

LAW419 Family Law

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 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.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

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

Family Law concerns the law of family relationships and the institutions that are responsible for assisting people when those relationships fail. You will consider those family relationships that are recognised by law as well the processes that are available to end them formally. You will examine the law governing care of, and financial support for children when relationships break down, as well as the law concerning spousal maintenance and division of property in these circumstances. There will be considerable emphasis upon the growing use of non-adversarial techniques in family law practice

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Tutorials	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online Tutorials	2hrs	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

Family Law an introduction history and overview, Judicial Framework and Constitutional basis; Social issues and context; Marriage, Nullity, defacto relationships and Divorce
Children and Parenting issues
Dispute resolution in Family Law Contexts; Consent Orders; Parenting Plans and Binding Financial agreements.
Child Support and Spousal Maintenance;
Property disputes and the alteration of property interests by a Court;
The Factors involved in a property division/adjustment and; Superannuation; Third Party interests.

[Adult themes across all topics]

1.4. Mature Content

Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

400 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth 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 The ability to explain, describe, analyse and apply key concepts in Family Law	Knowledgeable Empowered
2 Demonstrate an understanding of the role of lawyers in Family Dispute Resolution processes and in court proceedings.	Ethical Engaged
3 Demonstrate the ability to process a client's instructions, filter the relevant material, and give basic advice that is relevant and practical and comprehensive.	Knowledgeable Empowered
4 Enhanced capacity to locate primary and secondary legal sources and to use those sources to engage in persuasive writing.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
5 Demonstrate the ability for oral persuasion.	Empowered Engaged

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

(LAW102) or (LAW100 and LAW105)

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

LAW305

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

Early feedback on progress is available in weekly hands-on tutorials, where students have an opportunity to present (and receive feedback on) responses to hypothetical advice scenarios and discussion questions.

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	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	2 Hour Tutorials	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	1500 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	3 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Tutorial Participation

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to assess your ability to identify and respond to family law questions.		
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation		
FORMAT:	Oral responses to questions within the tutorial time or written responses to the tutorial activities each week if unable to attend the tutorial. Students will need to complete participation for 10 tutorials, with each tutorial being worth 1% of the mark.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate knowledge of the Family Law material within the tutorial	1 2
	2	Actively participate in the tutorial activities	3 5
	3	Demonstrate oral speaking skills	5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: Letter of Advice and Memorandum

GOAL:	Enhance your knowledge of family law by applying your legal knowledge of a particular scenario to the relevant law in the form of a memorandum to a senior partner at a law firm.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	Memorandum (1500 words) excluding footnotes and bibliography, referenced according to the Australian Guide to Legal Citation.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate knowledge of Family Law	1 2
	2	Evaluate and apply knowledge of Family Law to a scenario	3 4
	3	Evidence clear, suitable presentation of a memorandum of advice	3
	4	Demonstrate clear and concise written communication skills, including correct grammar, spelling and referencing.	4
	5	Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Examination

GOAL:	To demonstrate your ability to analyse family law issues arising from factual scenarios, to find and formulate legal principles, to apply them to the facts and to reach reasoned conclusions.	
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	
FORMAT:	You may use any materials to construct an answer to unseen legal problems or legal issues drawn from any part of the course. This assessment task is an online, open-book exam.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate knowledge of Family Law 1 2
	2	Apply knowledge of Family Law to a scenario 3
	3	Evidence clear, effective written communication 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, 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

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	ALEXANDRA & COOPER HARLAND (DONNA & TURNBULL, CHRIS.)	2023	FAMILY LAW PRINCIPLES.	3rd Edition	THOMSON REUTERS

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](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