

PSY200

Research Methods in Psychology A

School: School of Health - Psychology

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.

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

This course introduces students to research methodologies used in psychological research. You will be introduced to a range of experimental, quasi-experimental and naturalistic research methods, including their strengths and weaknesses. Implications for the selection of data analysis techniques will be explored. You will gain an understanding of ethical standards and procedures that apply when conducting research with humans and animals.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial - in computer lab	2hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

Research methods and ethics.

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...	Australian Psychology Accreditation Council
1 Understand and distinguish between a variety of research methods used in psychological research.	Knowledgeable	1.1.12, 1.3, 1.6
2 Understand the ethical principles and practices employed in psychological research.	Ethical	1.4
3 Understand the concepts of levels of measurement, sampling, and reliability and validity including how they apply to psychological research.	Knowledgeable Ethical	1.1.12
4 Demonstrate clear and concise written communication.	Empowered	1.3

* 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
1.3	Graduates will be able to analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in written and oral formats.
1.4	Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of appropriate values and ethics in psychology.
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

PSY100 and PSY101

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

Formative feedback on your academic progress will be available early in the semester. Questions will be provided online in Weeks 2 and 3 with formative feedback given once submitted.

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	Written Piece	Individual	30%	1000 words	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Report	Individual	45%	1000 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	25%	1 hour	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Ethics Assignment

GOAL:	The details of this essay will be provided online by Week 1.													
PRODUCT:	Written Piece													
FORMAT:	Individual, written assignment, 1000 words.													
CRITERIA:	<table> <tr> <th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Discussion of contemporary research in context of current ethics code.</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Evaluation of current ethics code.</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Discussion of contemporary research in context of current ethics code.	2	2	Evaluation of current ethics code.	2	3	Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.	4	
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1	Discussion of contemporary research in context of current ethics code.	2												
2	Evaluation of current ethics code.	2												
3	Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.	4												
GENERIC SKILLS:														

All - Assessment Task 2: Introduction of a Psychology Research Report

GOAL:	The details of this assessment will be provided online by Week 1.																			
PRODUCT:	Report																			
FORMAT:	Individual, written introduction of a research report, 1000 words.																			
CRITERIA:	<table> <tr> <th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Appropriate psychology topic defined and situated within relevant context.</td><td>1 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Understanding and application of relevant theory.</td><td>1 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Understanding and critical review of the relevant literature.</td><td>1 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Development of appropriate aim and hypothesis.</td><td>1 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Appropriate psychology topic defined and situated within relevant context.	1 3	2	Understanding and application of relevant theory.	1 3	3	Understanding and critical review of the relevant literature.	1 3	4	Development of appropriate aim and hypothesis.	1 3	5	Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.	4	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed																		
1	Appropriate psychology topic defined and situated within relevant context.	1 3																		
2	Understanding and application of relevant theory.	1 3																		
3	Understanding and critical review of the relevant literature.	1 3																		
4	Development of appropriate aim and hypothesis.	1 3																		
5	Correct and appropriate writing and referencing for psychology.	4																		
GENERIC SKILLS:																				

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Examination

GOAL:	The final examination will contain questions that cover material selected from all 13 weeks of the curriculum.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
FORMAT:	Centrally scheduled final examination, 1 hour duration during exam period.		
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Accuracy of test answers.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:			

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	Burton, Goodwin, Goodwin, Jose, et al	0	Psychology Research Methods	n/a	n/a

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

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 submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

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

