



PHTY8301

Advanced Physiotherapy Practice A

Session 2, In person-scheduled-infrequent, North Ryde 2026

School of Health Sciences and Nursing

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General Information

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Credit points 10
Prerequisites PHTY8204 and PHTY8205 and PHTY8206 and PHTY8207
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit will further develop your advanced knowledge, clinical reasoning skills and practice to prepare for advanced and extended scope roles for physiotherapists. Contemporary advances in clinical practice will be explored to enhance your ability to work with individuals from highly diverse cultural and social backgrounds, and with highly complex presentations. You will also further develop your communication skills to enhance your practice in contemporary healthcare settings and when working with individuals with diverse levels of health literacy.

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 the impact of new developments in physiotherapy scope of practice on the role of the physiotherapist in health care. (Scientist & Scholar)

ULO2: Explain and/or perform advanced contemporary practices, such as imaging, pharmacology, novel pain treatments and emergency triage, as appropriate to the advancing scope of physiotherapy practice. (Clinical Practitioner)

ULO3: Communicate information clearly and effectively to consumers and health care professionals using a variety of forms of media, including digital technologies. (Clinical Practitioner)

ULO4: Apply advanced knowledge and skill to the assessment and management of people with complex presentations. (Clinical Practitioner)

ULO5: Apply advanced physiotherapy practice in a manner that is socially and culturally appropriate for specific patients and clinical settings, including identifying barriers to treatment. (Engaged Global Citizen)

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 mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes and achieve a final mark of 50 or better. Submission of an incomplete assessment task may result in the Fail (F) grade to be awarded a numerical grade below 40%.

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

Grading of Assessments

You will receive a grade for each assessment within this unit. The grades awarded will reflect a holistic evaluation of the work against the criteria outlined within the corresponding assessment rubric. Numerical marks will be calculated for each assessment based on the following percentages, and rounded to the nearest full mark:

- High distinction (HD) – 95%
- Distinction (D) – 80%
- Credit (C) – 70%
- Pass (P) – 60%
- Pass minus (P-) - 50%
- Fail (F) – 40%

Extensions for Assessment Tasks Applications for assessment task extensions may be considered for short-term, unexpected, serious, and unavoidable circumstances affecting assessment. Applications must be submitted via <https://connect.mq.edu.au/s/>. For further details please refer to the Special Considerations Policy. You can also find out more on the MQ Student Portal at the following link: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration> Should you encounter any personal issues or concerns in regard to health and wellbeing during your studies you can also gain personal support and advice on campus. Please see the following link for further information: <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/personal> For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled viva's, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Short Extensions The Assessment Task table lists which assessments are eligible for a Short Extension. You can only apply for a Short Extension before the assessment due date. No reason or evidence is required. It will extend the due date by an additional 3 calendar days. You can only receive one Short Extension for each eligible assessment task. Short Extensions are not available if you have already received an IEAP Extension or Special Consideration for that assessment task.

Late Submissions Unless a Special Consideration or Short Extension request (where applicable) 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 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

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Clinical Simulation</u>	30%	No	31/08/2026	Individual	No	Observed
<u>Portfolio</u>	35%	No	13/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Complex Case Assessment and Management</u>	35%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	No	Observed

Clinical Simulation

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 17 hours

Due: **31/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will simulate the physiotherapy management of a musculoskeletal condition, demonstrating the application of advanced practice skills developed from this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the impact of new developments in physiotherapy scope of practice on the role of the physiotherapist in health care. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Explain and/or perform advanced contemporary practices, such as imaging, pharmacology, novel pain treatments and emergency triage, as appropriate to the advancing scope of physiotherapy practice. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Apply advanced knowledge and skill to the assessment and management of people with complex presentations. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Apply advanced physiotherapy practice in a manner that is socially and culturally appropriate for specific patients and clinical settings, including identifying barriers to treatment. (Engaged Global Citizen)

