



[Course outline](#)

Code: PSY706

Title: Practicum Placement 2

Faculty of Arts, Business and Law

School of Social Sciences

Teaching Session: Semester 2

Year: 2018

Course Coordinator: **Dr Dixie Statham**

Room: T11.32

Phone: (07)5459 4874

Email: dstatham@usc.edu.au

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Course description

This course involves students enrolled in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program undertaking their second practicum placement, working under supervision in the Psychology Clinic at the University for at least 250 hours. Core components of clinical and professional practice include interns undertaking professional, clinical and administrative duties related to the provision of psychological care of clients of the Psychology Clinic, USC.

1.2 Course content

- Gain advanced knowledge in the application of a variety of evidence based clinical procedures
- Gain knowledge of ethical issues that may arise during psychological practice
- Gain advanced knowledge of administrative tasks and procedures involved in managing a psychology clinic/practice.

2. Unit value

12 units

3. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course you should be able to:	Assessment Tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:	Graduate Qualities Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and competencies required to work as a clinical psychologist	1, 2, 3 and 4	Knowledgeable. Engaged.
Demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and competencies in the design and implementation of clinical psychological interventions	1, 2, 3 and 4	Engaged.
Demonstrate competency and strong knowledge and skills in dealing professionally with clients and with other professionals	1, 2, 3 and 4	Engaged.
Demonstrate competency to communicate knowledge and skills effectively in writing and through oral presentation	1, 2, 3 and 4	Empowered.
Demonstrate strong knowledge of ethical, legal and professional aspects of psychological practice and understanding of using the APS Code of Ethics and its accompanying Guidelines, and other relevant sources, to resolve ethical questions	1, 2, 3 and 4	Ethical.
Demonstrate behaviour consistent with the legal requirements and code of conduct relevant to clinical psychologists.	1, 2, 3 and 4	Ethical

4. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the *Coursework Programs and Awards - Academic Policy* for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”

4.1 Enrolment restrictions

Must be enrolled in AR703 and registered as a psychologist (provisional registration accepted) to practise in Australia.

4.2 Pre-requisites

PSY700 and PSY701 and PSY702 and PSY703

4.3 Co-requisites

PSY705

4.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

4.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills

Knowledge of conducting and evaluating counselling and clinical interviewing, case conceptualisation and formulation, psychometric and clinical assessment, therapeutic interventions, appropriate written and verbal communication, professional, ethical and legal knowledge as they relate to clinical psychology

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5. How am I going to be assessed?**5.1 Grading scale**

Limited – Pass (PU), Fail (UF)

5.2 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration/length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?	Work Integrated Learning (WIL) activity/Professional Competency Task
1	Supervised casework *	Individual	Pass/Fail	250 hours	All semester	Weekly meetings	Yes
2	Log Book (Client Contact; Supervision; Clinical Activities)*	Individual	Pass/Fail	N/A	End of Practicum	Hard copy to Course Coordinator	Yes
3	Client file documentation *	Individual	Pass/Fail	N/A	All semester	Recording in client files	Yes
4	Clinical portfolio *	Individual	Pass/Fail	N/A	End of practicum	PDF emailed to course coordinator	Yes
5	Practicum Code of Conduct	Individual	Pass/Fail	N/A	Throughout the pre- and post-placement process, on campus and throughout the placement	N/A	Yes

***Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) Core Component**

Note: This is a Limited Grade Course, which is assessed on a Pass / Fail basis. In order to achieve a pass grade for this course, you must pass all learning / assessment tasks.

Assessment Task 1: Supervised casework

Goal:	This task is designed for you to gain experience in the provision of assessment and diagnosis of, and intervention for clinical psychological problems.
Product:	Written case notes, supervision contract
Format:	Casework involves providing assessment of and psychological treatment for USC Psychology Clinic clients, as well as engaging in weekly supervision meetings with your clinical supervisor/s and participating in weekly case conferences with your fellow interns and supervisors. You are required to present one case (20 minutes with 15 minutes for feedback and discussion) during the semester. Prior to beginning supervised casework, you and your clinical supervisor will complete and sign a supervision contract stating the objectives for the placement including the range of activities to be covered and the skill base to be developed. This will be signed and approved by the course coordinator.

