

HLT204 Clinical Foundations in Orthotics

School: School of Health - Public Health

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast

**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 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

Building upon skills introduced in HLT102 and HLT105, this course introduces principles of orthotic treatment of the lower limb in musculoskeletal conditions. You will learn how orthoses are designed, how they interact with the body to control movement, and skills related to the assessment of and manufacture of an orthosis. Projects are centred on enhancing psychomotor skills and familiarity with materials/techniques used in orthotics through the fitting of prefabricated and custom-fabricated orthoses.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Independent structured learning materials	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Tutorial/Workshop	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Laboratory 1 – Laboratory	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Module 1: Lower limb orthoses and biomechanics

Module 2: Musculoskeletal evaluation and conditions

Module 3: Orthotic prescription

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

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...	The Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association
1 Describe characteristics of common musculoskeletal aetiologies and discuss common orthotic related treatment strategies.	Knowledgeable Empowered	2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.4.1, 6.1.1, 6.2.1, 6.2.3
2 Describe the relevant factors and evidence for selecting and/or modifying orthotic intervention for the lower limb to appropriately manage a client with musculoskeletal impairment.	Empowered Engaged	2.3.2, 2.3.6, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 3.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1
3 Critically evaluate the assessment, fit and function of a lower limb orthosis using professional terminology to inform future performance and practice.	Empowered Engaged	2.1.3, 2.4.2, 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2
4 Demonstrate developing technical competence using common techniques in casting and fabrication of a thermoplastic lower limb orthosis.	Engaged	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.2
5 Demonstrate safe developing competence and professionalism in the physical assessment (including prompt communicative feedback) on a simulated client with musculoskeletal impairment for assessment, measurement, and fitting of a lower limb orthosis.	Engaged	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.1.7, 2.1.3, 3.1.1, 3.2.1

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
THE AUSTRALIAN ORTHOTIC PROSTHETIC ASSOCIATION	
1.1.1	Ensures all interactions with the client and/or carer demonstrate respect, honesty, empathy and dignity and are conducted in a culturally appropriate manner
1.1.2	Ensures the client is the focus of the care pathway
1.1.4	Obtains informed consent from the client and/or carer prior to the provision of care
1.1.5	Listens effectively to the client and/or carer
1.1.6	Encourages the client and/or carer to participate and provide feedback
1.1.7	Provides prompt, accurate and comprehensive information in clear terms to enable the client and/or carer to make an informed decision
2.1.1	Identifies subjective and objective information to enable development of an appropriate orthotic/prosthetic care plan
2.2.1	Accesses and utilises evidence to guide clinical decisions
2.4.1	Considers all relevant characteristics of the client during orthosis/prosthesis fitting and review processes
2.3.2	Considers the information obtained, the client and/or carer's goals and evidence when formulating treatment options
2.3.6	Determines and justifies the design details of the orthosis/prosthesis prescription
2.4.2	Uses appropriate techniques to ensure optimal fit and function of the orthosis/prosthesis
2.1.3	Performs assessment professionally, safely and effectively

CODE	COMPETENCY
2.4.4	Evaluates and monitors treatment outcomes using patient feedback and/or outcome measures
2.4.5	Modifies treatment to ensure best possible outcomes are maintained
3.1.1	Utilises appropriate casting, measuring and/or cast modification techniques to facilitate fabrication
3.1.3	Performs and/or coordinates requires modifications of orthoses/prostheses
3.2.1	Assesses the orthosis/prosthesis for structural safety at appropriate intervals
3.2.2	Ensures the orthosis/prosthesis is compliant with manufacturer guidelines and standards
3.1.2	Fabricates and/or coordinates the optimal fabrication of orthoses/prostheses
5.2.1	Recognises the responsibility to do no harm
5.3.1	Works within professional scope of practice, consent of client and/or carer and authority of employer
5.1.1	Adheres to legislation and workplace guidelines relating to safety
5.1.2	Identifies workplace hazards and acts to eliminate or reduce risks
5.3.2	Seeks assistance or refers on when beyond own level of competence
6.1.1	Undertakes independent learning to further own knowledge and skills on a continuous basis
6.2.1	Assesses and critically analyses sources of evidence
6.2.3	Integrates evidence and new learning into practice to improve health outcomes for clients

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

HLT105 and LFS122 and enrolled in Program SC307 or SC367 with a Prosthetics and Orthotics Extended Major

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Basic technical skills related to PO and anatomy

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

In week 4, you will receive summative feedback as part of Task 1 Portfolio.

