



COURSE OUTLINE

PSY750

Ethical Professional Practice of Psychology

Course Coordinator: Andrew Allen (aallen2@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

2022 | Semester 1

Thompson Institute

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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 program is committed to maintaining the primacy of public safety in the delivery of the program within the education and placement environments. This course introduces you to the ethical and professional standards that apply to work undertaken by a clinical psychologist in professional contexts involving psychological consultation, program evaluation, practice management, maintenance of registration, planned continuing professional development, ethico-legal issues such as privacy, court orders and reporting, and resolution of ethical dilemmas.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – 3 hour workshop	3hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

Course topics encompass professional practice and ethics associated with contextual decision-making, assessment and treatment of psychological disorders, managing multiple relationships and medicolegal issues, marketing and advertising, self-care and burnout, and working with people who have intellectual disabilities.

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	Show knowledge of ethical conduct in the context of professional psychological practice with vulnerable populations	Empowered Ethical
2	Show knowledge of the organisational and independent contexts of professional psychological practice	Ethical Engaged
3	Show knowledge of, and practice in dealing with, the various legal and regulatory frameworks applying to professional psychological practice	Knowledgeable Ethical
4	Show awareness of personal responsibility for ethical decision making in professional practice situations with vulnerable populations	Empowered Ethical
5	Show awareness of potential ethical problems that arise in practising psychology with vulnerable populations	Creative and critical thinker Sustainability-focussed
6	Demonstrate ability to resolve ethical problems in accordance with the APS Code of Ethics, APS Ethical Guidelines, and other relevant professional resources	Empowered 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 AR702 or AR703.

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

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

You will have access to a formative assessment activity that will provide you with feedback on your progress in week 6 of the course. This will be a short multiple choice question test based on the course content from weeks 1-5. This formative assessment will help you to identify your strengths and address any potential gaps in your knowledge, understanding and skills and will not contribute to your outcome in the course. You will also be completing self-checks on your knowledge before and after every workshop.

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	Written Piece	Individual	1500 words	Week 5	Online Submission
All	2	Oral	Individual	60 minutes in total, including up to 45 minutes preparation time and 15 minutes to record and upload an audio file.	Exam Period	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Class Assignment

GOAL:	The assignment will involve consideration of an ethical problem, practice management matter, ethico-legal or legislative matter, which is directly related to the course topics. The assignment requires the preparation of a 1500 word written summary of the key elements of the matter for discussion, which will be submitted via Canvas. The ethical vignette will be distributed by the course coordinator in Week 1 of the Semester. Please note that the Reference List is not included in the word count. The assessment aims to demonstrate engagement in the process of ethical decision making in psychological practice.																			
PRODUCT:	Written Piece																			
FORMAT:	1500 word written essay in APA format																			
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Accurate identification of the key issues pertaining to the topic</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant sections of the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, or legislation, or relevant policies and procedures, or legal constraints on practice</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Demonstrated knowledge of ethical and professional best practice in the circumstances</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Professional writing (eg, logical structure and setting out of written work, professional language, and use of APA referencing)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Assessment Criteria are yet to be mapped to the course learning outcomes.</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Accurate identification of the key issues pertaining to the topic	1 2 3 4 5	2	Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant sections of the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, or legislation, or relevant policies and procedures, or legal constraints on practice	3	3	Demonstrated knowledge of ethical and professional best practice in the circumstances	6	4	Professional writing (eg, logical structure and setting out of written work, professional language, and use of APA referencing)	6	5	Assessment Criteria are yet to be mapped to the course learning outcomes.	1 2 3 4 5 6	
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All - Assessment Task 2: Oral Examination

GOAL:	Demonstrate sound ethical decision making regarding psychological practice.
PRODUCT:	Oral
FORMAT:	During the central exam period you will audio record an oral presentation regarding two clinical vignettes that outline an ethical dilemma. The oral presentation will be based on your knowledge of ethical and professional practice issues (including those specifically with people from vulnerable populations) and explore your understanding of the major ethical and professional practice issues that the vignettes raise. On the date of the exam, the two clinical vignettes will be made available on Canvas. You will have 60 minutes to read the vignettes and prepare your oral presentation. You are free to consult your lecture notes and the APS code of ethics and guidelines during this time. You will need to audio record a 15 minute response presenting and summarising your understanding of the case vignette(s) and highlighting the ethical dilemmas and generating and evaluating potential courses of action. You will need to upload this audio file to Canvas within 60 minutes of accessing the vignettes.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Provide a verbal summary of the ethical and professional practice issues that the vignette raises. 1 2 3 4 5
	2	Appropriately apply the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines. 6
	3	Articulate ethical and professional best practice outcomes in the circumstances 6

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 Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Christopher Boyle, Nicholas Gamble	2014	Ethical Practice in Applied Psychology	n/a	n/a
Recommended	Dr Alan Carr, Dr, Christine Linehan, John McEvoy, Gary O'Reilly, Patricia Noonan Walsh	2016	The Handbook of Intellectual Disability and Clinical Psychology Practice	n/a	Routledge

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 for the missed lecture.

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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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. SafeUSC

USC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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: <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

USC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10.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