



SPED8926

Foundational Studies in Blindness/Low Vision

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Macquarie School of Education

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Course Director and Unit Convenor
Susan Silveira

susan.silveira@mq.edu.au

Contact via 0477202129

NextSense Institute

Monday to Friday 9-5pm

Graduate Studies Coordinator

Tanya Kysa

student.enquiries@nextsense.org.au

Contact via 0484913641

NextSense Institute

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am-3pm

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MDisabilityStud

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides foundation knowledge in the cause and implication of disease and blindness/low vision across the age spectrum. The student will develop a broad view of the low vision needs of individuals and the role they can play in meeting these needs.

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 knowledge of the visual system including the eyes, the brain and human visual development to demonstrate an understanding of the human visual process.

ULO2: Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body system development to contextualise the impact of disease on the human body.

ULO3: Interpret clinical findings and vision behaviours to develop appropriate vision profiles that accurately report the visual capacity of an individual with blindness/low vision.

ULO4: Analyse the impact of blindness/low vision across the age spectrum by applying broad and coherent knowledge of disorders of the eye and visual system.

ULO5: Critically reflect on literature and discussions that explore public perceptions, to develop a personal advocacy standpoint addressing issues encountered by people with blindness/low vision.

General Assessment Information

Academic honesty

- At all times, students should be aware of and apply the Macquarie University policy on academic honesty (<https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>)
- Information on the acceptable and permitted use of generative artificial intelligence tools (GAIT) is outlined in the instructions for each unit assessment task

Assessment preparation guidelines

- All assignments must be submitted in a format that is accessible for people who are blind or have low vision
- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- All assignments should be types using a minimum of Arial, 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- Word limits (+/- 10%) should be adhered to.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.
- Students must use the Turnitin Similarity Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing and, in consideration of the report outcome, attend to any potential academic integrity issues, prior to submission of the final version of the assignment.
- 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 a Turnitin Similarity Report. The Turnitin Similarity 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.
- **GAIT use is NOT permitted.** For all SPED8926 assessment tasks students are not

permitted to use any content or ideas generated by third parties or artificial intelligence sources (i.e., Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools or GAITs) for **any purpose**, including summarising texts on the subject. Students may continue to use spelling/grammar checkers, e.g., Microsoft spell-check, Grammarly, and Turnitin Draft Coach; and referencing software, e.g., Endnote and Mendeley.

- Engaging with GAITs for all SPED8926 assessment tasks constitutes, and will be treated as a breach of academic integrity.

Assessment submission guidelines

- The assignment title page should include the student's name, student number, unit code, title of the assessment and correct submitted word count.
- All assignments must be submitted electronically through Turnitin as a **Word document – do not submit as a pdf.**
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assignments are successfully submitted through Turnitin - students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.
- For written assignments, the Turnitin Similarity Report must also be submitted using the correct Turnitin submission point at the time of assignment submission.
- 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 responses to an online quiz, students agree that they:

- are not participating in any unacceptable academic activities such as cheating, collusion, deception, fabrication, impersonation, obstruction, plagiarism and/or sabotage.
- have not included content that has previously been submitted for academic credit in this or any other unit
- are submitting answers which are their own work
- acknowledge they are aware of, and are acting in accordance with the Macquarie University Academic Integrity Policy at: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>

Application for Special Consideration – extensions

Applications for Special Consideration - extensions must be made via AskMQ (<https://ask.mq.edu.au/>).

Late submission of assessments

- Unless a Special Consideration (see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>) request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of, 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc).
- Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application.
- The Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.
- It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments. It is the student's responsibility to contact the unit convenor when assessments are missed.

Assessment marking

- Word limits are strictly applied. Work 10% above the word limit will not be marked. Work below the word count may attract a penalty.
- All assessments are marked using a clear marking scheme or a rubric.
- Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.
- Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments.

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. For Professional Experience units the PE Report is marked as satisfactory or unsatisfactory and the Teaching Performance Assessment (in final PE units) is marked as not meets, meets or exceeds. 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.

