



# EDUC8270

## Language, Learning, and Communication

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

*Macquarie School of Education*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MSpecEd or GradDipSpecEd or MInc&SpecEd or GradDipInc&SpecEd or GradCertInc&SpecEd or GradCertLearnDiffSuppTeach

Corequisites

Co-badged status

### Unit description

This unit is designed to provide foundational and advanced knowledge of language and communication, and their central role in learning and participation within educational opportunities and beyond. It focuses on current research-based theories, assessment and intervention in language and communication. Key language and communication concepts such as phonological awareness, language comprehension and pragmatics will be discussed. Language and communication difficulties in developmental language, learning and behaviour difficulties, and autism will be introduced. Different assessments used to examine language and communication skills of students will be reviewed. Intervention approaches such as speech and language therapies, assistive technology and AAC (augmentative and alternative communication), and the role of communication partners in enabling shared communication, will be given specific consideration.

## 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 foundational and advanced discipline knowledge in the areas of language and communication.

**ULO2:** Demonstrate a sound understanding of language and communication difficulties and the role of language in facilitating learning and positive behavioural development.

**ULO3:** Critically evaluate a range of approaches to improve language and communication skills in diverse learners.

**ULO4:** Apply knowledge of evidence-based practice and assessment tasks, instructional strategies and progress monitoring to facilitate language and communication development.

## General Assessment Information

### General Submission Information

Please format assessments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.

All assessments must be submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments. It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that their submitted work is in a format compatible with Turnitin software for plagiarism checking. Submissions must meet the required file type and formatting specifications outlined in the assessment guidelines. Failure to submit work in an acceptable format may result in delays in processing your submission and potential penalties for non-compliance with assessment

requirements. If you are unsure about the file format or have technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to seek assistance before the submission deadline. Students should be careful to 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. It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor.

Students can use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.

Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked.

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Students should be aware of and apply the University policy on academic integrity (see: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>). Any student suspected of using unauthorised AI in an assignment will be referred to the Faculty of Arts Discipline Committee. Penalties can include reduced marks for an assessment, being awarded '0' for a task, failing an entire unit, being excluded from a course of study. Please see each assessment task description/rubric for expectations about AI.

### **Special Consideration / Late Penalties**

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends) (see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>). Applications for extensions must be made via [Service Connect](#). 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 assessments (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. A Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

### **Important to note**

- *Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs) will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.*
- *Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit*

Convenor (or equivalent).

- Where an application for Special Consideration is approved and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the [Special Consideration Policy](#) for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

## Marking

All assessments are marked using a rubric.

Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.

## University Policy on Grading

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the [University's Grading System](#) and [University Assessment Policy](#).

To attain a pass or higher grade in Professional Experience a student must obtain a satisfactory in both the Professional Experience component **and** a pass or higher grade in the academic component. For Professional Experience units the Professional Experience Evaluation Report is marked as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. The Macquarie Teaching Performance Assessment (MQTPA - in final WIL/PEx units) is marked as Not met, Met or Exceeds.

## Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed because 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 [Service Connect](#).

## Withdrawing from this unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via [Service Connect](#) before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact your course progression.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Language and Learning Problem Set</a>	50%	No	23:55 14/04/2025

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Communication Problem Set</u>	50%	No	23:55 02/06/2025

## Language and Learning Problem Set

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **23:55 14/04/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are to answer a set of questions on the competency in essential discipline knowledge in language development and learning, as well as questions related to program design and assessments for students with language and learning difficulties (2,200 to 2,700 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate foundational and advanced discipline knowledge in the areas of language and communication.
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of language and communication difficulties and the role of language in facilitating learning and positive behavioural development.
- Critically evaluate a range of approaches to improve language and communication skills in diverse learners.
- Apply knowledge of evidence-based practice and assessment tasks, instructional strategies and progress monitoring to facilitate language and communication development.

## Communication Problem Set

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **23:55 02/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are to answer a set of questions on the competency in essential discipline knowledge in communication, as well as questions related to program design and assessments for students with communication difficulties (1,500 to 2,000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate foundational and advanced discipline knowledge in the areas of language and communication.
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of language and communication difficulties and the role of language in facilitating learning and positive behavioural development.
- Critically evaluate a range of approaches to improve language and communication skills in diverse learners.
- Apply knowledge of evidence-based practice and assessment tasks, instructional strategies and progress monitoring to facilitate language and communication development.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

Kuder, S. J. (2017). Teaching students with language and communication disabilities. Pearson,

**Information about the unit iLearn site** This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. Students will need regular access to a computer and the Internet to complete this unit. 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 on the iLearn unit 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.

### Access and technical assistance

Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php>. 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: 9850 4357 or 1800 67 4357 Email: [help.mq.edu.au](mailto:help.mq.edu.au). On Campus:  
Ground floor at 18 Wally's Walk

## Structure

The weekly program for the course with the accompanying readings/ preparation is available on the unit iLearn site.

# Unit Schedule

## Unit Schedule

Topics that will be covered in EDUC8270 (please see iLearn page for detailed lecture schedule):

- Introduction to Language, Learning and Communication
- Language Components
- Language Development
- Language and Reading
- Language and Reading Assessments
- Language and Learning
- Language and Neurodiverse Learners
- Language and Communication
- Language and Communication Instructions
- Assistive technology and Augmentative Alternative Communication

# 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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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/](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
20/02/2025	Changes were made to convening arrangements and extra tutor

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)