



COURSE OUTLINE

PSY716 Professional Skills 2

Course Coordinator: Rachel Brand (rbrand@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2021 | Semester 2

Thompson Institute

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

The USC postgraduate psychology programs are committed to maintaining the primacy of public safety in the delivery of the program within the education and placement environments. This is the second practicum placement in the Master of Professional Psychology program. In your internship you will work under supervision at the University for at least 150 hours. Core components of professional practice include you undertaking professional and administrative duties related to the provision of psychological care of clients.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial/workshop - 2 hours	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Placement – Minimum 250 placement hours	150hrs	Week 1	Not Yet Determined

1.3. Course Topics

Course topics (not necessarily in this order) will include:

1. Mental State assessment
2. Sleep disorders
3. Risk assessment
4. Bipolar disorders
5. psychoses
6. Intellectual disability
7. Personality disorder
8. ethics
9. formulation
10. substance use

2. What level is this course?

700 Level (Specialised)

Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

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 advanced knowledge, skills and competencies required to work as a psychologist.	Knowledgeable Engaged
2 Demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and competencies in the design and implementation of evidence-based psychological interventions.	Knowledgeable Engaged
3 Demonstrate competency and strong knowledge and skills in dealing professionally with clients and with other professionals.	Engaged
4 Demonstrate competency to communicate knowledge and skills effectively in writing and through oral presentation.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
5 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.	Ethical Sustainability-focussed
6 Demonstrate behaviour consistent with the legal requirements and code of conduct relevant to psychologists.	Ethical Sustainability-focussed
7 Demonstrate advanced awareness of potential ethical and legal issues involved in psychological practice and the use of the APS Code of Ethics and its accompanying Guidelines, and other relevant sources, to resolve ethical questions.	Ethical

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 AR507, AR702 or AR703

5.2. Co-requisites

PSY700

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Knowledge of 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 professional psychology.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early assessment of your progress in this course will primarily be provided by your supervisor(s), who will closely monitor your casework throughout the course of your practicum.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Placement performance	Individual	*150 hours	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	To Supervisor
All	2	Placement performance	Individual	N/A	Exam Period	To Supervisor
All	3	Portfolio	Individual	N/A	Refer to Format	SONIA
All	4	Placement performance	Individual	N/A	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	To Supervisor
All	5	Code of Conduct	Individual	N/A	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	To Supervisor

All - Assessment Task 1: Supervised practica and skills training

GOAL:	To competently assess, diagnose and develop evidence-based interventions for psychological problems in collaboration with peers and supervisors.																
PRODUCT:	Placement performance																
FORMAT:	The minimum 150 hours for this course consists of logged supervised practica and skills training which may involve collaborating with peers to develop and execute role plays and demonstrate skills practice, observation of supervisors working with clients, individual and group work, and case analyses. Supervised casework involves the discussion of the assessment and the proposed psychological treatment for a series of written and video cases which will be provided to you, as well as direct client work. You will meet with your supervisor to discuss the cases and obtain feedback on your written work. 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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All - Assessment Task 2: Log Book

GOAL:	To record professional work competently and accurately
PRODUCT:	Placement performance
FORMAT:	<p>A single log book of practica, casework and supervision experiences is a requirement* across the two practicums in the Master of Professional Psychology 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 specify the nature of the client-focused work undertaken.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Templates for the three records for the Log Book will be placed on Blackboard. *APAC requirement.</p>

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Casework Record: Must show the dates of all role plays, video and written case analyses, and individual and group work undertaken, and must clearly detail the nature of the work undertaken. You are required to have it reviewed and signed regularly. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	2	Supervision Record: Must show the dates and hours of all supervision with group supervision clearly differentiated from individual (i.e., one-to-one) supervision. You are required to have it reviewed and signed by your supervisor regularly. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	3	Professional Psychology Record: Must show the dates, times and detail the nature of all professional work (other than video/written case analyses & supervision meetings), undertaken during this course. You are required to have it reviewed and signed. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

All - Assessment Task 3: Clinical Portfolio

GOAL:	To achieve competence in specific professional skills: profession writing, reflective practice, feedback, and specific micro skills that align with APAC capabilities and attributes.
PRODUCT:	Portfolio
FORMAT:	<p>Submit: End of Practicum.</p> <p>Your task is to compile a portfolio which includes (1) two reports of the cases you have worked on which demonstrate your professional writing and directly relate to and reflect the knowledge and skills acquired during your case work, (2) a reflective narrative (500-1000 words) which provides an opportunity for you to reflect on your professional development during the practicum, (3) a mid-practicum and (4) end of practicum review completed by your supervisor/s.</p> <p>Each report 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.</p> <p>References used to develop the formulation and treatment plan must 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 mid-way through the course (e.g., Week 7) 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> <p>Details of the reflective narrative, the Evaluation of Supervision questionnaire and the practicum review templates will be placed on Blackboard in Week 1.</p>

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Clinical Case Reports: General presentation – correct spelling, grammar and punctuation; use of professional language, clarity of expression and sentence structure. 4
	2	Clinical Case Reports: Accuracy and completeness of diagnoses. 1
	3	Clinical Case Reports: The effective integration of relevant case history and psychometric information to develop the formulation and treatment plan. 1 2 4
	4	Clinical Case Reports: Evidence of effective integration of theoretical model/orientation to guide the formulation and treatment plan. 1 2 4
	5	Satisfactory completion of mid placement review with primary supervisor. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	6	Satisfactory completion of end of placement review with primary supervisor. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

All - Assessment Task 4: Placement Performance Face to Face Client file documentation

GOAL:	Competent, professional writing and time management skills						
PRODUCT:	Placement performance						
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 (e.g., referral letters, discharge summaries, assessment results, and correspondence) are captured in the files and maintained appropriately.						
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All - 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:	Code of Conduct
FORMAT:	During your WIL experience you are required to complete 150 hours of placement activity. 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:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Adherence to the policies and procedures in the Psychology Clinic Manual. 1 3 5 6
	2	Adherence to the policies and procedures of the University and the Thompson Institute. 5 6 7
	3	Knowledge and behaviour as outlined in the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines (Tenth Edition, 2010). 5 6 7
	4	Adherence to the USC Student Conduct and Discipline – Governing Policy. 5 6 7
	5	Adherence to the USC Placement Contract. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	6	Completion of the 150 hours. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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

You are expected to attend all lectures. For any lectures that are missed you will need to demonstrate to your course coordinator that you have covered the required material. This will usually take the form of a detailed summary and reflection of the Directed Study Activities that were missed.

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

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 USC.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

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