



SPED8927

Complex Vision Impairment

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Macquarie School of Education

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Susan Silveira

susan.silveira@mq.edu.au

Contact via 0298720248

RIDBC Renwick Centre

8-5 Monday to Friday

Administration

Lena Karam

[lena.karam@mq.edu.au](mailto:lana.karam@mq.edu.au)

Contact via 0298720303

RIDBC Renwick Centre

8-4 Monday to Friday

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(SPED8926 or SPED926) and permission by special approval

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This course extends and develops concepts and learning introduced in SPED8926 Introduction to Vision Impairment, with a particular focus on individuals and groups with complex support needs. The student's knowledge and understanding of the substantial challenges for individual, family and community arising from blindness and vision impairment will be developed.

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:

ULO1: Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the brain by identifying the visual

disturbance and disability experienced as a result of neurological conditions.

ULO2: Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body systems to contextualise the impact of complex medical conditions on the human body.

ULO3: Demonstrate advanced clinical and functional knowledge of combined vision impairment, brain injury and/or developmental disabilities to formulate suitable management plans for complex individual cases

ULO4: Synthesise complex medical knowledge to facilitate clear and accurate approaches when communicating critical information to affected individuals and their families.

ULO5: Reflect on current policy that guides sector approaches to people with vision impairment to support stakeholder understanding and advocacy, and to inform future professional approaches.

General Assessment Information

Assessment Presentation and Submission Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines when you submit each assignment:

- The assignment title page should include the student name, student number, unit code, title of the assessment and submitted word count.
- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- Please type all assignments using Arial, 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- All assignments must be submitted through Turnitin as an **accessible word document – do not submit as a pdf**.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assessments are successfully submitted through Turnitin (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students/assignments-and-grades>).

Draft Submissions & Turnitin Originality Reports

Students are strongly advised to use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students/assignments-and-grades>).

Students are strongly encouraged to upload a draft copy of each assignment to Turnitin at least one week prior to the due date to obtain an Originality Report.

The Originality Report provides students with a similarity index that may indicate if plagiarism has occurred. Students should refer to the Originality report and make amendments to their drafts prior to their final submission on the due date. Generally, one Originality Report is generated every 24 hours up to the due date.

Students should regularly save a copy of all assignments before submission,

Students are responsible for checking that their assignment submission has been successful and has been submitted by the due date and time.

Assignment extensions and late penalties

In general, there should be no need for extensions except through illness or misadventure that would be categorised as serious and unavoidable disruption according to the University definition of same: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ according to the Special Consideration policy. Extensions can only be granted if they meet the Special Considerations policy and are submitted via <https://ask.mq.edu.au/>. This will ensure consistency in the consideration of such requests is maintained.

Late submissions: Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests. Late penalties are applied by unit convenors or their delegates after tasks are assessed.

If a student is still permitted to submit on the basis of unavoidable disruption, an alternative topic may be set.

Students should keep an electronic file of all assessments. Claims regarding "lost" assessments cannot be made if the file cannot be produced. It is also advisable to keep an electronic file of all drafts and the final submission on a USB untouched/unopened after submission. This can be used to demonstrate easily that the assessment has not been amended after the submission date.

Requesting a re-assessment of an assignment

If you have **evidence** that your task has been incorrectly assessed against the grade descriptors you can request a re-mark. To request a re-mark you need to contact the unit convenor within **7 days** of the date of return of the assignment and provide **a detailed assessment of your script against the task criteria**. Evidence from your assignment must be provided to support your judgements.

Note: Failed assessments cannot be re-marked as they are all double-marked as a part of the moderation process.

Note: The outcome of a re-mark may be a **higher/lower or unchanged grade**. Grades are standards referenced and effort is NOT a criterion.

Online Quiz Assessments

Online quizzes are an individual assessment task and **MUST BE COMPLETED by each student individually**. Similarities in responses between students will be checked and investigated for possible collusion.

In submitting your responses to an online quiz you agree that you:

- have not included content that has previously been submitted for academic credit in this or any other unit
- are submitting answers which are your own work
- acknowledge that you are aware of, and are acting in accordance with the Macquarie University Academic Integrity Policy and the standards set out in Schedule 2 (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/academic-integrity>)
- that you are not participating in any unacceptable academic activities such as cheating, collusion, deception, fabrication, impersonation, obstruction, plagiarism and/or sabotage.

University policy on grading

Criteria for awarding grades for assessment tasks

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading Policy. The following descriptive criteria are included for your information.

