



# SPED828

## Professional Practice in Special Education

S2 Day 2015

*Institute of Early Childhood*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Unit Schedule</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	11
<a href="#"><u>Graduate Capabilities</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Changes from Previous Offering</u></a>	18
<a href="#"><u>General Assessment Information</u></a>	18
<a href="#"><u>Required Unit Materials and Readings</u></a>	24
<a href="#"><u>Unit Web Page</u></a>	25
<a href="#"><u>Where Do I Start</u></a>	26
<a href="#"><u>Changes since First Published</u></a>	26

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

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### Credit points

4

### Prerequisites

SPED821 and SPED824 and SPED825 and SPED826

### Corequisites

SPED822 and SPED823 and SPED827

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

Students will implement and document an evidence-based instructional cycle including initial assessment, program design and justification, program delivery, monitoring and evaluation in their work place or other approved site. Students will reflect deeply at each stage of the cycle and critique and evaluate their own professional practice.

## 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:

Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.

Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.

Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.

Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.

Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>Part 1 : Assessment Report</u></a>	20%	24th August, 2015
<a href="#"><u>Part 2 : Program Design</u></a>	20%	7th September, 2015
<a href="#"><u>Part 3: Portfolio of program</u></a>	40%	26th October, 2015
<a href="#"><u>Part 4: Presentation</u></a>	20%	9th November, 2015

### Part 1 : Assessment Report

Due: **24th August, 2015**

Weighting: **20%**

#### Assessment Over view for SPED828

As an overall description of the assessment of this unit, students are to write a literature based case-study style report on the practical application of a specific evidence based teaching strategy used in an educational setting. There are four (4) separate pieces of assessment for this unit. Each of the four (4) parts are to be completed separately, but in essence they combine to be 4 x sequential pieces of the one large project.

Each piece of assessment is to be completed and submitted separately on a different date

throughout the semester.

The four (4) pieces of assessment for this unit are:

- (1) the Assessment Report (20%) ,
- (2) the Program Design (20%),
- (3) the Portfolio of Program Implementation (40%) and
- (4) the Presentation on video (20%).

In order to complete these four (4) pieces of assessment, students will need to have access to an individual with special education needs with whom they can work, for a period of 6-8 weeks (at a minimum) through out the semester.

Students will be allocated a MUSEC staff member who will act as their academic supervisor throughout the semester and who will assist in the determining of a suitable topic of study.

A brief description of Part 1: The Assessment Report is given below.

For detailed information about each of the four (4) pieces of assessment in this unit - please scroll down to the GENERAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION section below.

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### **Part 1 - Assessment Report**

The first assignment is a report on an individual with special education needs' assessment procedures and an analysis of the results (300 - 500 words)

For more details on this piece of assessment scroll down to the GENERAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION section below.

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The following information refers to general information about assessment.

#### **What is required for the assignments?**

In general good presentation, correct grammar, spelling and appropriate word choice will be expected. Express your ideas concisely and clearly, and observe any stated word limits. Please use double spacing.

You must complete the cover sheet provided for each piece of assessment.

The assignment should be completed individually. It should be your own work, based on your personal study and research.

#### **How do I submit my assignments?**

You will submit your assignments through the iLearn website. Detailed instructions will be provided on the website.

You should follow the detailed instructions carefully. Marks (up to 5% of the total mark) may be deducted, for example, for failing to write your name on the assignment.

## How do I know my assignment submission was successful?

There are two options for you to see your uploaded Assignments.

1. Return to the Assignment activity submission point where the uploaded file will be viewable.
2. If the Activities block is available for the unit, click on the Assignments link.

All Assignment activities, including those that are 'already open' and 'closed', will be viewable here.

**Students should print a copy of one of these screens after submission. No claims regarding missing assignments will be considered under any circumstances without a copy of this printout.**

### KEEP A COPY OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT

## How do I use the assignment cover sheet?

The cover sheet will be attached to the assignment (available on the iLearn website). Note that the checklist on the assignment must be completed or your assignment will not be accepted. You will be notified through Dialogue that your assignment was not acceptable and you will need to submit the assignment again with a completed cover sheet. Note that typing your student number on the coversheet is considered equivalent to providing a signature.

