



EDST8302

Educational Assessment

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Education

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Disclaimer

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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

John Ehrich

john.ehrich@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MTeach(Prim) or MTeach(Sec) or MEd or GradCertEd or MEdLead or MHEd or GradCertHEd or MEChild or GradCertEChild or MTeach(0-5) or GradCertClinEdSim or MIndigenousEd or GradDipIndigenousEd or GradDipChildLit or MChildLit

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is designed as an introduction to the technical dimensions of educational assessment, measurement, and evaluation. The aim of this unit is to equip teachers and higher education academics with assessment, measurement, and evaluative skills in order to meet the ever increasing demands on teachers and lecturers to use assessment data to enhance learning. Educators today are expected to collect, compile, and analyse assessment data in order to inform teaching, to facilitate the planning of syllabuses, and to evaluate programs of work. In order to meet these needs, this unit introduces the fundamental principles of assessment, the basic mathematics of educational measurement, and models of learning program evaluation.

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:

ULO2: Critically appraise and apply the mathematics of educational measurement to interpret and report learner performance on a variety of assessments, state and national tests and large-scale standardised assessment programs.

ULO1: Apply knowledge of the technical dimensions of assessment to evaluate assessment tasks and strategies.

ULO3: Identify various sources of educational data and examine techniques for analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.

ULO4: Utilise current theoretical models of educational evaluation to strategically plan, facilitate and critically assess school learning programs using a variety of educational data.

General Assessment Information

Assessment Presentation and Submission Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines when you submit each assignment:

- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- Please type all assignments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- All assessments must be submitted through Turnitin in .doc or .pdf format
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assessments are successfully submitted through Turnitin.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.

Draft Submissions & Turnitin Originality Reports

- Students may use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.
- Students are strongly encouraged to upload a draft copy of each assessment 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 will be able to 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.

Please note:

- Students should regularly save a copy of all assignments before submission,
- Students are responsible for checking that their 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, see: <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.

Please 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 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. Please see the Academic Honesty Handbook for more information.

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. |

Note: If you fail a unit with a professional experience component the fail grade will be on your transcript irrespective of the timing of the placement.

Withdrawing from this UG Unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via <https://ask.m>

q.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.

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 |
|--|-----------|--------|------------------------|
| Final Examination | 40% | No | Examination period TBA |
| A written report in three parts using educational data (2500 words). | 40% | No | End of Week 9 |
| Quizzes | 20% | No | Weeks 3, 5, 8, & 13 |

Final Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Examination period TBA**

Weighting: **40%**

Examination (2 hours) (MC, short answer, and open-ended response)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise and apply the mathematics of educational measurement to interpret and report learner performance on a variety of assessments, state and national tests and large-scale standardised assessment programs.
- Apply knowledge of the technical dimensions of assessment to evaluate assessment tasks and strategies.
- Identify various sources of educational data and examine techniques for analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.

A written report in three parts using educational data (2500 words).

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **End of Week 9**

Weighting: **40%**

In this assignment students are required to write a report on a fictional school or Higher Education department using NAPLAN or Higher Education data. In part 1 (500 words) students will interpret, analyse and compare a data set with normative educational data. In Part 2 (1000 words), students will determine a specific issue which is identifiable in the data (e.g., poor attendance of students, boys not making benchmarks in reading etc.). Students will then review current empirical research on the factors relating to the chosen issue. In Part 3 (1000 words), students will outline a proposal (a list of recommendations) which are aimed at resolving the chosen issue and improving the outcomes of students. This will include an evaluation plan using the Logic Plan to assess the effectiveness of the plan to improve learning outcomes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise and apply the mathematics of educational measurement to interpret and report learner performance on a variety of assessments, state and national tests and large-scale standardised assessment programs.
- Apply knowledge of the technical dimensions of assessment to evaluate assessment tasks and strategies.
- Identify various sources of educational data and examine techniques for analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.
- Utilise current theoretical models of educational evaluation to strategically plan, facilitate and critically assess school learning programs using a variety of educational data.

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Weeks 3, 5, 8, & 13**

Weighting: **20%**

Fortnightly quizzes will be run online (in iLearn). The questions will be MC, short answer, and open-ended response. The quizzes will test knowledge and skills developed in the lectures and tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise and apply the mathematics of educational measurement to interpret and report learner performance on a variety of assessments, state and national tests and large-scale standardised assessment programs.
- Apply knowledge of the technical dimensions of assessment to evaluate assessment tasks and strategies.
- Identify various sources of educational data and examine techniques for analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.
- Utilise current theoretical models of educational evaluation to strategically plan, facilitate and critically assess school learning programs using a variety of educational data.