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	Portfolio	Individual	30%	1800 words	Week 12	Online ePortfolio Submission
All	2	Report	Individual	30%	1500 words	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	120 minutes	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Practical Competencies Portfolio

GOAL:	This portfolio will allow you to improve the connection of theory learned in class regarding orthotic design, physical evaluation, anatomy, and biomechanics to the performance in the areas of physical assessment, problem solving orthotic fit, and communication skills.		
PRODUCT:	Portfolio		
FORMAT:	You will complete a series of learning activities, including interactive and practical components, both on campus and via submissions to Canvas.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Description of common musculoskeletal aetiologies and orthotic treatment strategies for the lower limb	1
	2	Critical evaluation of client assessment, fit of lower limb orthosis and performance with simulated client.	3
	3	Demonstration of developing technical competence in casting, fabrication and fitting of a lower limb orthosis	4
	4	Description of the relevant factors when selecting an orthotic intervention for a client with a musculoskeletal impairment.	2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies		

All - Assessment Task 2: AFO Tuning Report

GOAL:	The report will provide an opportunity to reinforce skills developed in the first half of the trimester in evaluation and fabrication skills and place them within the context of a project looking at the efficacy of AFO management and improving outcomes through AFO tuning concepts, using assessment, fabrication, and design concepts in an applied project.																			
PRODUCT:	Report																			
FORMAT:	The report will discuss the results of and implications of design and alignment using real-world applications in P&O completed during lab. The report will require you to discuss, using principles, methods and critique of primary literature, how these elements work together to improve P&O intervention and the implications on future clinical practice and efficacy of AFO management.																			
CRITERIA:	<table><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Application of P&O principles, including the use of technical terminology</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Description of current literature relating to aetiologies and orthotic intervention</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Description of factors related to orthotic intervention and comprehension of results</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Critical discussion of the literature to inform future practice</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Demonstration of communication skills to relevant stakeholders</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Application of P&O principles, including the use of technical terminology	4	2	Description of current literature relating to aetiologies and orthotic intervention	1	3	Description of factors related to orthotic intervention and comprehension of results	2	4	Critical discussion of the literature to inform future practice	3	5	Demonstration of communication skills to relevant stakeholders	5	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed																		
1	Application of P&O principles, including the use of technical terminology	4																		
2	Description of current literature relating to aetiologies and orthotic intervention	1																		
3	Description of factors related to orthotic intervention and comprehension of results	2																		
4	Critical discussion of the literature to inform future practice	3																		
5	Demonstration of communication skills to relevant stakeholders	5																		
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy																			

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Exam - OSCE Performance & Prescription Artefact

GOAL:	The goal of this exam is to demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have developed over the semester in an authentic simulated clinical scenario.													
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled													
FORMAT:	You will complete an assessment of a simulated client and submit the corresponding documentation via Canvas.													
CRITERIA:	<table><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Demonstration of safe and professional competence in assessing and managing a simulated client with a musculoskeletal impairment.</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Evaluation of prevalent musculoskeletal aetiologies of the lower limb using best-practice assessment techniques.</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Description of the evidence for selecting the appropriate orthotic intervention based on the client's musculoskeletal aetiologies.</td><td>1 2</td></tr></tbody></table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstration of safe and professional competence in assessing and managing a simulated client with a musculoskeletal impairment.	5	2	Evaluation of prevalent musculoskeletal aetiologies of the lower limb using best-practice assessment techniques.	3	3	Description of the evidence for selecting the appropriate orthotic intervention based on the client's musculoskeletal aetiologies.	1 2	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed												
1	Demonstration of safe and professional competence in assessing and managing a simulated client with a musculoskeletal impairment.	5												
2	Evaluation of prevalent musculoskeletal aetiologies of the lower limb using best-practice assessment techniques.	3												
3	Description of the evidence for selecting the appropriate orthotic intervention based on the client's musculoskeletal aetiologies.	1 2												
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, 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

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	Kevin C. Chui, Sheng-Che Yen, Milagros Jorge, Michelle M. Lusardi	2019	Orthotics and Prosthetics in Rehabilitation	n/a	Saunders

8.2. Specific requirements

You will be required to wear Program polo (available from UniSC Marketing), Student name tag, Student ID, approved pants, and closed toe shoes during client and/or professional encounters.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all laboratory classes and a moderate level of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks are those associated with laboratory work such as working with chemicals and hazardous substances. You will be required to undertake laboratory induction training and it is also 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](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) 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](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
- 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