

PUB707 Public Health Foundations

School: School of Health - Public Health

2026 | Session 5

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

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 is a foundation course where you will develop specialised public health knowledge and skills. Public health is multidisciplinary and focuses on creating health equity within and between communities and populations by promoting health, preventing disease and managing risks. You will explore health inequities, and the range of socio-ecological determinants that influence the health and wellbeing of populations in Australian and global contexts. You will apply these concepts to investigate public health priorities from a holistic, ecological, salutogenic and social justice perspective.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE			
Online – 5 hours of structured asynchronous online learning materials and an optional 1-hour online consultation session	6hrs	Week 1	8 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Development of public health
- Public health disciplines
- Public health principles, evidence and frameworks
- Patterns of health and wellbeing of populations
- Socio-ecological determinants of health
- Climate change impacts on health
- Health equities and social justice
- Global and national public health priorities
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Disaster management and resilience

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	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 Identify and describe public health concepts, disciplines and activity.	Knowledgeable	B.1
2 Explore public health priorities in Australian and global contexts.	Creative and critical thinker	A.1, B.1, B.2, A.5, 6.3
3 Investigate public health priorities from a socio-ecological, salutogenic and social justice perspective.	Empowered	B.1, B.2, B.3, A.4, A.5, 4.1

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION	
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.1	Health as a human right, which is central to human development
B.2	The concepts of health equity, social justice and health as a human right as the basis for health promotion action
B.3	The determinants of health and their implications for health promotion action
A.4	Addressing health inequities, social injustice, and prioritising the needs of those experiencing poverty and social marginalisation
A.5	Addressing the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, behavioural and biological determinants of health and wellbeing
4.1	Use effective communication skills including written, verbal, nonverbal, and listening skills
6.3	Collect, review and appraise relevant data, information and literature to inform 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

Students must be enrolled in a Postgraduate Program

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

PUB112

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 will be provided within the first two weeks. This will be related to Task 1.

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	Artefact - Professional	Individual	45%	1500 words	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	55%	Approximately 1000 words and online presentation	Week 8	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Public health portfolio

GOAL:	To explore public health priorities and actions.																			
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Professional																			
FORMAT:	A written portfolio to demonstrate application of public health concepts. Additional information about this task will be provided on Canvas at the commencement of the session. This assignment will be submitted online.																			
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Comprehensiveness of the discussion of public health priorities and actions.</td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Accuracy of descriptive epidemiological data</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Integration of credible data sources</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Quality of written communication including correct spelling, grammar and referencing</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Appropriate integration of evidence</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Comprehensiveness of the discussion of public health priorities and actions.	1 2	2	Accuracy of descriptive epidemiological data	2	3	Integration of credible data sources	2	4	Quality of written communication including correct spelling, grammar and referencing	1	5	Appropriate integration of evidence	1	
No.		Learning Outcome assessed																		
1	Comprehensiveness of the discussion of public health priorities and actions.	1 2																		
2	Accuracy of descriptive epidemiological data	2																		
3	Integration of credible data sources	2																		
4	Quality of written communication including correct spelling, grammar and referencing	1																		
5	Appropriate integration of evidence	1																		
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Applying technologies, Information literacy																			

All - Assessment Task 2: Public health priority presentation

GOAL:	To apply public health concepts and frameworks using a socio-ecological and social justice perspective.		
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece		
FORMAT:	You will develop an online presentation and script based on a public health priority. Further information about this task will be provided on Canvas. This assessment will be submitted online.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Application of public health concepts	1
	2	Identification of individual and environmental determinants of a public health priority	2 3
	3	Application of a socio-ecological health framework	2 3
	4	Appropriate integration of evidence	1
GENERIC SKILLS:	Collaboration, Problem solving, Information literacy		

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	B.1	Taught, Practiced
			B.2	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			B.3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Oral and Written Piece	Public health priority presentation	6.3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6.4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			B.2	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			B.3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			B.5	Taught, Practiced, 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

Not applicable

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](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