



PSYC986

Clinical Psychological Assessment 1

S1 Day 2018

Department of Psychology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Lorna Peters

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C3A 712

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MClinPsych

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit covers the principles and methods of psychological assessment in the clinical context. The focus is on evidence-based assessment of clinical disorders in order to formulate the case and to evaluate progress through, and outcome of, therapy. The unit covers: critical appraisal of published literature for its clinical implications; selection of appropriate assessment techniques; administration, scoring, and interpretation of assessment devices; communication of information about assessments (report-writing and feedback to clients); and ethical principles relating to assessment. The assessment tools covered in the course include tests of cognition, diagnosis (structured and semi-structured interviews), and psychopathology (especially anxiety disorders and mood disorders, including suicide risk assessment), and treatment process variables. Methods of assessment covered include standardized tests, structured and semi-structured interviews, and behavioural observations, amongst others.

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:

Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications

Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of

psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical

context

Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context

Report on the results of assessments in written and oral form and demonstrate

knowledge of the ethical principles guiding use of assessment techniques

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Evidence Based Search Strategy	40%	No	Week 3
WISC-V Scoring Task	0%	Yes	Week 6
Pass-out Exams for the WAIS-IV	0%	Yes	Week 9 & Week 10
Assessment Plan 1	30%	Yes	Week 8
Assessment Plan 2	30%	Yes	Week after session ends
Quiz: Suicide	0%	Yes	Week 11

Evidence Based Search Strategy

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **40%**

You will be provided with a case description. Your task will be to search for an evidence-based assessment tool that would be useful in the case and to provide an evaluation of the tool.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications
- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context

WISC-V Scoring Task

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will be provided with WISC-V scores for a hypothetical case. Your task will be to score the test according to the methods outlined during lectures.

The WISC-V Scoring Task is a **hurdle requirement** of this unit (see the definition of a hurdle

requirement at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/schedule_2.html). The assessment allows demonstration of 'fitness to practice' as a clinical psychologist, which is essential prior to the first placement in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Consistent with the Assessment Policy of the University, students who make a serious attempt at the Scoring Task but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail grade for the entire unit (even if the raw mark for the Unit is over 50) and this, in turn, will result in a delay in starting the Clinic placement or further placements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context
- Report on the results of assessments in written and oral form and demonstrate knowledge of the ethical principles guiding use of assessment techniques

Pass-out Exams for the WAIS-IV

Due: **Week 9 & Week 10**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Students will be required to reach a satisfactory level of competence in administering the WAIS-IV. In order to assess level of competence, students will participate in “pass-out” exams. Students will be required to administer the WAIS-IV to a supervisor who will role-play as the examinee and also rate performance using a standard checklist, which will be made available to students via iLearn. *The pass-out exam will last for 1 hour on a Saturday.* All subtests will be tested in that time.

The WAIS-IV pass out exam is a **hurdle requirement** of this unit (see the definition of a hurdle requirement at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/schedule_2.html). The assessment allows demonstration of 'fitness to practice' as a clinical psychologist, which is essential prior to the first placement in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Consistent with the Assessment Policy of the University, students who make a serious attempt at the pass-out exam but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail grade for the entire unit (even if the raw mark for the Unit is over 50) and this, in turn, will result in a delay in starting the Clinic placement or further placements.

Note that it is **important** that you practice administration of the tests to reach a satisfactory level of competence, but it is unwise and unethical to give the results of any practice administrations to the people you test – given the restricted nature of the tests, it is most sensible to practice on fellow classmates who role-play different scenarios. There is space in the Test Library for students to practice in small groups.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context

Assessment Plan 1

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **30%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will provide a detailed and justified assessment plan for a hypothetical client with a mood disorder.

The Assessment Plan is a **hurdle requirement** of this unit (see the definition of a hurdle requirement at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/schedule_2.html). The assessment allows demonstration of 'fitness to practice' as a clinical psychologist, which is essential prior to the first placement in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Consistent with the Assessment Policy of the University, students who make a serious attempt at the Scoring Task but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail grade for the entire unit (even if the raw mark for the Unit is over 50) and this, in turn, will result in a delay in starting the Clinic placement or further placements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context

Assessment Plan 2

Due: **Week after session ends**

Weighting: **30%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will provide a detailed and justified assessment plan for a hypothetical client with an anxiety disorder.

