

# NUT410 Nutrition and Dietetics Thesis

**School:** School of Health - Nutrition and Dietetics

2025 | Semester 2

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](http://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

The course is the culmination of the honours research pathway for the Bachelor of Dietetics. You will develop professional competencies relevant to research practice. You will finalise collection, analysis, and interpretation of the data relevant to your research study. You will subsequently produce an honours thesis that includes a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal as the write up of your research outcomes.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – The workshops will run during breaks in the 4th year placement timetable. The first workshop will commence at the end of semester 1. Additional workshops will be timetabled throughout semester 2.	3hrs	Pre-trimester/session	8 times
<b>Learning materials</b> – Online material and readings will be provided to complete in own time	2hrs	Pre-trimester/session	13 times
<b>Independent Study/Research</b> – Regular meetings with the research honours supervisor during allocated research blocks.	1hr	Pre-trimester/session	13 times
<b>Independent Study/Research</b> – Work on individual research project and thesis as required	250hrs	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Once Only

### 1.3. Course Topics

- Data collection, analysis and interpretation
- Project management and completion
- Writing a thesis
- Preparing a manuscript for publication
- Oral dissemination

## 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?

24 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...	Dietitians Australia
1 Develop coherent and advanced knowledge in a core area of Nutrition and Dietetics	Creative and critical thinker Empowered	2.1.3, 2.1.4
2 Apply research methodology, methods, and data analysis in accordance with ethical research principles and procedures	Creative and critical thinker Ethical	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3
3 Critique research results and discuss their theoretical and applied implications in the field of research	Creative and critical thinker	3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.5
4 Execute clear and coherent communication of research findings and evaluation to a professional audience in oral and written formats	Creative and critical thinker Empowered	3.1.4, 4.1.2
5 Demonstrate participation in research supervision and mentoring processes with research supervisor and research teams	Engaged Collaboration	1.3.4

\* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
DIETITIANS AUSTRALIA	
1.3.4	Demonstrates leadership: Participates in supervision, teaching and mentoring processes with peers, students and colleagues
2.1.3	Adopts an evidence-based approach to dietetic practice: Systematically searches for, evaluates, interprets and applies findings from food, nutrition, dietetic, social, behavioural and education sciences into dietetic practice
2.1.4	Adopts an evidence-based approach to dietetic practice: Applies problem-solving skills to create realistic solutions to nutrition problems or issues
3.1.1	Conducts research, evaluation, and quality management processes: Identifies and selects appropriate research, evaluation and quality-management methods to advance the practice of dietetics
3.1.2	Conducts research, evaluation, and quality management processes: Applies ethical processes to research, evaluation, and quality management
3.1.3	Conducts research, evaluation, and quality management processes: Collects, analyses and interprets qualitative and quantitative research, evaluation, and quality management data
3.1.4	Conducts research, evaluation, and quality management processes: Accurately documents and disseminates research, evaluation, and quality-management findings

CODE	COMPETENCY
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3.1.5	Conducts research, evaluation, and quality management processes: Translates the implications of research findings for dietetic practice, advocacy and key stakeholders
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4.1.2	Communicates appropriately with people from various cultural, socioeconomic, organisational and professional backgrounds: Uses a range of communication methods to communicate clearly and concisely to a range of audiences, adapting or co-creating communication messages for specific audiences where appropriate
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## 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

NUT333 and NUT312 and NUT302 and NUT361 and NUT301 and NUT309, and enrolled in SC302 Honours Pathway or SC406 Research Pathway

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Students are expected to have adequately progressed their research project prior to commencement of this course. This includes completion of a background literature review, research proposal and human research ethics application (if appropriate to the study design) with approval prior to commencing this course. The course coordinator will require a signed progress report from the supervisor of the project prior to enrolment.

## 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 3, self-assessment of your progress on your research project and literature review revisions will be discussed in class and relevant feedback and guidance provided by the course coordinator and supervisors.