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 unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please contact the Graduate Studies Coordinator Tanya Kysa on 0484913641 or student.enquiries@nextsense.org.au, prior to withdrawing, for advice related to your progression. You can also seek academic advice via <https://ask.mq.edu.au> before withdrawing 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 the Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to the student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quiz One	20%	No	23.55pm 05/04/2024
Quiz two	30%	No	23.55pm 24/05/2024
Online case presentation (1500 words)	30%	No	23.55pm 27/05/2024
Student online discussion	20%	No	23.55pm 31/05/2024

Quiz One

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23.55pm 05/04/2024**

Weighting: **20%**

Short answer based quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the visual system including the eyes, the brain and human visual development to demonstrate an understanding of the human visual process.
- Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body system development to contextualise the impact of disease on the human body.

Quiz two

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23.55pm 24/05/2024**

Weighting: **30%**

Short answer based quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret clinical findings and vision behaviours to develop appropriate vision profiles that accurately report the visual capacity of an individual with blindness/low vision.
- Analyse the impact of blindness/low vision across the age spectrum by applying broad and coherent knowledge of disorders of the eye and visual system.

Online case presentation (1500 words)

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23.55pm 27/05/2024**

Weighting: **30%**

A list of eye conditions will be presented. Students will construct a case study around the chosen condition, describing the typical development of the condition, clinical findings and the impact of the blindness/low vision.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the visual system including the eyes, the brain and human visual development to demonstrate an understanding of the human visual process.
- Analyse the impact of blindness/low vision across the age spectrum by applying broad and coherent knowledge of disorders of the eye and visual system.
- Critically reflect on literature and discussions that explore public perceptions, to develop a personal advocacy standpoint addressing issues encountered by people with blindness/low vision.

Student online discussion

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **23.55pm 31/05/2024**

Weighting: **20%**

Responses to the case studies of other students and general online discussion performance

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the visual system including the eyes, the brain and human visual development to demonstrate an understanding of the human visual process.
 - Apply knowledge of human anatomy and body system development to contextualise the impact of disease on the human body.
 - Interpret clinical findings and vision behaviours to develop appropriate vision profiles that accurately report the visual capacity of an individual with blindness/low vision.
 - Analyse the impact of blindness/low vision across the age spectrum by applying broad and coherent knowledge of disorders of the eye and visual system.
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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

Required and recommended texts

Friedman, N. J., Kaiser, P. K., & Pineda, R. (2021). *The Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Illustrated Manual of Ophthalmology* (Fifth edition.). St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier. Full text available as eBook through Macquarie University Library.

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

Information about the iLearn site

SPED8926 has a full web presence through iLearn. All requirements for this unit begin Session 1 Week 1, 2024. Students are expected to access the iLearn site and engage with unit materials regularly during session 1.

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, 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. Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 02 98504357 and 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 healthy human

Topic 2: Assessment of vision

Topic 3: Blindness and low vision in childhood

Topic 4: Blindness and low vision in adolescence

Topic 5: Blindness and low vision in adulthood

Topic 6: Support for blindness and low vision

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

5 R's Framework

5 Rs Framework

The 5Rs Framework, developed by the School of Education at Macquarie University, is embedded throughout this unit. Your use of the 5Rs Framework will help you develop the capabilities that will make your career sustainable and fulfilling. In this unit, you will learn using the 5Rs framework in the following important ways:

Resilient	Reflexive	Responsive	Ready to learn	Research engaged
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<p>Students gain exposure to the disability sector and develop an understanding of the critical role they will play, the need for personal resilience and resilient approaches when supporting people with disability.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to critically reflect in the context of themselves as a practitioner, their previous and future professional experiences and the engagement they will have with people, organisations and society in general.</p>	<p>The individualised learning content encourages students to be responsive to clients, organisations and critical issues faced in the disability sector.</p> <p>Students are expected to be responsive to the ideas of peers and provide meaningful and supportive feedback.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to reflect and then identify their own learning needs for their context, to pursue learning that achieves great outcomes for all people they work with now and into the future.</p> <p>Students take responsibility for learning independently as well as fostering collaborative learning in other students.</p>	<p>Students engage with literature and base their practice on evidence. Students practice academic integrity as they learn to explore contemporary and relevant literature.</p>
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Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the [Handbook](#)