

EDU114 Professional Experience: Orientation to the Profession

School: School of Education and Tertiary Access

2026 | Trimester 1

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.

Please go to unisc.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

This course is designed to facilitate your successful transition into secondary teaching through a 5 day Professional Experience (PEX) placement. This safe early immersion into teaching allows you to develop initial understandings of learning theories in secondary contexts including ethical and professional requirements. This course prepares you with important literacy and numeracy skills awareness, experience of simulated professional conversations, lesson observation skills and professional reflection that will be applied within the 5 day PEX and throughout your secondary program.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – You are required to engage and interact with asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas modules, course readings and required texts.	2hrs	Week 1	9 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – A blended learning approach is used to deliver this course, including a mix of synchronous and asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas. This course will be supported by face-to-face on-campus tutorials.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Placement – 5 days of school placement. Placement is in O Week of Trimester 2	36.25hrs	Orientation week	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

Topics in this course include:

- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
- Schools and schooling in Australia
- Classroom management theories and practices (including effective rules, routines and cues to encourage effective use of learning time, and the underpinning research)
- Positive whole-school approaches to supporting student learning (including multi-tiered systems of support)
- Lesson Planning
- Professional ethics and conduct
- Student protection policies and practices (including bullying, cyber bullying, mandatory reporting, family violence)
- Professional Experience Placement

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 MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
1 Identify and evaluate teacher professional requirements including Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, literacy and numeracy, Code of Conduct, and reflective practice.	Knowledgeable	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4
2 Demonstrate knowledge of theories of learning and physical, intellectual, social and emotional dimensions of learners and how to observe these within professional contexts and apply to own lesson planning.	Knowledgeable	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6
3 Apply knowledge and understanding of personal literacy and numeracy needs to develop coherent plans to identify and achieve personal learning goals.	Empowered	6.1, 6.2
4 Utilise knowledge of professional ethics, observation and reflective practice to collaborate with peers, academic staff and supervising teachers. Accept and respond to feedback professionally in all communication to consolidate learning.	Empowered	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4
5 Communicate to present a clear coherent and individual expression of knowledge and ideas. Use of verbal and nonverbal communication to maintain student engagement.	Empowered	
6 Understand, enact, and comply with the professional practices as outlines in the SETA Code of Conduct.	Ethical	

* Competencies by Professional Body

- 1.1 Physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students and how these may affect learning.
- 1.2 Understand how students learn: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research into how students learn and the implications for teaching.
- 1.3 Students with diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds: Demonstrate knowledge of teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- 1.4 Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the impact of culture, cultural identity and linguistic background on the education of students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- 1.5 Differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of strategies for differentiating teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities.
- 1.6 Strategies to support full participation of students with disability: Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of legislative requirements and teaching strategies that support participation and learning of students with disability.
- 6.1 Identify and plan professional learning needs: Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers in identifying professional learning needs.
- 6.2 Engage in professional learning and improve practice: Understand the relevant and appropriate sources of professional learning for teachers
- 6.3 Engage with colleagues and improve practice: Seek and apply constructive feedback from supervisors and teachers to improve teaching practices.
- 6.4 Apply professional learning and improve student learning: Demonstrate an understanding of the rationale for continued professional learning and the implications for improved student learning.
- 7.1 Meet professional ethics and responsibilities: Understand and apply the key principles described in codes of ethics and conduct for the teaching profession.
- 7.2 Comply with legislative, administrative and organisational requirements: Understand the relevant legislative, administrative and organisational policies and processes required for teachers according to school stage.
- 7.3 Engage with the parents/carers: Understand strategies for working effectively, sensitively and confidentially with parents/carers.
- 7.4 Engage with professional teaching networks and broader communities: Understand the role of external professionals and community representatives in broadening teachers' professional knowledge and practice.

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

Enrolled in Program AE304, ED315 or SE303

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

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

This course will provide feedback via discussion, practice activities, and exemplars in tutorials prior to submission of assessment tasks. This feedback can guide your understanding of the tasks and the content required.