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	The minimum 250 hours for this course consists of face-to-face client contact (minimum 80 hours), clinical supervision (minimum 50 hours) and other clinical activities (minimum 120 hours).
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge and competency in a range of clinical/professional activities (including: assessment, case formulation, treatment planning with ongoing monitoring and revision of formulation and treatment where necessary, implementation of individual/group interventions for adults and/or children, and clinical case reviews and justification of the link between diagnosis, formulation and the chosen intervention). • Ability to use advanced counselling and clinical interviewing skills effectively to develop a therapeutic alliance with clients, including collaborative goal setting and treatment planning • A high level of oral communication and interpersonal skills for effective communication with clients, other psychologists and other professionals and the ability to work as part of an active member of the clinical team and engaging in constructive working relationships in the Psychology Clinic • Regular attendance at and participation in supervision sessions with clinical supervisor/s • Ability to competently undertake mental status examinations • Ability to make accurate DSM-5 and ICD-10 diagnoses • Ability to research empirical literature to develop plans for interventions and draw on published studies and theories/models relevant to the clinical problem and intervention
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Problem solving	Graduate
Communication	Graduate
Collaboration	Graduate

Assessment Task 2: Log Book (Client Contact; Supervision; Clinical Activities)*

Goal:	To develop your skills in accurately recording clinical work.
Product:	Log Book
Format:	<p>A single log book of practica, casework and supervision experiences is a requirement* across all 4 practicums in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program. The log book must detail the nature and hours of all practica undertaken, as well as the dates, nature and hours of supervision, and clearly specifying the nature of the client work undertaken.</p> <p>*APAC requirement</p>
Criteria	<p>Casework Log. The log must show the dates and hours of all client contact and must clearly detail the nature of the work undertaken with each client. To confirm that your log is a true reflection of the work undertaken you are required to have it reviewed and signed by your clinical supervisor weekly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Log. This log must show the dates and hours of all supervision with group supervision clearly differentiated from individual (ie., one-to-one) supervision. To confirm that your log is a true reflection of the work undertaken you are required to have it reviewed and signed by your clinical supervisor on a weekly basis. • Clinical Activities Log. This log must show the dates, times and detail the nature of all clinical work (other than client consultations and supervision

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	meetings), undertaken whilst working in the Psychology Clinic. To confirm that your log is a true reflection of the work undertaken you are required to have it reviewed and signed by your clinical supervisor weekly
	A final check of the Log Book is a requirement of the course and this check must be confirmed by the signature of the supervisor on the Log Book itself. *APAC requirement
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Organisation	Graduate

Assessment Task 3: Client file documentation

Goal:	To develop your skills in competent, professional writing and time management skills
Product:	Client files
Format:	Your task is to ensure that client files are maintained in a professional, confidential and accurate manner consistent with the ethical and legal requirement of professional clinical practice. You are required to record, in your clients' Psychology Clinic files, an accurate account of the content of the client contact, immediately following the consultation or as soon after the consultation as practicable. Each record must be dated and signed by you and reviewed and co-signed by the clinical supervisor. You are also required to ensure that all relevant additional records (eg. formulations, treatment plans, referral letters, discharge summaries, assessment results, and correspondence) are captured in the files and maintained appropriately.
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to competently record relevant information in clients' files in an accurate, succinct and timely manner to ensure that files are kept up to date. • Competent written communication skills including the ability to write progress notes, treatment plans, reports and other documents in an informed, succinct, valid and well organised fashion.
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Communication	Graduate

Assessment Task 4: Clinical portfolio

Goal:	For you to demonstrate and apply your professional writing skills and reflect on the knowledge and skills you acquired during your clinical work.
Product:	Two clinical reports, a reflective narrative
Format:	Your task is to compile a portfolio which includes (1) two reports demonstrating your professional writing and directly related to and reflecting the knowledge and skills acquired during your clinical work, (2) a reflective narrative (1000-1200 words) which provides an opportunity for you to reflect on your professional development during the practicum, (3) an Evaluation of Supervision questionnaire and (4) a mid-practicum and end of practicum review completed by your supervisor/s. The two reports consist of: <i>one comprehensive clinical case report</i> and <i>one cognitive assessment report</i> based on cases managed by you during the practicum. The reports will contain information about the reason for presentation, referral information, case history, diagnosis, case formulation and treatment plan/description of assessment results and recommendations. A discussion of the major ethical, professional and legal issues relevant to the case, in the context of the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines will be included. An appendix, summarising the content of each clinical