## Can I submit a late assignment?

Assignments (either original submissions or resubmitted assignments) received after the due date will be accepted provided they are received no later than **five working days late**. No assignment will be accepted after this time, except when an extension has been applied for before the due date and granted. After the due date (unless an extension has been granted) a late penalty will be applied, leading to a reduction in the awarded mark. **The late penalty is 5% of the total mark for each day the assignment is outstanding** beyond the due date. These penalties are imposed in fairness to students who submit assignments on time.

## How do I get an extension?

Please see the "General Assessment Information" for details on how to apply for an extension.

## What if I exceed the word limits?

Components of answers beyond the stated word limit will not be marked. That is, answers will only be marked up to the stated word limit.

## How will I get feedback on my assignment?

Individual feedback will be provided through the iLearn site. Assignment marks will be available in GRADES. The assignment may also be discussed at Problem Solving feedback sessions.

## Can I resubmit an unsatisfactory assignment?

**Resubmission of unsatisfactory assignments is not permitted.**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Part 2 : Program Design

Due: **7th September, 2015**

Weighting: **20%**

The second piece of assessment in this unit is a documentation and justification of a proposed intervention program design.

For more details on this piece of assessment scroll down to the **GENERAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION** section below

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Part 3: Portfolio of program

Due: **26th October, 2015**

Weighting: **40%**

The third piece of assessment in this unit is a portfolio of intervention program implementation including lesson plans, monitoring, and critical reflections and evaluations.

For more details on this piece of assessment please scroll down to the GENERAL ASSESSMENT SECTION below.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Part 4: Presentation

Due: **9th November, 2015**

Weighting: **20%**

The fourth piece of assessment for this unit is a presentation in video or DVD with 10 x supporting power point slides.

For more details on this piece of assessment please scroll down to the GENERAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION section below.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Delivery and Resources

### General Organisation of the Unit

The unit is organised in a flexible delivery format. It builds on and integrates the skills that students have gained in previous qualifications and professional experiences as well as the skills

and knowledge gained in their current program of study. Students will apply their knowledge of assessment and instructional approaches suitable for students with disabilities or special education needs acquired during their program. Students are expected to work independently applying their professional knowledge and creative problem solving capacities to develop strategies to individualize programming, instruction, and assessment for pupils in their current work place or other approved setting. Students will be expected to demonstrate their use of ethical, justifiable, evidence-based practices and to critically evaluate their programming and pedagogical practices.

It is very important to note that some components of the unit will be conducted on the web site. This means that internet access is essential to the completion of the unit.

Delivery is designed such that students may seek as much or as little assistance as required in completing the unit. In flexible delivery units, it is critical that students are organised and disciplined. It is suggested that you allocate a total of 8-12 hours per week to study for this unit. If you get significantly behind in your planning and implementation of your case study, it may be impossible to catch up. Please start your case study as soon as possible.

## Unit delivery: Teaching and Learning Activities

Readings are designed to broaden students understanding of relevant topics.

Changes Made Since the Last Offering of the Unit.

This is the first offering of this unit.

### **Response to Student Feedback**

This is the first offering of this unit.

Optional Seminars

These are typically used for delivery of new content or review. See "topics" table for further details.

Any student may choose to attend an optional seminar.

Optional Seminars

These are typically used for delivery of new content or review.

See the "Topics" table for further details. Any student may choose to attend an optional seminar.

There are no compulsory seminars for this unit of study.

### **There are no drop-in sessions required for this unit of study**

Downloadable Documents

**ALL** resource materials must be downloaded from the website.

Readings must be downloaded from the Multisearch website in the library, or from other sites as indicated in the study guides.



## ECHO360

### What is ECHO360?

There will be an introduction session over viewing the assessment and welcoming students to this unit via ECHO360 and will be accessed through links in the ECHO block. This presentation will typically consist of video or audio. It may be accessed from the unit website.

