COURSE OUTLINE

# PSY750 Ethics and Professional Practice of Psychology

**School:** School of Health - Psychology

2026 | Trimester 1

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

The UniSC postgraduate psychology program is committed to maintaining the primacy of public safety in the delivery of the program within the education and placement environments. This course introduces you to the ethical and professional standards that apply to work undertaken by a clinical psychologist in professional contexts.

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

| ACTIVITY | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| **BLENDED LEARNING** | | | |
| **Tutorial/Workshop 1** – 3 hour workshop | 3hrs | Week 1 | 12 times |

### 1.3. Course Topics

Course topics encompass professional practice and ethics associated with contextual decision-making, managing multiple relationships, marketing and advertising, self-care and burnout, working with diverse populations, inter-professional learning, and broader professional practice issues.

## 2. What level is this course?

700 Level (Specialised)

Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

| COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES<br>On successful completion of this course, you should be able to... | GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING<br>Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming... | PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *<br>Australian Psychology Accreditation Council |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Understand and apply knowledge of the Code of Conduct and associated Guidelines regarding the practice of psychology. | Knowledgeable<br>Ethical | 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.12 |
| 2 Show awareness of potential ethical problems that arise in working with vulnerable populations, including individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. | Knowledgeable<br>Ethical | 3.11, 3.15 |
| 3 Demonstrate knowledge of the contribution of other professions and ability to effectively collaborate with multidisciplinary professions in the context of psychology. | Knowledgeable<br>Ethical | 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.2.3.3, 4.2.3.4 |
| 4 Show engagement in self-reflective practice in the context of own values and beliefs and recognition of impact on professional practice. | Creative and critical thinker | 3.14 |

* Competencies by Professional Body

| CODE | COMPETENCY |
|---|---|
| **AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGY ACCREDITATION COUNCIL** | |
| 3.1 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, and consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings and codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically demonstrate successful (prior or concurrent) achievement of pre-professional competencies. |
| 3.2 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, and consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings and codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically apply evidence-based and scientific methods to professional practice across the lifespan in empirically valid and culturally responsive ways. |
| 3.3 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, and consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings and codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically employ professional communication skills, in a culturally responsive manner, with a range of socially and culturally diverse clients. |
| 3.10 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, & consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings & codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically demonstrate respect for the skills and contribution of other professionals. |
| 3.11 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, & consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings & codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically work effectively with a range of professional and support staff in the workplace and communicate and collaborate effectively, within the bounds of ethical and legal requirements. |
| 3.12 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, & consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings & codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically operate within the boundaries of their professional competence, consult with peers or other relevant sources where appropriate, and refer on to relevant other practitioners where appropriate. |

| CODE | COMPETENCY |
|---|---|
| 3.14 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, & consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings & codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically engage in self-reflective professional practice, taking account of the impact of their own values and beliefs, and taking appropriate actions as a result. |
| 3.15 | Taking into account the broad diversity of clients, & consistent with current relevant legal frameworks, mental health practice standards, occupational settings & codes of ethical practice, graduates apply psychological knowledge to competently and ethically evaluate the effectiveness of their professional practice, identifying areas for improvement and implementing changes where needed. |
| 4.2.3.3 | Graduates apply advanced psychological knowledge to culturally responsive interventions in the area of clinical psychology, including: consultation and collaboration with other professionals regarding clinical planning and referrals, particularly in the context of complex case presentations |
| 4.2.3.4 | Graduates apply advanced psychological knowledge to culturally responsive interventions in the area of clinical psychology, including: evidence-based practice in the understanding and management of psychological disorders, including across the age range and across modalities such as e-health approaches. |

## 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

Enrolled in Program AR702 or AR703.

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

### 5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early formative feedback will be incorporated into class activities.

### 6.3. Assessment tasks

| DELIVERY MODE | TASK NO. | ASSESSMENT PRODUCT | INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP | WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH? | WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT? | WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 1 | Oral | Group | 15-20 minute group presentation. | Refer to Format | In Class |
| All | 2 | Oral and Written Piece | Individual | Self-care plan (1-2 pages). Presentation 5-7 minutes. | Refer to Format | In Class |

**All - Assessment Task 1:** Clinical Decision Making

| | |
|---|---|
| **GOAL:** | This assessment is designed for you to develop and demonstrate ethical decision making skills. |
| **PRODUCT:** | Oral |
| **AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:** | |
| **FORMAT:** | Prepare a 15-20 minute group presentation that includes a summary of the ethical dilemma, application of the code of conduct, and consideration of issues relating to individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and working within multidisciplinary teams. Please refer to your course Canvas site at the commencement of the teaching trimester to confirm the due date for this assessment task. |

**CRITERIA:**

| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Application of ethical decision making and the code of conduct. | 1 2 3 |
| 2 | Ethical awareness regarding cultural diversity. | 1 2 |
| 3 | Understanding of multidisciplinary roles and collaboration. | 1 3 |
| 4 | Self-reflection. | 4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **GENERIC SKILLS:** | Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy |

**All - Assessment Task 2:** Self-reflection and self-care

| | |
|---|---|
| **GOAL:** | The goal of this assessment is for you to reflect on your personal values and develop self-care strategies to prevent burnout. The task encourages you to develop a solid understanding of your own ethics to successfully integrate these within your clinical and professional practice. |
| **PRODUCT:** | Oral and Written Piece |
| **AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:** | |
| **FORMAT:** | This task is two-fold. 1) Develop a self-reflection and self-care plan that will help you in challenging and difficult situations when working in the profession of psychology (approximately 1-2 pages). 2) Deliver a 5-7 minute presentation explaining your plan and outlining how to overcome potential challenges. Please refer to your course Canvas site at the commencement of the teaching trimester to confirm the due date for this assessment task (between week 6-12 of trimester). |

**CRITERIA:**

| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Insight into personal values and ethical awareness. | 1 4 |
| 2 | Development of an individualised self-care plan. | 4 |
| 3 | Identification and management of professional challenges. | 2 4 |
| 4 | Clarity and professionalism of communication. | 4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **GENERIC SKILLS:** | Communication, Collaboration, 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

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 | Christopher Boyle,Nicholas Gamble | 2014 | Ethical Practice in Applied Psychology | n/a | n/a |

### 8.2. Specific requirements

You are expected to attend all lectures. For any lectures that are missed you will need to demonstrate to your course coordinator that you have covered the required material. This will usually take the form of a detailed summary and reflection of the Directed Study Activities for the missed lecture.

## 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

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Academic Policy.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

Refer to the Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs – Procedures.

### 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