



PSYN853

Psychological Assessment I

S1 Day 2014

Psychology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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C3A510

By appointment

Melanie Porter

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MClinNeuro or DClinNeuro

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to psychological assessment and familiarises students with the Wechsler scales that are commonly used in neuropsychological practice. Detailed theoretical and clinical information is provided, as well as training in the administration and scoring of selected instruments. Tests covered include those typically employed to assess intellectual function and memory, and both adult and child assessment techniques are addressed. Students are introduced to tests of premorbid function and effort that are new additions to the Wechsler range. The assessment of special populations, such as individuals from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and individuals referred for the assessment of decision-making capacity, is discussed.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment

To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales

To identify the appropriate information from a patient's history and from the results of psychological tests to include in a neuropsychological report

To identify the appropriate tests (and their administration) to use in an assessment with an individual who may have special needs, is from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background, or is an Indigenous Australian

To understand the legal principles that underpin a capacity assessment and their application in a neuropsychological assessment

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Pass-out Examinations</u>	0%	Dates TBA in Week 1
<u>Take home exams</u>	45%	Weeks 3,4,5
<u>Essay</u>	55%	Week 12

Pass-out Examinations

Due: **Dates TBA in Week 1**

Weighting: **0%**

All students attend three individual pass-out examinations. Each session involves the student administering one of the three of the Wechsler Scales (WAIS-IV, WMS-IV, and WISC-IV) to an examiner who will assess their competency in test administration. Further details will be provided in class. The assessment is competency based (Satisfactory/Fail).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales

Take home exams

Due: **Weeks 3,4,5**

Weighting: **45%**

The take home exams are scoring exercises from the WAIS-IV and WMS-IV.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales

Essay

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **55%**

As part of developing the students' specific knowledge of psychological assessment and to evaluate research skills students are asked to write an essay. The essay question is available in 'Assessment Details for this Unit' in iLearn PSYN853.

The penalty for late submission is a percentage of the maximum mark (5%) for every day late. The essay is worth 55% of the overall assessment for the Unit. If submitted one day late then $(5\% \times 55) = 2.75$, 2.75 marks are subtracted from whatever the student received for the assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales
- To identify the appropriate information from a patient's history and from the results of psychological tests to include in a neuropsychological report

Delivery and Resources

Lectures

The unit is taught by lectures (13 x 3 hour lectures), with some lectures involving substantial

practical content and interactive learning. Students are required to spend a significant period outside of class time completing assessment tasks and preparing for pass-out examinations.

***All students must pass the administration of the WAIS-IV, WMS-IV and WISC-IV.**

Successful completion of all pass-out examinations is a mandatory requirement of this unit. Competency in all practical components and achieving a minimum professional standard of a credit (65 - 74) grade in the coursework is required to obtain an overall pass in this unit.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend and participate in all lectures. Late attendances are disruptive to all participants, and compromise the late student's full participation in the lecture content. Due to the practical nature of the unit any missed sessions are unable to be adequately compensated through the usual ways of listening to audio recordings, reading and discussion with fellow students. If there are exceptional circumstances where you will be late or a session must be missed this needs to be discussed with the unit convenor beforehand.

Required texts

Crowe, S.R., (2010). *Evidence of Absence: A guide to Cognitive Assessment in Australia*. Queensland, Australia: Australian Academic Press.

Lezak, M. D., Howieson, D. B., Bigler, E.D., & Tranel, D. (2012). *Neuropsychological Assessment. Fifth Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended texts

Drozdzick, L.W., Holdnack, J.A., & Hilsabeck, R.C., (2011). *Essentials of WMS-IV Assessment*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Lichtenberger, E.O., & Kaufman, A.S., (2009). *Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessment*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Strauss, E., Sherman, E.M.S., & Spreen O. (2006). *A Compendium of Neuropsychological Tests: Administration, Norms, and Commentary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Required Equipment

Stopwatch, clipboard, protractor, ruler, eraser, and pencils.

Online resources

Relevant journal articles are provided in iLearn for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Week	Content
1	Introduction to Psychological Assessment
2	Overview and Introduction to the WAIS-IV, Administration and Scoring
3	Clinical interpretation of the WAIS-IV Take home exam: Scoring exercise
4	Introduction to the WMS-IV: Subtests and Index Scores: Administration and Scoring Take home exam: Scoring exercise WAIS-IV PASS-OUT
5	Clinical Interpretation of the WMS-IV Take home exam: Scoring exercise
6	Introduction to Advanced Clinical Solutions: Premorbid IQ, Effort Measures, Demographic Adjustments, Reliable Change
	SEMESTER BREAK
7	History taking and Report writing WMS-IV PASS-OUT
8	Paediatric Assessment
9	WISC-IV Lecture
10	WISC-IV Practical
11	Assessing the individual with special needs WISC-IV PASS-OUT
12	Assessment of the culturally and linguistically diverse patient Guest Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Walker

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Submission of Essay

Assessment of decision making capacity

Guest Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Walker

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales
- To identify the appropriate information from a patient's history and from the results of psychological tests to include in a neuropsychological report
- To identify the appropriate tests (and their administration) to use in an assessment with an individual who may have special needs, is from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background, or is an Indigenous Australian
- To understand the legal principles that underpin a capacity assessment and their application in a neuropsychological assessment

Assessment tasks

- Pass-out Examinations
- Take home exams
- Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
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Assessment task

- Pass-out Examinations

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales
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PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
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Assessment task

- Pass-out Examinations

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To competently administer, score and interpret the Wechsler scales
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Assessment task

- Pass-out Examinations

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests; 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures; 3) use of appropriate normative data, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
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Assessment task

- Pass-out Examinations