



COURSE OUTLINE

PSY104

Research Methods and Analysis

1

School: School of Health - Psychology

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 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

Psychology is a broad discipline, spanning from patient-focussed therapy to how the brain gives rise to the mind. Psychological knowledge is acquired through the rigorous application of the scientific method. In order to be a psychologist, we must understand how this knowledge base has been developed and refined using the tools of science. This course therefore introduces the principles of scientific research, delves into experimental design, and introduces statistical techniques to describe and evaluate the results of psychological investigations.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online learning materials and activities	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – In person classes with lecturer presenting weekly module with a chance for students to ask questions.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – Activity-based workshops	1hr	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

This course is an introductory level course to principles of science, research design, methodology and analyses in the context of the psychological sciences. Topics covered include: the scientific method, measurement, descriptive statistics, correlations, inferential statistics, types of research, null hypothesis significance testing, statistical significance, and communication.

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 Psychology Accreditation Council
1 Explain psychology topics and issues using discipline terminology.	Knowledgeable	1.1, 1.3, 1.6
2 Distinguish between a variety of research methods used in psychological research.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1.1.12
3 Understand the key features and concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics.	Empowered	1.1.12
4 Report and interpret the results of statistical analyses.	Ethical Engaged	1.1.12, 1.3, 1.6

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGY ACCREDITATION COUNCIL	
1.1.12	Graduates will be able to comprehend and apply a broad and coherent body of knowledge of psychology, with depth of understanding of underlying principles, theories and concepts in the discipline, using a scientific approach, including research methods and statistics
1.1	Graduates will be able to comprehend and apply a broad and coherent body of knowledge of psychology, with depth of understanding of underlying principles, theories and concepts in the discipline, using a scientific approach, including the following topics:
1.3	Graduates will be able to analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in written and oral formats.
1.6	Graduates will be able to demonstrate self-directed pursuit of scholarly inquiry in psychology.

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

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

From Week 1, students receive feedback on weekly quizzes that encourage and test learning progress. Early feedback on progress is also provided to students through a formative quiz within the first 6 weeks.

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	Quiz/zes	Individual	10%	Each weekly quiz opens on the day of the Workshop 2 (i.e. the lecture) and can be completed within a 48 hour window.	Refer to Format	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Quiz/zes	Individual	25%	The quiz duration is 1 hour, and will include 50 multiple choice questions worth 0.5 marks each.	Refer to Format	Online Test (Quiz)
All	3	Report	Individual	30%	The main report will be 500 words, but note that other sections, such as the Appendix and mathematical working, are not included in this word count.	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	4	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	35%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Weekly Quiz

GOAL:	Weekly quizzes are multiple choice questions related to each week's learning module. These quizzes are designed to test and consolidate the critical concepts of each week.	
	There will be 12 quizzes, but only the best 10 weeks' scores will count toward each student's grade for this assessment. There will therefore be no extensions or supplementary options for this assessment (i.e. students can "miss" 3 out of 12 quizzes with no loss of marks).	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	This assessment task requires you to complete a series of multiple-choice questions via Canvas. There'll be a quiz each week that will be due within three days of the week's lecture. When lectures are disrupted by e.g. public holidays, the week's quiz will be due within three days of a time to be specified at the start of trimester.	
CRITERIA:	No. 1 Accuracy and correctness of responses	Learning Outcome assessed 1
GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving	

All - Assessment Task 2: Mid-trimester quiz

GOAL:	The aim of the mid-trimester quiz is for students to consolidate and apply the knowledge of course content up to the week of the quiz.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	This assessment task requires you to complete a series of multiple-choice questions via Canvas. The quiz will be open for one week, and will be due between Weeks 4 - 8 (refer to format for quiz timing).	
CRITERIA:	No. 1 Accuracy and correctness of responses	Learning Outcome assessed 1 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving	

All - Assessment Task 3: Reporting results in a research report

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to develop hypotheses, analyse datasets to test those hypotheses, and to communicate the findings through a formal report that follows the format of a Results section of a psychology research report.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	This assessment task will be due between Weeks 8 - 12. The report will be an APA 7th formatted results section that summarises multiple stages of research performed throughout the trimester. Calculations and supplementary information will be included in an Appendix, which must also follow APA 7th formatting. A more detailed outline of the requirements of this assessment will be provided on Canvas.	
CRITERIA:	No. 1 Informative and concise summary of the skills demonstrated 2 Informative and concise summary of the analysis 3 Careful and accurate use of APA referencing and style and use of formal, academic language	Learning Outcome assessed 3 4 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving	

All - Assessment Task 4: Examination

GOAL:	To assess your knowledge of the course content. The end-of-trimester examination will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions based on the materials covered in the learning materials, in the textbook, and in the tutorials/workshops.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
FORMAT:	Multiple-choice and short-answer questions		
CRITERIA:	No.	1 Accuracy and correctness of responses	Learning Outcome assessed
			1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving		

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	Cote, L.R., Gordon, R., Randell, C.E., Schmitt, J., Marvin, H.	2021	Introduction to Statistics in the Psychological Sciences	n/a	University of Missouri - St Louis

8.2. Specific requirements

N/A

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](#) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](#) 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](#) 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