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **13/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will develop a collection of videos demonstrating your growth and competency in the application of advanced physiotherapy practice skills learnt in this unit, including accompanying reflective commentary.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the impact of new developments in physiotherapy scope of practice on the role of the physiotherapist in health care. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Explain and/or perform advanced contemporary practices, such as imaging, pharmacology, novel pain treatments and emergency triage, as appropriate to the advancing scope of physiotherapy practice. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Communicate information clearly and effectively to consumers and health care professionals using a variety of forms of media, including digital technologies. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Apply advanced knowledge and skill to the assessment and management of people with complex presentations. (Clinical Practitioner)

- Apply advanced physiotherapy practice in a manner that is socially and culturally appropriate for specific patients and clinical settings, including identifying barriers to treatment. (Engaged Global Citizen)

Complex Case Assessment and Management

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 21 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will apply advanced physiotherapy skills acquired over the course of this unit through a simulation of a complex case scenario in a practical setting and then justify your clinical reasoning through an interactive viva.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the impact of new developments in physiotherapy scope of practice on the role of the physiotherapist in health care. (Scientist & Scholar)
- Explain and/or perform advanced contemporary practices, such as imaging, pharmacology, novel pain treatments and emergency triage, as appropriate to the advancing scope of physiotherapy practice. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Communicate information clearly and effectively to consumers and health care professionals using a variety of forms of media, including digital technologies. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Apply advanced knowledge and skill to the assessment and management of people with complex presentations. (Clinical Practitioner)
- Apply advanced physiotherapy practice in a manner that is socially and culturally appropriate for specific patients and clinical settings, including identifying barriers to treatment. (Engaged Global Citizen)

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 and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online modules, videos, workbooks, workshops and simulations. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Assumed knowledge

This unit builds and integrates material from previous semesters.

Learning and teaching strategy

This unit encompasses an active learning approach where you will be expected to actively engage in enhancing your own learning experience. A blended learning and teaching strategy is implemented within this unit with online modules providing content and interactive activities, which is further built upon in campus-based workshops. The teaching approach will be based on you developing a deep understanding of the principles and the ability to independently think critically and solve problems associated with complex physiotherapy practice in a diverse array of settings.

Unit organisation

This is a ten credit point unit run over the session. Overall, it is anticipated that you spend approximately 150 hours across the session on this unit. Within this session there will be approximately 25 hours of campus-based workshops and seminars, 3 hours of campus-based assessment mentorship and mock VIVA practice tutorial, with a further 54 hours of online learning activities and preparation for face-to-face workshops. You will also need to allow approximately 68 hours for assessment-based work.

Unit materials and readings

There is no compulsory textbook for this unit. Resources enhancing the content of this unit will be referred to throughout the unit and will come from a range of sources, including government reports, journal articles, and multimedia sources. Specific information will be provided on the unit iLearn site.

Technology used

On-campus

Teaching rooms are equipped with state of art audio-visual and ICT equipment including iPads, internet connection, high quality video cameras and multiple LCD screens. 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.

Off-campus

To study optimally when off campus you will need to have access to a reliable internet

connection to retrieve unit information & at times to submit assessment tasks, including multimedia submissions, via iLearn.

Consultation with staff

All staff will be available for individual consultation. Please email relevant staff to make an appointment. See iLearn or the beginning of this unit guide for contact details.

Unit Schedule

Across the semester you will engage in the following modules:

- Advanced Scope of Physiotherapy Practice
- Advanced Diagnostic Imaging
- Advanced Exercise Design and Prescription
- Advanced Spinal Assessment and Management
- Advanced Pain Assessment and Management
- Advanced Manual Therapy
- Emergency room (Advanced Scope)
- Pharmacology (Advanced Scope)
- Sleep Management (Advanced Scope)
- Advanced Communication strategies

The Advanced Communication strategies workshop within this unit is interdisciplinary in nature. You will have the opportunity to work with health professional students from another course within the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences during this workshop. Relevant workshops, seminars and online content is also delivered by physiotherapy educators in collaboration with health professionals from other disciplines.

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/su\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/su)

[upport/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.

Changes from Previous Offering

A new module 'Advanced Manual Therapy' has been created based on student feedback requesting further manual therapy skill-based workshops. The Portfolio assessment task has been redeveloped to better capture student's learning and reflection of the application of their physiotherapy skills within the unit.

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 including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), 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 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 class. 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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)