Information about using ECHO360 is available at

[http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student\\_info/lecture\\_recordings.htm](http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/lecture_recordings.htm)

and

[http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student\\_info/podcasts.htm](http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/podcasts.htm)

### What do I need to do before I access ECHO360?

In order to use ECHO360 you will need QuickTime or other video player software (iTunes, VLC or Windows Media Player) and Flash for streaming playback or for downloading. You can download QuickTime through the iLearn site and you will be prompted to install Flash when you first access ECHO360, if it is not already installed on your computer.

### What if I can't get ECHO360 working?

Don't panic. Contact the Student IT Helpdesk

Phone: (02) 9850 HELP (4357) (Option 1) or freecall 1800 67 4357

Email: [help@mq.edu.au](mailto:help@mq.edu.au)

Face to face: Building C5C Room 244, Macquarie University

Website: <http://www.mq.edu.au/onehelp/>

IT Onehelp ticket lodgement: <https://help.mq.edu.au/cgi-bin/WebObjects/OneHelp.woa>

## Discussion Forums

**Important information about the unit will be posted in Discussions in the “General” section. You should check it regularly – AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 48 HOURS**

There will also be a Discussion Forum for each topic where students can post questions or comments and discuss the issues raised during the unit. These topics will remain open for the duration of the unit. Students are required to contribute 10 posts to these Topic Forums as part of the assessment requirements for this unit (see Assessment Tasks).

Although unit convenors typically check the Discussion Forums daily (on weekdays), they will not respond to all posts, as discussion between students may be more appropriate.

## Dialogue

**Important information, particularly for students outside Sydney will be sent through Dialogue. You should check it regularly - AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 48 HOURS.**

Preferably, unit related messages should be directed to unit staff using Dialogue on the website.

Questions that you have that are relevant to others in the unit should be posted in Discussion Forums. If you send such questions using Dialogue, they may be posted anonymously and answered in Discussions.

## Unit Schedule

### Classes

There are no classes for this unit. Students will negotiate contact with an academic supervisor on an individual basis. This contact may be face to face meetings on campus, e-mail, phone, Skype or fax contact.

The following schedule is an outline of due dates for the four (4) assessment pieces.

These dates indicate the Monday of the beginning of each semester week.

DATE	Weighting	ASSESSMENT DUE DATE
24th August	20 marks	Assessment Report
7th September	20 marks	Program Design
14th - 27th Sept		University Recess (no classes)
26th October	40 marks	Portfolio of Program Implementation
9th November	20 marks	Presentation

The following table gives an overview of elements to be covered in the unit and the suggested completion date.

TOPIC	RECOMMENDED COMPLETION DATE	CONTENT	FORMAT
1	Week beginning ..... Monday 27th July	Introduction and overview	On-campus Welcome seminar and ECHO360.  Individual contact to be made with the course convenor

2	Monday 3rd August	Meet your supervisor	On-campus, telephone or skype meeting. Make arrangements for target learner/s observation Prepare assessments
3	Monday 10th August	Assessment of target learner/s	Conduct a series of assessments
4	Monday 17th August		Work on Assessment Report
5	Monday 24th August	Part 1 Assessment Due	Assessment Report is due
6	Monday 31st August		Prepare Program Design based on assessment report
7	Monday 7th September	Part 2 Assessment Due	Program Design is due
8	Monday 14th September		University Recess (no classes)
9	Monday 21st September		University Recess (no classes)
10	Monday 28th September		Commencement of teaching of learner/s
11	Monday 5th October		Continuation of teaching of learner/s
12	Monday 12th October		Continuation of teaching of learner/s
13	Monday 19th October		Work on Portfolio
14	Monday 26th October	Part 3 Assessment Due	Portfolio due
15	Monday 2nd November		Work on presentation
16	Monday 9th November	Part 4 Assessment Due	Presentation due

## 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](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](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](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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

This guide provides information relevant to the successful negotiation of the unit. Students should be familiar with the rules, policies and procedures outlined in the Macquarie University Handbook (available at <http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2014/>), the Macquarie University Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules (available at <http://universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html>), and Macquarie University policies, procedures, guidelines and schedules (available at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/>).

## 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](http://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 Portal

The Student Portal provides the gateway to information for current students. It has been designed to bring all student resources to one location. The Portal contains links to Student email and calendar, online units, eStudent, askMQ and many other student and university resources.