### 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	Report	Individual	5%	2-3 A4 pages 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes of questions	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	2	Oral	Individual	15%	20-30 mins	Refer to Format	In Class
All	3	Portfolio	Individual	80%	8000- 10,000 word thesis	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

### All - Assessment Task 1: Research Progress Report

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will submit a research progress report documenting your progress in honours thus far, including your progress in regards to data collection, analysis and interpretation, and writing of your thesis. You will also provide a timeline towards completion in collaboration with your supervisor. As part of this assessment, you will be required to present a summary of progress to the honours cohort and supervisors.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Report		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Maximum of 4 A4 pages, that consists of 1-2 page report and 1-2 page Gantt chart ( timeline) Oral presentation with no more than 3 slides. The written component will be submitted at the end of week 2. The presentation will be scheduled in the research block ( week 3 or 4).		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>	
	1	Self-assessment and reflection on progress of research	2 4
	2	Provides a viable timeline to completion based on current progress with research project	2
	3	Executes clear and coherent communication	3 4
	4	Identifies required research tasks and any further development to complete tasks	2
	5	Demonstrates collaborative input from research supervisor	5
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Organisation, Information literacy		

### All - Assessment Task 2: Oral Presentation

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will undertake a 20-30 minute research presentation for your peers, nutrition and dietetic staff and professionals.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	The style of presentation will be in the format of a conference presentation. The presentation will be supported using PowerPoint or other visual aids. This will include a 20 minute presentation time and 5-10 minute allowance for questions from the audience. The presentation will be completed in week 13.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>	
	1	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of the topic area	1
	2	Suitable selection, analysis and synthesis of content and research evidence	2 3
	3	Ability to interpret and respond to questions from the audience regarding the research	1 3 4
	4	Demonstrates clear and coherent oral presentation skills following standard scientific approach	4
	5	Appropriate use of visual aids	2 4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

### All - Assessment Task 3: Thesis (with manuscript)

<b>GOAL:</b>	<p>In consultation with your supervisor, you shall undertake and submit an honours research thesis. With advice from your supervisor, you will be responsible for and participate in, all steps of the investigation and reporting. That is, you are responsible for:</p> <p>Completion of participant recruitment and data collection; Data analysis; Interpretation and discussion of findings; and Preparation and presentation of a manuscript within the required style and format of your chosen journal.</p>		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Portfolio		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	<p>The thesis will contain a title page, table of contents, an abstract, an introduction, background literature, a manuscript prepared for submission to an appropriate journal, and a summary/ conclusion and references. The length of your manuscript will be influenced by the requirements of your chosen journal, as well as the type of research (qualitative research articles will typically be longer). The thesis must be submitted in pdf format. There will be two examiners for the thesis ( internal and external).</p> <p>NOTE: This assessment task will contribute to the Dietetics Portfolio where you will collate various purposefully selected tasks to provide comprehensive information about your progress in developing and attaining Dietitians Australia (DA) competencies for dietetic practice. You will continue to add to your Portfolio over the final years of the program, providing a basis for collective decision-making on your progress and stimulating your own learning. You will receive feedback on your progression of your competencies. This will contribute to your global competency assessment for the Bachelor of Dietetics (Honours).</p>		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Accurately documents research methodology and methods relevant to the project	2
	2	Quality of data analysis and presentation of results	2 3 4
	3	Critical interpretation of research results in context of current evidence and implications for practice	1 3
	4	Written presentation in line with journal requirements	4
	5	Provides background and context based on current evidence relevant to the research	1
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy		

#### 6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
NATIONAL COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR DIETITIANS IN AUSTRALIA (2021)				
All delivery modes	Oral	Oral Presentation	3.1.5	Practiced, Assessed
			4.1.2	Practiced, Assessed
	Portfolio	Thesis (with manuscript)	3.1.1	Practiced, Assessed
			3.1.2	Practiced, Assessed
			3.1.3	Practiced, Assessed
			3.1.4	Practiced, Assessed
			3.1.5	Practiced, Assessed
	Report	Research Progress Report	1.1.3	Practiced, Assessed
			1.4.1	Practiced, Assessed
			3.1.1	Practiced, Assessed

## 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.

## 7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
Weeks 0 to 12	Introduction to NUT410 Research dissemination - thesis and oral presentation Interpretation and presentation of research Understanding the peer review publication process and quality of research This course will include: - Presentation of progress to supervisors - Individual meetings with supervisors - Regular group meetings with course cohort - Group writing sessions with supervisors
Week 14	Oral presentation assessment

## 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

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site. Students will receive prescribed readings and other research training aids accessible on Canvas.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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