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	Code of Conduct	Individual	Trimester of Study	Week 3	Online Submission
All	2	Plan	Individual	750 words Reflection	Week 4	Online Submission
All	3	Written Piece	Individual	500 words	Week 7	Online Submission
All	4	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	5 minutes	Week 10	Online Submission
All	5	Placement performance	Individual	5 days	Refer to Format	SONIA

All - Assessment Task 1: Code of Conduct

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to become familiar with the Code of Conduct for the School of Education and work within its guidelines during a Professional Experience (PEX) placement.													
PRODUCT:	Code of Conduct													
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:														
FORMAT:	After studying the Code of Conduct in class and independently, you sign the Code of Conduct provided. Your signed document must be uploaded to Canvas by the due date and prior to going onto a school site on your first PEX. During your PEX placement, you are required to complete 5 days of work experience. To be eligible to pass, you are required to complete the Professional Experience placement satisfactorily according to the criteria below. See Canvas for your discipline specific Code of Conduct. N.B. This task must receive a PASS grade to enable progression to PEX.													
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Demonstration of personal behaviour that is in accordance with the discipline specific Code of Conduct</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Demonstration of professional adherence to the discipline specific Code of Conduct</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Successful completion of the required 5 days of SPE</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstration of personal behaviour that is in accordance with the discipline specific Code of Conduct	1	2	Demonstration of professional adherence to the discipline specific Code of Conduct	1	3	Successful completion of the required 5 days of SPE	1	
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy													

All - Assessment Task 2: Literacy and Numeracy Personal Development Plan

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to reflect on your own personal literacy and numeracy skills and to devise a Personal Development Plan.	
PRODUCT:	Plan	
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:		
FORMAT:	Section 1: In order to complete the Personal Development Plan, you will undertake online literacy and numeracy tests in Week 2. (Full details of how to do this will be available in the tutorials and through Canvas). Section 2: You will critically analyse the results of the online literacy and numeracy tests, clearly outlining strengths and areas for development. An overview of the test results will be attached as Appendix to the Personal Development Plan. Section 3: You will synthesise test results and formulate a Personal Development Plan which clearly guides your future literacy & numeracy skills development, intervention & a time-line. Formative feedback will be provided prior to submission. N.B. This task must receive a PASS grade to enable progression to SPE.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification of strengths and areas for development by undertaking online literacy and numeracy tests 3
	2	Analysis of results of literacy and numeracy tests 3
	3	Synthesis of results and creation of a Personal Development Plan in order to achieve personal learning goals 3
	4	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation. 3
GENERIC SKILLS:		

All - Assessment Task 3: Lesson Observation and Reflection

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to provide you with a simulated experience of undertaking a lesson observation and reflection that will also be used as a format for doing this during Professional Experience (PEX) to examine professional practice in action.													
PRODUCT:	Written Piece													
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:														
FORMAT:	<p>The Lesson Observation and Reflection includes the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how the teacher introduced the lesson. Suggest ways that the lesson introduction could be improved. 2. Describe the teaching strategies the teacher chose to use during the lesson. Recommend alternative strategies that could have been used. 3. Comment on the interaction the teacher had with the students in class. Reflect on how this impacted on the lesson. 4. Reflect on the lesson and identify alignment with the APST. 5. Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of educational learning theories. <p>N.B. This task must receive a PASS grade to enable progression to PEX.</p>													
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2	Reflection on professional practice.	1 2												
3	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, APA referencing conventions	5												
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication													

All - Assessment Task 4: Professional Conversation

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to participate in a simulated conversation with a teacher at your Professional Experience site to further refine your skills and confidence to engage in professional discourse in a school context.													
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece													
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:														
FORMAT:	<p>As a beginning teacher you will be involved in numerous professional conversations. In this task you will engage in a simulated first meeting at your PEX site. For this activity you need to present as you would on the first day of your PEX. You should be prepared to discuss and negotiate your aims and goals for the professional experience, demonstrate your current knowledge of professional ethics and legislation, explain and discuss professional experience documentation and reporting processes and demonstrate your readiness to receive and engage with professional feedback as a learner.</p> <p>N.B. This task must receive a PASS grade to enable progression to PEX.</p>													
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3	Application of your knowledge of professional communication processes.	5												
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication													

All - Assessment Task 5: Professional Experience Report

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to professionally and ethically engage in observations and reflective practice in secondary school contexts to develop your own professional practice as an educator.		
PRODUCT:	Placement performance		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	Submit: PEx Report: You will engage in 5 days of Professional Experience (PEx). During this time you will undertake observations and reflections of learning and teaching, and engage with the school community to explore professional practice (specifically the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST)).		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Professional Experience Report Completion of the PEx Report addressing the following: Professional Knowledge Professional Practice Professional Engagement	1 4 5 6
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

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

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Al Strangeways	2020	Case-learning for Teachers	1st	Cambridge University Press

8.2. Specific requirements

You will need to have a Blue Card, and wear professional attire suitable for supervised professional experience. You need to access suitable transport to supervised professional experience venues for the duration of your supervised professional experience.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risks concerns may include working in an unknown environment as well as slip and trip hazards. 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 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Academic Policy.

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.

Refer to the Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs – Procedures.

10.4. 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>

10.5. 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.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)