Descriptive Criteria for awarding grades in the unit

In order to meet the unit outcomes and successfully pass this unit, students must make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks. Where any submitted assessment task is considered to be unsatisfactory in this regard, the highest possible final grade that can be awarded for the unit will be 45.

Students will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the policy: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment-in-effect-from-session-2-2016>

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

Grade	Descriptor
HD (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.
D (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.
Cr (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.

P (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
F (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.

Withdrawing from this PG Unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via <https://ask.mq.edu.au> before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact on your progression through the degree. Please also contact Claire Farrington on 0298720811 or claire.farrington@mq.edu.au prior to withdrawing and for advice related to your progression.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Personal reflection essay	40%	No	14th August, 2020 by midnight
Quiz One	20%	No	28th August, 2020 by midnight
Quiz Two	20%	No	9th October, 2020 by midnight
Quiz Three	20%	No	6th November, 2020 by midnight

Personal reflection essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **14th August, 2020 by midnight**

Weighting: **40%**

Based on a theoretical framework, analysis of two strategies from the literature that may assist in working with individuals with complex needs, reflecting on individual preparedness. (2000 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesize complex medical knowledge to facilitate clear and accurate approaches when communicating critical information to affected individuals and their families.
- Reflect on current policy that guides sector approaches to people with vision impairment to support stakeholder understanding and advocacy, and to inform future professional approaches.

Quiz One

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **28th August, 2020 by midnight**

Weighting: **20%**

Short answer based quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a scholarly understanding of the brain by identifying the visual disturbance and disability experienced as a result of neurological conditions.
- Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body systems to contextualise the impact of complex medical conditions on the human body.

Quiz Two

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **9th October, 2020 by midnight**

Weighting: **20%**

Short answer based quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced clinical and functional knowledge of combined vision impairment, brain injury and/or developmental disabilities to formulate suitable management plans for complex individual cases
- Synthesize complex medical knowledge to facilitate clear and accurate approaches when communicating critical information to affected individuals and their families.

Quiz Three

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **6th November, 2020 by midnight**

Weighting: **20%**

Short answer based quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body systems to contextualise the impact of complex medical conditions on the human body.
- Demonstrate advanced clinical and functional knowledge of combined vision impairment, brain injury and/or developmental disabilities to formulate suitable management plans for complex individual cases
- Synthesise complex medical knowledge to facilitate clear and accurate approaches when communicating critical information to affected individuals and their families.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery and Resources

SPED8927 has a full web presence through iLearn. All requirements for this unit begin Session 2 Week 1, 2020. Students are expected to access the iLearn site and engage with unit materials regularly during session 2.

Support resources

Macquarie University has a range of services for students. If you are struggling with any aspect of academic life or career trajectory and skills, we have great supports within the university. Please refer to the comprehensive list of support services [here](#).

Access and technical assistance

Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn>. You will need to enter your student username and password.

Please do **NOT** contact the Unit Convenor regarding iLearn technical help. No extensions will be given for any technical issues. Allow enough time for your submissions. Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 1800 67 4357, or log a request at help.mq.edu.au. OneHelp is the online IT support service for both students and staff. This unit requires students to use several ICT and software skills:

- Internet access: The iLearn site contains materials for this unit; it is also required for the online submission of all Assessment Tasks, and for the use of Turnitin submission for ALL tasks.
- Word processing, visual representations, and document formatting: You are required to use an appropriate form of software to present your assignments.
- Uploading of assessment tasks to iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Topic 1: Introduction to the Person with Neurological Conditions

This topic will introduce the concept of the person with neurological conditions and will explore the visual system at a neurological level. The visual disturbance and disability which may experienced as a result of neurological conditions will also be explored.

Topic 2: Introduction to Brain Injury

This topic will explore the broad medical condition known as brain injury, including traumatic and non-traumatic brain injury. The visual disturbance and disability which can be experienced as a result of brain injury will also be outlined.

Topic 3: Introduction to Developmental Disability

This topic will explore the broad area of developmental disability, including the diagnostic process and common conditions which are associated with developmental disability and vision impairment.

Topic 4: Low vision in the Australian context

This topic will explore the area of low vision in the Australian context, examining guiding principles for policy and funding for people with vision impairment; outline the role of various eye health professionals and low vision agencies; and provide a summary of the key issues related to vision impairment that have been identified & highlighted in SPED8927.

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.*)

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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 published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Electronic Communication

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official MQ Student Email Address
- The Dialogue function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant

information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.