

PUB305

# Public Health Practicum

School: School of Health - Public Health

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

This is a capstone course where you will undertake placement within a workplace in the public health sector under the supervision of practicing health professionals and UniSC academic staff. On completion you will be able to demonstrate the application of skills, expertise and ethical principles within your discipline-specific workplace context. This course has two streams to allow for differences in discipline-specific competencies required for professional practice. Subject to availability, work-based placements may be located outside the Sunshine Coast region.

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

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
<b>Placement</b> – Stream 1: Environmental Health students will complete 120 hours local government placement and 120 hours state government placement.	240hrs	Week 1	Once Only
<b>Placement</b> – Stream 2: Health Promotion/Health Communication/Indigenous Health and Wellbeing students will complete 75 hours work placement	75hrs	Week 1	Once Only
<b>Independent Study/Research</b> – Stream 2: Associated independent study	165hrs	Week 1	Once Only
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Stream 1&2: Scheduled, technology enabled workshops, plus Task 3 presentations	2hrs	Week 1	4 times
<b>Learning materials</b> – Stream 2: Independent learning materials and activities	1hr	Week 1	3 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Identification and application of discipline-specific competencies relevant to field of practice

Public health theories, legislative frameworks, codes and/or standards in practice

Reflective practice

Employability skills

## 2. What level is this course?

300 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...	International Union for Health Promotion and Education
1 Apply public health theory, legislative frameworks, codes and/or standards, to a discipline specific work context.	Engaged	A.1, B.1, A.2, B.2, A.3, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.6, B.7, B.8, B.9, A.11
2 Demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving and expert judgement through critically reflecting on discipline specific competencies in professional environments.	Engaged	A.11, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6
3 Demonstrate employability skills, including professional interpersonal, written and oral communication, and conflict resolution skills.	Engaged	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 8.1

### \* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION	
A.1	Health as a human right, which is central to human development
B.1	The concepts, principles and ethical values of health promotion as defined by the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (WHO, 1986) and subsequent charters and declarations
A.2	Respect for the rights, dignity, confidentiality and worth of individuals and groups
B.2	The concepts of health equity, social justice and health as a human right as the basis for health promotion action
A.3	Respect for all aspects of diversity including gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, ethnicity, race, and cultural beliefs
B.3	The determinants of health and their implications for health promotion action
B.4	The impact of social and cultural diversity on health and health inequities and the Implications for health promotion action
B.5	Health promotion models and approaches which support empowerment, participation, partnership and equity as the basis for health promotion action
B.6	The current theories and evidence which underpin effective leadership, advocacy and partnership building and their implication for health promotion action
B.7	The current models and approaches of effective project and programme management (including needs assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation) and their application to health promotion action
B.8	The evidence base and research methods, including qualitative and quantitative methods, required to inform and evaluate health promotion action

CODE	COMPETENCY
B.9	The communication processes and current information technology required for effective health promotion action
A.11	Being accountable for the quality of one's own practice and taking responsibility for maintaining and improving knowledge and skills
4.1	Use effective communication skills including written, verbal, nonverbal, and listening skills
4.2	Use information technology and other media to receive and disseminate health promotion information
4.3	Use culturally appropriate communication methods and techniques for specific groups and settings
4.4	Use interpersonal communication and groupwork skills to facilitate individuals, groups, communities and organisations to improve health and reduce health inequities.
5.2	Use leadership skills which facilitate empowerment and participation (including team work, negotiation, motivation, conflict resolution, decision-making, facilitation and problem solving)
5.4	Incorporate new knowledge to improve practice and respond to emerging challenges in health promotion
5.5	Contribute to mobilising and managing resources for health promotion action
5.6	Contribute to team and organisational learning to advance health promotion action
8.1	Use ethical, empowering, culturally appropriate and participatory processes to implement health promotion action

## 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 SC344 or SC354 or SC367 or SC373 or SC375

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

WPL310 or WPL311 or WPL320 or HLT326 or PUB352 or PUB332

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

This course can only be undertaken in the final year of your program and requires course coordinator permission to ensure you have met the assumed prior knowledge and skills required relevant to your discipline area.

## 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

Feedback on placement-specific workplace learning objectives will be provided by the Course Coordinator and/or relevant Placement Academic Supervisor by Week 4.