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

Recommended text: Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). *Measurement and assessment in education*. Pearson: US.

Students will need regular access to a computer and the Internet to complete this unit.

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.

Weekly access to iLearn is compulsory for all students. Important assessment information will be posted here, as will other relevant unit notices and materials, including a reading template and guide to lecture note taking to assist your studies.

Various activities and materials for discussion and critical reflection are included and external students especially are encouraged to use this web component. Electronic links and suggested

references will be included in the Resources section. Please check the iLearn unit regularly.

Weekly lectures are available as MP4 files uploaded to the iLearn site. You must listen to all lectures.

PowerPoint slides are available in iLearn in advance of the weekly lecture and/or are available in the Active Learning Tool.

Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/. 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.

The unit comprises a weekly two-hour lecture and a two-hour tutorial. In the tutorial students will discuss issues and questions arising from the lectures and prescribed readings. They are expected to base their arguments/discussions on evidence from published research and other relevant material. Attendance at all tutorials is expected. Attendance at on campus days for external students is also expected. There will be a supporting website for the unit providing additional readings, links and materials. Students are required to participate in small group activities, whole class discussion, to read the weekly material in advance, and to complete brief tasks either as individuals or in pairs. The weekly program for the course with the accompanying readings/ preparation is available on the following pages or on the unit iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

| Wk | Week Start | Lecture | Tutorial Topic | Reading |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | 22 nd February | Introduction Principles of assessment | Principles of assessment/current research and trends | 1. Unit guide 2. Shepard, L. A. (2000). The role of assessment in a learning culture. <i>Educational Researcher</i> , 29(7), 4–14. |
| 2 | 1 st March | Reliability | Reliability of assessments for teachers | 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i> . Pearson: US. Chapter 4. |
| 3 | 8 th March Quiz 1 | Validity | Validity of assessments for teachers | 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i> . Pearson: US. Chapters 5. |

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|----|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 4 | 15 th March | Quantitative & qualitative data | Interpreting and using quantitative and qualitative data | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shaddock, A. (2014). <i>Using data to improve learning</i>. ACER Press: Victoria. Chapter 3 & 8. 2. Matters, G. (2006). <i>Using Data to Support Learning in Schools Students, teachers, systems</i>. Australian Council for Educational Research. 3. Honan, E. (2015). Small data: Working with qualitative information in the literacy classroom. <i>Literacy Learning the Middle Years</i>, 3(23), 57 – 68. |
| 5 | 22 nd March Quiz 2 | | Evaluation of educational programs/ Marks and grading | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i>. Pearson: US. Chapter 11. 2. Frye, A. W., & Hemmer, P. A. (2012) Program evaluation models and related theories: AMEE Guide No. 67, <i>Medical Teacher</i>, 34(5), e288-e299, <p>DOI: 10.3109/0142159X.2012.668637</p> |
| 6 | 29 th March | Mathematics of measurement 1 | The basic mathematics of measurement theory and how it can be applied to educational data part 1. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i>. Pearson: US. Chapter 2. 2. Wright, B. D. (1997). A history of social science measurement. <i>Educational Measurement: Issues & Practices</i>, 33 – 45. |
| | 5 th April | | | Recess/ school holidays |
| | 12 th April | | | Recess/ school holidays |
| 7 | 19 th April | Mathematics of measurement 2 | The basic mathematics of measurement theory and how it can be applied to educational data part 2. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i>. Pearson: US. Chapter 6. |
| 8 | 26 th April Quiz 3 | Standardised Testing | Standardised tests & testing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i>. Pearson: US. Chapter 3. |
| 9 | 3 rd May Major assignment due | NAPLAN | Understanding standardised tests | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reynolds, C. R., Livingston, R. B., & Willson, V. (2009). <i>Measurement and assessment in education</i>. Pearson: US. Chapter 7. |
| 10 | 10 th May | | | Professional experience |

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|----|--------------------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|
| 11 | 17 th May | | | Professional experience |
| 12 | 24 th May | | | Professional experience |
| 13 | 31 st May Quiz 4 | Revision | | |
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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.