



COURSE OUTLINE

CMN109 Editing for Professionals

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED
LEARNING

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

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to usc.edu.au 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

Editing for Professionals examines the processes of copy editing for publications such as newspapers, magazines, blogs, in social media, and academic articles. You will gain understandings and skills needed to edit creative writing, professional letters, job applications, reports, essays, theses, and business documents, as well as learning how to edit material from one genre to another.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Synchronous and scheduled face to face workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Interactive zoom laboratory	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

1. Introduction to editing, punctuation, and basic grammar
2. Editing for different genres: academic, journalism, and social media
3. Advanced editing, plain language, and online editing
4. Editing and the law
5. Editing and your careers

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first 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	Effectively edit sentences applying the rules of grammar, style and punctuation	Knowledgeable
②	Analyse and edit text to a required length, style and standard	Creative and critical thinker
③	Effectively use computer-based editing methods and software	Knowledgeable

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

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

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

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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

Students will be prepared for Assessment Task 1 as it is based on using the in-house Style Guide. Familiarity with the Style Guide will be provided during workshops 1 - 4 with substantial examples being provided in class with computer activities related to the task.

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	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	N/A	Week 5	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	35%	Not exceeding 1000 words	Week 9	Online Submission
All	3	Written Piece	Individual	45%	Not exceeding 1500 words	Week 13	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Editing exercise 1

GOAL:	You will demonstrate and develop your knowledge of the application of the rules of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation in a series of sentences in an online quiz.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	Academic format Correct a series of sentences based on the principles of editing discussed in the learning materials and computer workshops.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Effectively edit sentences applying the rules of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation	

All - Assessment Task 2: Editing exercise 2

GOAL:	You will demonstrate your ability to apply the skills acquired in the course to edit news, and/or an academic work provided to you.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Academic format You will be provided with a selection of short written texts and you will complete a copy editing task in relation to these.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Accurate use of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation.	1 2 3
	2 Effectively edit different genres by applying the rules of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation.	1 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies	

All - Assessment Task 3: Editing exercise 3

GOAL:	This task is designed to develop your analytical and editing skills by reducing text to a required length, style and standard.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Academic format You will be given a rough copy of a feature story, and an academic writing article that you will be asked to edit. You may choose one. In the process you will edit the article to an exact number of words while correcting errors of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation in accordance with the rules laid down in the learning materials, workshops and the style guide. You will write a headline for the article or a title for the academic work, and produce a 300 word report to provide to the author to explain your editorial suggestions.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Analyse and edit text to a required length, style and standard.	1 2 3
	2 Accurate use of style, grammar, spelling and punctuation.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation	

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. 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

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

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC 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 SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](#) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](#) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC 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](#) 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC 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:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au