### 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	15%	1800 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2a	Artefact - Professional	Individual	0%	Up to 1000 words	Week 9	Online Submission
All	2b	Portfolio	Individual	50%	3000 words + Log book of hours	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3a	Written Piece	Individual	0%	500 words	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3b	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	35%	20 minute presentation	Week 13	To be Negotiated

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Professional practice map/plan

GOAL:	You will develop an environmental scan of your professional placement and identify the key theory/framework/code/standards that can be used in this site.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	Individual written map or plan; maximum of 1800 words; genre options and guidelines available on Canvas.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Contextualisation of work environment	2
	2	Identification of relevant discipline-specific theories, legislative frameworks, codes and/or standards	1
	3	Application of theory/framework/code/standard/legislation	1
	4	Quality of communication	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation, Information literacy		

#### All - Assessment Task 2a: Public Health Portfolio Progress

GOAL:	To demonstrate your progress towards application of your discipline-specific competencies by submitting draft professional work outputs required as part of the Public Health Portfolio.		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Professional		
FORMAT:	As per Public Health Portfolio task 2b.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Application of public health theory, frameworks, codes and standards.	1
	2	Quality of communication	3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication		

**All - Assessment Task 2b:** Public Health Portfolio

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will demonstrate the application of your discipline-specific competencies in a workplace context.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Portfolio		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Your portfolio will be negotiated with the course coordinator and will include: Log book of work placement hours; Professional practice evaluation; At least two (2) professional outputs relevant for your discipline and work setting.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Compliance with Code of Conduct	3
	2	Application of public health theory, legislative frameworks, codes and/or standards	1
	3	Application of critical reflection to interpret and justify conclusions and findings	2
	4	Quality of communication	2
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

**All - Assessment Task 3a:** Professional Practice Learning Objectives

<b>GOAL:</b>	You will establish workplace learning objectives relevant to developing discipline specific competencies and skills		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Written Piece		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Maximum 500 words		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Alignment of individual learning objectives with discipline specific competencies	2
	2	Appropriateness of learning objectives to industry context and project/s	2
	3	Clarity of strategies to achieve learning objectives and work placement tasks	3
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving		

**All - Assessment Task 3b:** Professional Practice Presentation

<b>GOAL:</b>	To critically reflect on what you have learned whilst on placement in relation to discipline-specific competencies and how you responded to feedback provided by placement supervisor(s).	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral and Written Piece	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	20 minute visual presentation plus written outline	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1 Critical reflection on application of discipline specific competencies (including use of technologies and equipment) throughout the placement	2
	2 Critical reflection on achievement towards workplace learning objectives	2
	3 Critical reflection on learnings for future practice	2
	4 Communication for a professional audience	3
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Organisation, Applying technologies	

#### 6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
THE COMPHP CORE COMPETENCIES FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH PROMOTION 2011				
All delivery modes	Artefact - Professional	Public Health Portfolio Progress	5.2	Assessed
			5.4	Assessed
			5.5	Assessed
			5.6	Assessed
			A.11	Assessed
	Oral and Written Piece	Professional Practice Presentation	4.1	Assessed
			4.2	Assessed
			4.3	Assessed
			4.4	Assessed
			8.1	Assessed
	Portfolio	Public Health Portfolio	5.2	Assessed
			5.4	Assessed
			5.5	Assessed
			5.6	Assessed
			A.11	Assessed
	Written Piece	Professional practice map/plan	A.1	Assessed
			A.2	Assessed
			A.3	Assessed
			A.11	Assessed
			B.1	Assessed
			B.2	Assessed
			B.3	Assessed
			B.4	Assessed
			B.5	Assessed
			B.6	Assessed
			B.7	Assessed
			B.8	Assessed
			B.9	Assessed
		Professional Practice Learning Objectives	4.1	Assessed
			4.2	Assessed
			4.3	Assessed
			4.4	Assessed
			8.1	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.

#### 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

Your host work integrated learning organisation may have specific requirements you must meet to undertake placement. These may include: personal protective equipment (eg. safety footwear), national police clearance or criminal history check, evidence of specific vaccinations, Tuberculosis risk assessment (and testing if relevant), CPR, current first aid certificate or Blue Card. Refer to SONIA online for the current mandatory requirements. Note some mandatory requirements may require action 6 months prior to your work placement (e.g. Hepatitis B vaccination).

## 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

### 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

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)