



## COURSE OUTLINE

# PSY402 Professional Practice of Psychology

**Course Coordinator:** Tamara De Regt (tdereg@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast  
USC Moreton Bay

**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

This course provides practical training that leads to the acquisition of knowledge about, and skills and experience in, conducting psychological assessment. This includes knowledge concerning the administration, scoring, and interpretation of psychological tests, theoretical and practical elements of clinical history taking, and professional report writing. The course is designed to build knowledge of, and skill in, formalised assessment, interviewing and listening, the conduct of a clinical interview and technical report writing.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>ON CAMPUS</b>			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – On campus tutorial/workshop - 3 hours	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Building professional relationships; consent; history taking; behavioural observations; mental state exams; neuropsychology; formulation; treatment planning; burnout; risk assessment

## 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?

12 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 professional and ethical practice regarding the rights of clients who participate in a psychological assessment or intervention	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged
2 Comprehend, explain, and select from a range of psychological assessment techniques	Knowledgeable Empowered
3 Demonstrate appropriate listening and verbal interaction skills when interacting with a client	Empowered Engaged
4 Understand and appreciate the social and cultural factors that might influence the outcome of a psychological assessment	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged
5 Create a case formulation from client interview data and communicate your findings	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Engaged
6 Identify an evidence based intervention and monitoring treatment plan.	Empowered Sustainability-focussed

#### 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

Enrolled in Program AR403, AR405 or AR645

##### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

##### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

#### 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

Regular case discussions and opportunities to practice skills will be provided in class. Please use these opportunities to track your learning, and raise any questions or concerns with your course coordinator.

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	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	20%	10 minutes	Week 5	In Class
All	2	Report	Individual	40%	1000 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	2 hours	Exam Period	Exam Venue

**All - Assessment Task 1:** Client interview, history taking and initial report

<b>GOAL:</b>	This task is designed for you to demonstrate appropriate clinical micro-skills in interviewing.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Practical / Laboratory Skills		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	The role play is 10 minutes  See Blackboard for further information on the assessment		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Use of appropriate interviewing skills, including listening and recording skills	1 3 4
	2	appropriate coverage of the topic area assigned	1 3 4

**All - Assessment Task 2:** Assessment report and treatment plan

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will be provided with a client history of an anonymous client in week 5. Having watched the video, you will complete two of the critical elements of a psychological report – the mental state examination (MSE) and the formulation.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Report		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	1000 word  Standard report format		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Correct summary of the client’s mental state, using appropriate and accurate terminology that properly reflect the observed phenomena	1 2 4 5 6
	2	Theoretically coherent and well explained formulation	4 5
	3	Quality of written expression and presentation	5 6

**All - Assessment Task 3:** Final examination

<b>GOAL:</b>	This exam allows you to integrate the theory and practice taught over the program with regard to psychological assessment knowledge, process of information gathering, selection of appropriate tests, formulation and evaluation of treatment.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	2-hour written examination in the formal examination period.		

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Accurate description of a range of psychological assessment techniques	2
	2	understand DSM 5 diagnostic criteria and apply this to treatment planning	1 4 6
	3	understand the importance of interviewing and formulation skills in psychological assessment	2 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.

## 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

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the BlackBoard site prior to commencement of study.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)