Access the portal at

<http://students.mq.edu.au/home/>

The link for First Time Login is on this page. You must complete this login to get access to other sites such as eStudent.

The link to eStudent is on the Student Portal page.

eStudent is where students can enrol online, change their study programs view their academic record, receive announcements from the university, as well as change some personal information that may become out of date.

End of semester results can be found on the eStudent website.

If you are having problems accessing the site (e.g. password/browser/technical issues) contact the Helpdesk (see the IT Help section of this guide).

Check the eStudent Noticeboard and your university email weekly for important communication from the university such as advice of iLearn outages.

Visit <http://ask.mq.edu.au> to find answers to your student administration questions. Search the Q & A Section for answers and, if you can't find what you're looking for, submit an online enquiry and get a response to your official Macquarie University student email address.

**Special consideration forms, grade appeals and grade reviews are submitted through AskMQ.**

## 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.

The Disability Support provides support and assistance to students with a disability/health condition in aiming to ensure that they do not experience disadvantage in reaching their academic potential. Service provision is determined on a case-by-case basis following an assessment of a student's needs and the provision of supporting documentation. Service provision is also dependent on the availability of resources.

For information about registering with the Disability Service and to download the Campus Wellbeing Registration Form and Health professional form go:

[http://students.mq.edu.au/campus\\_life/campus\\_wellbeing\\_support\\_services/disability\\_service/how\\_to\\_register/](http://students.mq.edu.au/campus_life/campus_wellbeing_support_services/disability_service/how_to_register/)

You must register annually, irrespective of whether a disability/health condition is temporary, long-term or permanent.

Students wishing to request support services from the Disability Service should make an appointment to see a Disability Advisor IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENROLLING at Macquarie University. If you are not registered with the Disability Service at the time of an assessment task, you may not be provided with any accommodations.

Phone: (02) 9850 7497            TTY (02) 9850 6493

Email: [campuswellbeing@mq.edu.au](mailto:campuswellbeing@mq.edu.au)

In person: Level 2, C8A (Lincoln Building).

It is **strongly recommended** that you contact convenors **IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENROLLING** (or as soon as possible for temporary disabilities) to discuss adaptations that may assist you in the successful negotiation of units with the Macquarie University Special Education Centre.

Typically, we require a minimum of three weeks notice to be able to ensure that accommodations for Problem Solving exercises or in-class assessments can be put in place. **Please contact your unit convenors by the SECOND WEEK of semester to ensure your needs are met.**

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://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.

### IT Help

**Phone:** (02) 9850 HELP (4357) (option 1) or Freecall: 1800 063 191

**Email:** [help@mq.edu.au](mailto:help@mq.edu.au)

**Face to Face:** Building C5C Room 244, Macquarie University

**Website:** [http://mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/informatics/help/](http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help/)

**IT Service Desk Request Form:** <https://help.mq.edu.au/cgi-bin/WebObjects/OneHelp.woa>

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and

apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.

- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Part 1 : Assessment Report
- Part 3: Portfolio of program
- Part 4: Presentation

## **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**

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Part 1 : Assessment Report
- Part 2 : Program Design
- Part 3: Portfolio of program
- Part 4: Presentation

## 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

- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

### Assessment tasks

- Part 1 : Assessment Report
- Part 2 : Program Design
- Part 3: Portfolio of program
- Part 4: Presentation

## 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

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation



to relevant stakeholders.

## Assessment tasks

- Part 2 : Program Design
- Part 3: Portfolio of program
- Part 4: Presentation

## 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

- Integrate and synthesize theory, knowledge and skills from across the program and apply to professional practice as a special educator in a work-related context.
- Apply clinical judgement in the selection and application of evidence based pedagogical practices to solve complex problems in the education of students with special education needs.
- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Assessment tasks

- Part 1 : Assessment Report
- Part 4: Presentation

## 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

- Apply appropriate professional ethical standards in the implementation and documentation of educational programs.
- Effectively communicate complex ideas regarding program planning and implementation to relevant stakeholders.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on the process and outcomes of educational programs.

## Assessment task

- Part 1 : Assessment Report

## Changes from Previous Offering

This is the first offering of this unit.

