

OCC422 Occupational Therapy Thesis

School: School of Health - Occupational Therapy

2026 | Trimester 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 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

In this part of the Honours project you will complete data collection and analyse the research data on which your thesis is based. You will subsequently prepare and submit an honours thesis in the scholarly form of a peer-reviewed journal article submission which complies with the style and presentation requirements of an appropriately selected journal. The thesis is the culmination of training in utilising occupational therapy knowledge and research skills acquired in the first four years of study in occupational therapy.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

| ACTIVITY | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|---|-------|------------------|-----------|
| BLENDED LEARNING | | | |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Face to face | 2hrs | Orientation week | Once Only |
| Tutorial/Workshop 2 – Face to face | 10hrs | Orientation week | Once Only |
| Information session – Honours conference (required attendance) | 8hrs | Week 10 | Once Only |
| Independent Study/Research – research activities conducted with guidance of supervisor | 16hrs | Week 1 | 12 times |

1.3. Course Topics

This course is dedicated to completing a research project. It involves undertaking an independent guided study, with course coordinator and advisor support, culminating in a manuscript suitable for publication.

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... | Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd |
| 1 Demonstrate competence in gathering, analysing, consolidating, synthesising and reporting research data. | Creative and critical thinker Ethical | 2.3 |
| 2 Critically evaluate research results, discuss their implications for occupational therapy and identify the limitations of the research findings. | Creative and critical thinker Ethical | 2.1, 2.3, 2.6, 2.8 |
| 3 Demonstrate initiative to set and meet a timeline for submission of research. | Creative and critical thinker Ethical | 1.13 |
| 4 Conduct research, prepare and submit a substantial research report in accordance with the national statements on human ethics. | Creative and critical thinker Ethical | 1.7 |
| 5 Participate in a research community and clearly and coherently communicate research findings and evaluation to a professional audience in oral and written formats. | Creative and critical thinker Ethical | 4.1, 4.2 |

* Competencies by Professional Body

| CODE | COMPETENCY |
|--|---|
| OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA LTD | |
| 1.7 | Collaborates and consults ethically and responsibly for effective client-centred and interprofessional practice. |
| 1.13 | Manages resources, time and workload accountably and effectively. |
| 2.1 | Applies current and evidence informed knowledge of occupational therapy and other appropriate and relevant theory in practice. |
| 2.3 | Identifies and applies best available evidence in professional practice and decision-making. |
| 2.6 | Maintains and improves currency of knowledge, skills and new evidence for practice by adhering to the requirements for continuing professional development. |
| 2.8 | Reflects on practice to inform current and future reasoning and decision-making and the integration of theory and evidence into practice. |
| 4.1 | Communicates openly, respectfully and effectively. |
| 4.2 | Adapts written, verbal and non-verbal communication appropriate to the client and practice context. |

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

(OCC442 or OCC452) and OCC401 and enrolled in Program SC440 and Research Pathway only

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

You will have acquired knowledge, skills and experience in planning and conducting research from pre-requisite courses.

5.5. Microcredentia Information

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

You will submit a research progress report by Week 2 and feedback will be provided on your progress in orientation week classes and via the assessment task feedback.

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 x A4 pages | Week 2 | Online Submission |
| All | 2 | Oral | Individual | 15% | 15-minute presentation and 5-minute question time | Week 10 | Online Submission |
| All | 3 | Thesis | Individual | 80% | 4000 - 6000 words | Exam Period | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |

All - Assessment Task 1: Research progress report

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| GOAL: | You will demonstrate your initiative and ability to work to time frames while considering the ethical implications of reporting and researching. | | |
| PRODUCT: | Report | | |
| AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT: | | | |
| FORMAT: | This is a 2 x A4 page written progress report, documenting your progress thus far and rationale, providing a timeline towards completion of the oral presentation and thesis submission. The timeline will be presented in the form of a Gantt chart. To be completed individually and submitted via Canvas. | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Self-assessment of progress and identification of required learning and research tasks | 1 |
| | 2 | Exposition of a viable timeline to completion | 3 |
| | 3 | Clear and coherent communication | 5 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Organisation | | |

All - Assessment Task 2: Oral presentation

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| GOAL: | Present the findings of your research to peers and occupational therapists in the format of a conference presentation. | |
| PRODUCT: | Oral | |
| AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT: | | |
| FORMAT: | The 20-minute research presentation will be supported using PowerPoint or other visual aids. You will demonstrate your ability to disseminate your research in an oral format while considering ethical implications and research practice. Presentations will occur at a location and time scheduled by the Course Coordinator. See Canvas for details and schedule. | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Advanced knowledge of the topic 1 |
| | 2 | Effective selection, analysis and synthesis of content and research evidence 1 |
| | 3 | Ability to answer questions from the audience regarding the research 1 5 |
| | 4 | Clear and coherent oral presentation skills 5 |
| | 5 | Appropriate use of visual aids 5 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Applying technologies, Information literacy | |

All - Assessment Task 3: Written thesis

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| GOAL: | Completion of an independent research project presented in a format suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal accompanied by a summary of your involvement in research activities. | |
| PRODUCT: | Thesis | |
| AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT: | | |
| FORMAT: | In consultation with your supervisor(s), you shall undertake a research project and submit a research article in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Canvas. | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Coherent and advanced theoretical knowledge demonstrated by the literature review 1 |
| | 2 | Ability to clearly and coherently communicate and critique research methodology 5 |
| | 3 | Quality of data analysis and presentation of results 5 |
| | 4 | Critical evaluation and discussion of research results and ability to draw implications and identify limitations 1 |
| | 5 | Clear and coherent written presentation in line with journal requirements |
| | 6 | Conducts all aspects of the research process as part of a research community 2 3 4 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Collaboration, 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

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 | Tammy Hoffmann,Sally Bennett,Christopher Del Mar | 2017 | Evidence-Based Practice Across the Health Professions | n/a | Elsevier Health Sciences |
| Recommended | Pranee Liamputtong | 2017 | Research Methods in Health | n/a | Oxford University Press, USA |
| Recommended | Zina O'Leary | 2021 | The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project | 4th | Sage Publications Limited |

8.2. Specific requirements

Students should access Canvas for all course requirements. Queries regarding assessment will be addressed on Canvas discussion sites instead of email. Other issues can be discussed with your Course Coordinator via appointment or during scheduled times as specified on Canvas. Students will be expected to wear their UniSC Occupational Therapy uniform for in-class presentations and practice education activities throughout their degree.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. 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

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying: The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4% The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

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. 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](#)