HSYP8100

Foundations of Public Health

Session 1, Online-flexible 2026

School of Health Sciences and Nursing

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Kristy Burns
kristy.burns@mq.edu.au

Alexandra Bhatti
alexandra.bhatti@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MPH or MPH(Res) or MAppEcon or MHL

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit will provide you with the foundations for understanding the field of public health and build your knowledge and skills towards becoming a public health practitioner. You will be introduced to the core functions of public health with attention to the role that different health fields and disciplines play in contributing to health protection and promotion in diverse communities and populations. You will gain an understanding of different public health models, approaches and perspectives, and learn to apply these to analysing contemporary public health issues. This foundational unit will equip you with practical skills essential in moving forward your studies and future public health practice.

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: Explain public health and its core functions in maintaining, improving, and protecting the health of communities and populations. (Scientist & Scholar)

ULO2: Analyse the role of different health professions and disciplines in developing effective population health solutions. (Professional)

ULO3: Critically analyse priority public health issues relevant to specific populations or

communities with consideration of diverse influences, such as social, environmental, and policy factors. (Citizen)

ULO4: Demonstrate effective communications skills in the context of professional public health activities. (Practitioner)

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy.

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the Assessment Procedure (clause 128 and 129).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

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). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' 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 concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Photo essay	25%	No	26/03/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Written report	45%	No	11/05/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Interactive presentation	30%	No	02/06/2026	Individual	No	Observed

Photo essay

Assessment Type [1]: Professional task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **26/03/2026**
Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: Yes
AI Approach: Open

You will prepare a brief written analysis of a series of photos that showcase public health efforts in the community

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain public health and its core functions in maintaining, improving, and protecting the health of communities and populations. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Analyse the role of different health professions and disciplines in developing effective population health solutions. (Professional)
- Demonstrate effective communications skills in the context of professional public health activities. (Practitioner)

Written report

Assessment Type [1]: Written Submission
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **11/05/2026**
Weighting: **45%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: Yes
AI Approach: Open

You will prepare a written analysis of a contemporary public health issue.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain public health and its core functions in maintaining, improving, and protecting the health of communities and populations. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Analyse the role of different health professions and disciplines in developing effective population health solutions. (Professional)
- Critically analyse priority public health issues relevant to specific populations or communities with consideration of diverse influences, such as social, environmental, and policy factors. (Citizen)
- Demonstrate effective communications skills in the context of professional public health activities. (Practitioner)

Interactive presentation

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **02/06/2026**
Weighting: **30%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Observed

You will appraise a contemporary public health issue from diverse perspectives and respond to audience questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain public health and its core functions in maintaining, improving, and protecting the health of communities and populations. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Analyse the role of different health professions and disciplines in developing effective population health solutions. (Professional)
- Critically analyse priority public health issues relevant to specific populations or communities with consideration of diverse influences, such as social, environmental, and policy factors. (Citizen)
- Demonstrate effective communications skills in the context of professional public health activities. (Practitioner)

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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

- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online (all students) and face-to-face (on-campus students) learning activities, including readings, online modules, seminars and other learning activities. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Recommended Readings

See the Leganto reading list for this unit on the unit iLearn page.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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 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/

Academic Success

Academic Success provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Ask a Study Coach
- 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 https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk.

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.

Artificial Intelligence tools

Macquarie University recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, is rapidly reshaping education and the modern workplace. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, the University and your teaching staff are committed to preparing you to use these tools effectively, ethically, and with strong professional judgment. Rather than restricting technology, the emphasis is on helping you understand when and how AI can be used to enhance productivity, support learning, and reflect real-world professional practice. Across your degree, we will support you to develop the critical thinking, adaptability, and values-based decision-making skills required to navigate evolving AI tools responsibly, including acknowledging their use appropriately. You should always appropriately acknowledge when you have used AI tools within assessment tasks, including which AI tools you have used and how you have used them.

To provide clarity, Macquarie University uses a simple, two-tiered approach to AI in assessment:

AI Open assessments allow you to fully incorporate AI, reflecting authentic tasks where AI would normally be used in professional settings.

Observed with AI Optional assessments involve tasks where you either demonstrate essential knowledge without technology or show how you apply AI under supervision.

Across both categories, the goal is to ensure you build foundational knowledge, exercise sound judgment, and engage with AI in ways that uphold ethical, cultural, and university values.

Inclusion and diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to

display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are **expected to attend all small group interactive sessions** and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities may be recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures, some Teams meeting), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff (and guest lecturers) who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering the learnring environment. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the Handbook