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	<p>session with the client, will also be included. References used to develop the formulation and treatment plan will be provided and listed in APA format.</p> <p>Specific details about the structure of the reports will be placed on Blackboard. A mid-practicum review will be undertaken after approximately half of the placement has been completed. This interim review provides you and your supervisor with an opportunity to review your progress, your performance and the extent to which the practicum objectives are being met.</p> <p>The end of practicum review is a final assessment of your performance, which, combined with the other assessment tasks is used to assess whether you have acquired professional skills and knowledge to an acceptable level.</p>
Criteria	<p>Presentation of all required items at the appropriate standard according to the following criteria:</p> <p>Reports (comprehensive clinical case report and cognitive assessment report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Presentation – correct spelling, grammar and punctuation, use of professional language, clarity of expression and sentence structure. ○ Relevance of the history material and psychometric assessments. ○ Accuracy and completeness of the multi-axial diagnoses. ○ Consideration of differential diagnoses ○ The effective integration of case history and psychometric information to develop the formulation ○ Consistency of the treatment plan with the formulation. ○ Adequacy of the treatment plan ○ Evidence of effective integration of theoretical model/orientation to guide the formulation and treatment plan. ○ Consideration of relevant professional and ethical issues with reference to the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines. ○ Accuracy and appropriateness of the summaries of the clinical sessions ○ Incorporation of references used and listed in APA format. <p>Reports (cognitive assessment report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Presentation – correct spelling, grammar and punctuation; use of professional language, clarity of expression and sentence structure. ○ Comprehensiveness and relevance of the clinical history material. ○ Adequacy of test selection ○ Accuracy of description of tests selected ○ Clarity of interpretation of test results ○ Accuracy of interpretation of test results. ○ Adequacy with which test results are integrated into a summary ○ The extent to which recommendations are logical, consistent and realistic, in the context of results of the assessment <p>Details of the reflective narrative, the Evaluation of Supervision questionnaire and the practicum review templates will be placed on Blackboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflective Narrative ● Evidence of introspection and reflection on the practicum experience.

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	Templates for all log books will be placed on Blackboard. Details of the reflective narrative, the Evaluation of Supervision questionnaire and the end of practicum review will also be placed on Blackboard.
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Communication	Graduate
Organisation	Graduate
Information Literacy	Graduate

Assessment Task 5: Code of Conduct

Goal:	This task enables you to be familiar with the Code of Conduct for your discipline and work within its guidelines during a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience.
Product:	WIL experience in according with the Code of Conduct.
Format:	During your WIL experience you are required to complete 250 hours of placement activity (80 client contact; 40 supervision; 90 client related activities) — undertaken for 2 to 2.5 days per week over 16 to 17 weeks. To be eligible to pass, you are required to complete the placement satisfactorily according to the criteria below. See Blackboard for discipline specific Code of Conduct.
Criteria	The Course Coordinator and Clinic Director will evaluate your performance against the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to the policies and procedures in the Psychology Clinic Manual; • Adherence to the policies and procedures of the University and the Thompson Institute; • Knowledge and behaviour as outlined in the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines (Tenth Edition, 2010); • Adherence to the USC Student Conduct and Discipline – Governing Policy; • Adherence to the USC Placement Contract. • Completion of the 250 hours.
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level
Communication	Graduate
Collaboration	Graduate
Organisation	Graduate

5.3 Additional assessment requirements**Plagiarism**

In order to minimise incidents of plagiarism and collusion, 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.

Limited Graded Course:

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Institutional Operating Policy of the University of the Sunshine Coast.

In a course using Limited Grades, all assessment tasks relating to a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) activity or a professional competency (PC) task are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

5.4 Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

6. How is the course offered?

6.1 Directed study hours

Workshop: 2 hours per week; minimum of 250 hours of placement to complete the course

6.2 Teaching semester/session(s) offered

Semester 2 - Thompson Institute

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

7.1 Prescribed text(s)

Lists of required and recommended readings may be found for this course on its Blackboard site. These materials/readings will assist you in preparing for workshops and assignments, and will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.

7.2 Required and recommended readings

A list of recommended readings may be found on Blackboard. These materials/readings will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.

7.3 Specific requirements

N/A

7.4 Risk management

Health and safety risks have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to research and understand risks of specific courses and to review the USC's health and safety principles by viewing the online induction training for students.]

8. How can I obtain help with my studies?

In the first instance you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Peer Advisors and Academic Skills Advisors. You can drop in or book an appointment. To book: Tel: +61 7 5430 2890 or Email: student_central@usc.edu.au

9. Links to relevant University policies 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

<http://www.usc.edu.au/university/governance-and-executive/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10. General enquiries

In person:

- **Sippy Downs** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building B, Ground floor (level 1)
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Building A

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au