	Maximum of 4 A4 pages, that consists of 1-2 page report and 1-2 page Gantt chart (timeline) Oral presentation with no more than 3 slides	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Self-assessment and reflection on progress of research	2 5
	2 Provides a viable timeline to completion based on current progress with research project	2
	3 Clear and coherent communication	3 5
	4 Identification of required research tasks and any further development to complete tasks	2

All - Assessment Task 2: Oral Presentation

GOAL:	You will undertake a 20 minute research presentation for your peers, nutrition and dietetic staff and professionals.	
PRODUCT:	Oral	
FORMAT:	The style of presentation will be in the format of a conference presentation. The presentation will be supported using PowerPoint or other visual aids. This will include a 15 minute presentation time and 5 minute allowance for questions from the audience.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Knowledge of the topic area	1
	2 Selection, analysis and synthesis of content and research evidence	2 3 4
	3 Ability to answer questions from the audience regarding the research	1 3 5
	4 Oral presentation skills	5
	5 Use of visual aids	2 5

All - Assessment Task 3: Thesis (with manuscript)

GOAL:	In consultation with your supervisor, you shall undertake and submit an honours research thesis in accordance with the following guidelines: With advice from your supervisor, you will be responsible for and participate in, all steps of the investigation and reporting. That is, you are responsible for: Completion of participant recruitment and data collection; Data analysis; Interpretation and discussion of findings; and Preparation and presentation of a manuscript within the required style and format of your chose journal.	
PRODUCT:	Thesis	
FORMAT:	The thesis will contain a title page, table of contents, an abstract, an introduction (1000 words), a literature review, a manuscript prepared for submission to an appropriate journal, and a summary/ conclusion (1000 words) and references. The background literature review completed in NUT333 will be updated to reflect the project and included in the thesis to set the context for the examiner. The length of your manuscript will be influenced by the requirements of your chosen journal, as well as the type of research (qualitative research articles will typically be longer). The thesis will be submitted via safe assign in week 13 and must be submitted in pdf format.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Theoretical knowledge demonstrated by the literature review 1
	2	Ability to communicate and critique research methodology 2 3 4
	3	Quality of data analysis and presentation of results 2 3 5
	4	Critical evaluation and discussion of research results and ability to draw implications and identify limitations 3 5
	5	Written presentation in line with journal requirements 4 5

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
Weeks 0 to 12	Introduction to NUT410 Research dissemination - thesis and oral presentation Interpretation and presentation of research Understanding the peer review publication process and quality of research This course will include: - Presentation of progress to supervisors - Individual meetings with supervisors - Regular group meetings with course cohort - Group writing sessions with supervisors
Week 14	Oral presentation assessment

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Students will receive prescribed readings and other research training aids accessible on blackboard.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au