



PSYC8986

Clinical Psychological Assessment 1

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Psychology

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Lorna Peters

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Credit points

10

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: 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), 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:

ULO1: Apply an evidence-based framework for selecting and judging the quality of psychological tests for treatment planning and outcome assessment in the clinical context.

ULO2: Administer, score, and interpret results on a variety of tests used in the clinical context.

ULO3: Report on the results of assessments in written and oral form and demonstrate

knowledge of the ethical principles guiding use of assessment techniques.

General Assessment Information

See links to the Assessment Policy and the Special Consideration Policy in the Policies and Procedures section of this Unit Guide.

Late submissions

All assessment tasks have a strict due date. Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of assessment tasks will be granted. If students experience unexpected, unavoidable, and serious circumstances affecting submission of assessable work they may lodge an application for Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au with supporting documentary evidence. All requests for special consideration must be made no later than five working days after the due date of the assessment task. Where special consideration has not been granted, late submissions will not be accepted.

Hurdle requirements

All of the assessment tasks are hurdle requirements - they require a minimum level of performance in order for students to pass the Unit. The assessment tasks allow 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 task but fail to meet the required standards, will be provided with one additional opportunity to complete the task to a satisfactory standard. Failure of the second attempt will result in a Fail (FH) 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. The required standards for the hurdle tasks will be provided via iLearn prior to completion of the task.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>WISC-V Scoring task</u>	0%	Yes	Week 5
<u>WISC-V report</u>	30%	Yes	Week 7
<u>Pass out examination for WAIS-IV</u>	0%	Yes	Week 8 or Week 9 (to be confirmed via iLearn)
<u>Assessment plan 1</u>	35%	Yes	Week 10
<u>Assessment plan 2</u>	35%	Yes	Week 13

WISC-V Scoring task

Assessment Type ¹: Clinical performance evaluation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 8 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **0%**

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

Students will be provided with WISC-V scores for a hypothetical case. They will be required to score the test.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

WISC-V report

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **30%**

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

Students will be required to write a 1500 word report based on the scored WISC-V protocol for a hypothetical case.

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 examination for WAIS-IV

Assessment Type ¹: Clinical performance evaluation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 8 or Week 9 (to be confirmed via iLearn)**

Weighting: **0%**

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

Students will be required to demonstrate a satisfactory level of competence in administering the WAIS-IV to a supervisor who will role-play as the examinee and also rate performance using a standard checklist.

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

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **35%**

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

Students will be required to provide a detailed and justified assessment plan for a hypothetical client with a mood disorder in 1500 words.

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

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **35%**

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

Students will be required to provide a detailed and justified assessment plan for a hypothetical client with a anxiety disorder in 1500 words.

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.

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

There will be one 2-hour seminar per week (Wednesday 3-5pm) each week of session. There will also be two full-day workshops (Friday 9-4pm; week 2 and week 6). The seminars and workshops involve theoretical coverage of topics as well as practical skills training. Students will 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

Week	Date	Topic
1	Wednesday 24 Feb	Introduction to the unit: Assessment in clinical practice and revision of basic psychometrics
2	Wednesday 3 March	Test library orientation; Evidence based assessment; searching for assessment methods
2	Friday 5 March	Full Day Workshop: Assessment of intelligence in children - WISC-V
3	Wednesday 10 March	Assessment of achievement: WIAT-III
4	Wednesday 17 March	No in-person seminar this week. Listen to two recordings: Interpreting scores on the Wechsler intelligence scales and Communicating the results of testing
5	Wednesday 24 March	Structured Diagnostic Interviewing (SCID-CV);
6	Friday 26 March	Full Day Workshop: Assessment of intelligence in adults - WAIS-IV
6	Wednesday 31 March	Assessment of mood disorders (clinician rating scales)
<i>Midsession Recess</i>		
7	Wednesday 21 April	Assessment of mood disorders (self-report measures)
8	Wednesday 28 April	Assessment of anxiety disorders (diagnostic interviewing)
9	Wednesday 5 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders (self-report measures: phobias and GAD)
10	Wednesday 12 May	Assessment of anxiety disorders (behavioural assessment)

11	Wednesday 19 May	Assessment of anxiety and related disorders (OCD; screening for trauma)
12	Wednesday 26 May	No seminar this week
13	Wednesday 2 June	No seminar this week

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
22/01/2021	None.