## General Assessment Information

**HERE ARE SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE FOUR PIECES OF ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

In general, markers will be looking for the following qualities in your assignments:

### Part 1 - Assessment Report

- Includes a succinct description of the individual with special education needs to whom the task will be taught,
- Includes a summary of the methods and results of assessment/analysis .
- Includes a brief comment on the strengths of the individual and one area to be developed.
- Includes a statement of the hypothesis regarding the specific target behaviour or new concept/skill to be developed.

Note that the statement of the hypothesis must be consistent with the results of the assessment/analysis. (300 - 500 words)

### Part 2 - Program Design

- Includes specific teaching objectives.
- Includes a brief review of any relevant literature on the teaching of similar tasks to individual with special education needs.
- Includes a description or analysis of the specific target behaviour or concept/skill to be taught.
- Includes a description of the teaching methods to be used.

The plan for the program design shall include a description of the intervention, including a

description of how the replacement behaviour or new concept/skill will be taught. Students must also review one previous study that has evaluated their recommended intervention approach to justify your use of this procedure. The program design also includes a description of the plan for evaluating the intervention using direct observation for data collection (800 - 1000 words).

### **Part 3 - Portfolio of Program Implementation**

- A brief description of the teaching sessions (including lesson plans)
- Charting of progress made by the learner/s
- A brief description of how the intervention was evaluated (to assess whether or not it was in fact working).
- Critical reflections and evaluation of the progress made by the individual with special education needs.
- Recommendations for the future

Phase 2 was the plan. Now students are to implement a series of lessons incorporating on going records of their observations of the target individual with special education needs' learning; reflections on teaching and learning outcomes; and write up the results. The portfolio should describe the intervention program. This description should be sufficiently detailed to enable another teacher to be able to implement the intervention in the classroom. Describe the progress of the individual with special education needs. Evaluate and reflect on the program implementation. Describe how the data was collected. Describe how the intervention program was evaluated (to assess whether or not it did in fact work). This evaluation should include the collection of objective data on the target behaviour and replacement behaviours; or concept/skill development, via direct observation to evaluate the effects of the intervention program. Finally, students are to make 1-2 recommendations for future instruction of the target skill that could be offered to the individual with special education needs' parent or teacher (1,000 - 1,500 words).

### **Part 4: The Presentation**

Students are to record on video or DVD, a short presentation (using up to 10 supporting power point slides) documenting the overall case study and intervention program discussing the relative strengths and weaknesses of the program.

## **Rationale for Modes of Assessment**

Assignments are designed to enable you to reflect more deeply on a particular problem or scenario and to write a considered response.

## **Assessment Weighting**

There are four (4) parts or 4 x separate pieces of assessment in this unit. All four (4) parts must be completed.

Marking Criteria and Performance Descriptors for the 4 x pieces of assessment.

Separate rubrics for each of the 4 x pieces of assessment will be uploaded to the ilearn site.

Students are encouraged to evaluate their work against these criteria.

## Performance Descriptors

### High Distinction

There is *pervasive* address of critical points in all responses and a demonstration of deep understanding of all key principles. There are appropriate and concise justifications, descriptions or analyses integrating relevant information. There is no evidence of consequential gaps in understanding of basic principles and a clear ability to generalise concepts and principles to the most difficult examples.

### Distinction

There is *extensive* address of the critical points in all responses and a demonstration of deep understanding of all key principles. There are appropriate and concise justifications or analyses integrating relevant information. There is no evidence of consequential gaps in understanding of basic principles although students may have difficulty in applying some concepts and principles to the most difficult examples.

### Credit

There is *strong* address of the critical points in the vast majority of responses and a deep understanding of the majority of key principles. There are appropriate and concise justifications, descriptions or analyses integrating relevant information. There may be a small number of consequential gaps in understanding of basic principles. Students may have difficulty in applying some concepts and principles to a limited number of examples.

### Pass

There is *solid* address of the critical points in the majority of responses and a demonstration of deep understanding of most key principles. There are appropriate and concise justifications, descriptions and analysis integrating relevant information. Students may have difficulty in applying some concepts and principles to some examples.