The Assessment Plan is a **hurdle requirement** of this unit (see the definition of a hurdle requirement at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/schedule_2.html). The assessment allows demonstration of 'fitness to practice' as a clinical psychologist, which is essential prior to the first placement in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Consistent with the Assessment Policy of the University, students who make a serious attempt at the Scoring Task but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail grade for the entire unit (even if the raw mark for the Unit is over 50) and this, in turn, will result in a delay in starting the Clinic placement or further placements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context

Quiz: Suicide

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You will complete an online quiz to assess your understanding of the content of the Self-Harm and Suicide full-day workshop.

The Quiz: Suicide assessment is a **hurdle requirement** of this unit (see the definition of a hurdle requirement at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/schedule_2.html). The assessment allows demonstration of 'fitness to practice' as a clinical psychologist, which is essential prior to the first placement in the Macquarie University Psychology Clinic. Consistent with the Assessment Policy of the University, students who make a serious attempt at the Scoring Task but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail grade for the entire unit (even if the raw mark for the Unit is over 50) and this, in turn, will result in a delay in starting the Clinic placement or further placements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications

Delivery and Resources

There will be one 2-hour seminar per week, on Monday 4-6pm (11 Wally's Walk, Room 140; formerly E5A 140) each week of the session. There will also be three full-day workshops from 9am-5pm on a Friday (see Unit Schedule for dates; 11 Wally's Walk, Room 150; formerly E5A 150). The seminars and workshops involve theoretical coverage of topics as well as practical skills training. Students will also be required to prepare for seminars and workshops by completing required readings or listening to recorded material (available via iLearn). Students will have access to the Department of Psychology Test Library.

Unit Schedule

The schedule of lectures is listed below. There may be slight variations in the schedule due to staff availability.

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	Mon 26 Feb	Introduction to the unit: Assessment in clinical practice & revision of basic psychometrics.	Lorna Peters
2	Mon 5 March	Test library orientation; Evidence based assessment: searching for assessment methods	Lorna Peters
	Fri 9 March	Full day Workshop: WISC-V and WIAT-III	Lorna Peters/Sharon Watt
3	Mon 12 March	Report writing and assessment feedback	Lorna Peters
4	Mon 19 March	Structured diagnostic interviewing (SCID-CV)	Lorna Peters
5	Mon 26 March	Assessment of mood disorders	Lorna Peters
6	Mon 2 April	<i>No class today - Public Holiday</i>	
7	Mon 9 April	Assessment of mood disorders	Lorna Peters
	Fri 13 April	Full day Workshop: WAIS-IV	Lorna Peters
Midsession Break			
8	Mon 30 April	Assessment of anxiety disorders	Lorna Peters
9	Mon 7 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders	Lorna Peters
10	Mon 14 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders	Lorna Peters
	Fri 18 May	Full day Workshop: Self Harm and Suicide	Maria Kangas
11	Mon 21 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders	Lorna Peters
12	Mon 28 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders	Lorna Peters
13	Mon 4 June	No seminar this week	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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.

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

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 outcome

- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context

Assessment tasks

- WISC-V Scoring Task
- Pass-out Exams for the WAIS-IV
- Assessment Plan 1
- Assessment Plan 2
- Quiz: Suicide

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

- Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications
- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context
- Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context
- Report on the results of assessments in written and oral form and demonstrate knowledge of the ethical principles guiding use of assessment techniques

Assessment tasks

- Evidence Based Search Strategy
- WISC-V Scoring Task
- Pass-out Exams for the WAIS-IV
- Assessment Plan 1
- Assessment Plan 2
- Quiz: Suicide

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

- Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications
- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context
- Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context

Assessment tasks

- Evidence Based Search Strategy
- WISC-V Scoring Task
- Assessment Plan 1
- Assessment Plan 2
- Quiz: Suicide

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

- Critically appraise published literature for its clinical implications
- Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context

Assessment tasks

- Evidence Based Search Strategy
- WISC-V Scoring Task
- Assessment Plan 1
- Assessment Plan 2

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 outcome

- Report on the results of assessments in written and oral form and demonstrate knowledge of the ethical principles guiding use of assessment techniques

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:

Assessment task

- Quiz: Suicide