### Fail

There is *poor* address of the critical points in the majority of responses. There is little evidence of deep understanding of principles. Justifications, descriptions and analyses would often be incomplete and/or unclear. Students demonstrate a poor understanding of the majority of concepts and principles and are only able to apply these to a minority of examples.

## Resubmission

Students are required to gain an overall pass on the unit, but do not have to pass all assessment components. If you perform poorly on one component, you may compensate for this with an improved performance in the other component(s).

**Resubmission of assessments or assignments is not permitted.**

## Disruption to studies and extensions for assignments.

In extenuating circumstances, students may apply to the unit coordinator for an extension to the assignment due date. Reasons for the extension need to be documented through the special consideration form accessible through [ask@mq.edu.au](mailto:ask@mq.edu.au) and supported (e.g., a **Professional Authority Form** in the case of illness)..

Extensions will only be granted in receipt of the completed form submitted through askMQ, plus documentation.

Disruptions due to work commitments require a statutory declaration from a work supervisor (e.g., School Principal) stating that the work commitment was not known at the time of enrolment.

Note that:

\* It is advisable that students contact the unit convenor via Dialogue **prior to submitting their request through [ask@mq.edu.au](mailto:ask@mq.edu.au)**.

Extensions will only be granted in receipt of the completed form submitted through askMQ, plus documentation.

- Emails are not appropriate means of extension requests
- It is essential that you plan ahead and organize your study time effectively. Poor time management is not grounds for an extension.

### Extensions are usually not granted on the due date.

University Disruption to Studies Policies and Procedures

You should read these documents and follow the policy and procedures.

Disruption to studies policy: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Disruption to studies procedures: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/procedure.html)

Disruption to studies supporting evidence schedule: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/schedule\\_evidence.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/schedule_evidence.html)

Disruption to studies outcome schedule: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/schedule\\_outcomes.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/schedule_outcomes.html)

### Appeals

## Appeals against grades for individual assessment components.

If any student has concern about the marking of an assessment, they must:

1. Consult the member of staff who marked the work.

2. If there is no satisfactory resolution, an appeal should be made in writing to the unit convenor within **one week** of the marked assessment being returned or of results being made available. The student should explicitly state the basis of the appeal.

The unit convenor will review the marking and may, at their discretion, ask for a re-marking by a second marker. If re-marking by a second marker is judged appropriate, the final mark will normally be the average of the two marks awarded for the assessment task. Students should note that the revised mark for the task may be higher, the same, or lower than the original mark.

Please note that it is MUSEC policy to double mark all failing assessments.

The decision of the unit convenor is final.

## **Appeals against final unit grades**

Students should refer to the Grade Appeal Policy at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html> and the Grade Appeal Procedures at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/procedure.html>

Grade Appeals must be submitted within 20 days of the release of the unit results.

Grade Appeals are submitted through [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

**You must read the University's practices and procedures on Academic Honesty.**

These are on the web at: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

The policies and procedures explain what academic honesty and plagiarism are, how to avoid plagiarism, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee. Details of possible penalties are at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/schedule\\_penalties.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html)

*Other important points:*

- Close paraphrasing of another persons' writing is considered to be plagiarism. You must express ideas using your own words.
- Claim of ignorance of the University policy on plagiarism is NOT a defence within MUSEC. If you do not understand the preceding information, please seek advice from a member of the academic staff.

## **University Assessment Policies**

The University Assessment Policy, Code of Practice and Procedures are available at

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

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_code\\_of\\_practice.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_code_of_practice.html)

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/procedure.html>

## Standardised Transcript Marks

Your overall unit result will be assigned a standardised numerical grade (SNG) on your University transcript. High Distinction grades are assigned a mark between 85 and 100, Distinction grades between 75 and 84, Credit grades between 65 and 74, Pass grades between 50 and 64, Pass Conceded grades between 45 and 49 and Fail grades below 45. For further information, see the Grading Policy.

## Grade Descriptors

The following generic grade descriptors provide university-wide standards for awarding final grades.

**High Distinction:** Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.

**Distinction:** Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.

**Credit:** Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.

**Pass:** Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.

**Fail:** Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.

## Fail Grades

Entry into units in the postgraduate coursework program requires a clear pass (i.e., a final unit grade of at least “C” or “P”) in all previously completed SPED units. That is, you will not be granted automatic entry into units if you have failures in previously attempted SPED prefixed units. If you have failing grades on our record (1) you may be allowed to continue at the discretion of the Director of MUSEC (or nominee) with a special approval (waiver), or, (2) You

may be required to reattempt the relevant units until a clear pass is obtained.

Students with fail grades **MUST** seek academic advice before attempting to re-enrol.

### Satisfactory Progress

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory progress in a course/program of study. Normally, students will be asked to **show cause** why their candidature should not be terminated if they fail any unit twice. Further, students may be asked to show cause if they receive more than two conceded passes and/or failures in a course/program of study.

### Feedback on individual pieces of assessment

Students will not receive raw scores or percentage scores on their individual pieces of assessment.

At MUSEC, students will receive qualitative descriptors for their individual pieces of assessment.

**Good** - refers to a very high standard of passing

**Sound** - refers to an acceptable standard of passing.

**Fair** - refers to a bare minimum passing standard.

**Poor** - refers to a response that is not of a passing standard.

The final grade will depend on the weighting and relative performance in each component.

For final (end of semester) grades, all MQ students are given STANDARD NUMERICAL GRADES (SNG).

A SNG is NOT a raw score and a SNG is NOT a percentage.

The SNG is a standardized score for the unit that reflects the weighted grades that students were awarded throughout the semester.

For further information, see the Grading Policy.

## Required Unit Materials and Readings

### Text

There is no set text for this unit.

However students may find the following text (which was recommended for other units in this program of study) useful:

Alberto, P. A., & Troutman, A. C. (2013). Applied behaviour analysis for teachers (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

The previous edition (8th) would also be suitable.

### Other Readings

There are no required readings for this unit.



A few suggested readings may be uploaded to the ilearn site over the course of the semester - depending on student need.

Students may download these from the Multisearch section of the Library website.

## **Unit Web Page**

### **Access**

An iLearn website has been established to support this unit. The site will offer the option of discussion forums on specific topics and Dialogue (private communication) within the unit. Required study materials, review quizzes and assessment information are available on the website.

**You should check the website (General Discussion Forum and your Dialogue) at least ONCE EVERY 48 HOURS. You will NOT receive any material in the mail.**

**ALL communication is through the website.**

The website may be accessed at:

<https://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

Information about using iLearn is available at:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student\\_info/](http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/)

This page includes information and links (on the left hand side of the page) about topics such as: navigating iLearn, using discussion forums, getting started with iLearn.

### **How do I get a password?**

Information on first time log in and passwords is at

<https://mypassword.mq.edu.au/index.php?screen=MQInitPW>

You will need your Student OneID number, surname and date of birth.

### **What if I have password problems or need IT help?**

If you have password problems or any other difficulties accessing the website, please contact:

Student IT Help

Phone: (02) 9850 HELP (4357) (option 1) or freecall 1800 67 4357

Email: [help@mq.edu.au](mailto:help@mq.edu.au)

Face-to-face: Building C5C, Room 244

Website: <http://www.mq.edu.au/onehelp/>

Onehelp Ticket Lodgement: <https://help.mq.edu.au/cgi-bin/WebObjects/OneHelp.woa>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you have contacted IT Help and still have difficulties obtaining your user name and password and are **UNABLE** to access unit websites **at the end of the first week of semester**, please contact Natalie Watson ([natalie.watson@mq.edu.au](mailto:natalie.watson@mq.edu.au)) at MUSEC. Arrangements may be made to email you important study materials.

## Where Do I Start

To get you started in this unit, tick off each action as you complete it.

ACTION	COMPLETED
Carefully read this unit guide	
Carefully read this unit guide a second time	
Contact the course convenor via the Dialogue site on ilearn within the first week of semester to discuss your accessibility to learners.	
Go to the unit website (from 24th July, 2015) and check Dialogue and Discussion Forums for messages.	
If you have problems accessing the site contact IT Help urgently.	
Go to the START HERE section of the website, read and follow the instructions.	

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
20/07/2015	No changes made.