



SPED8925

Technology in Blindness/Low Vision

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

Macquarie School of Education

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Pip Miller

pip.miller@mq.edu.au

NextSense Institute

Wednesday 9am-4pm, 7pm-8pm

Course Director

Susan Silveira

susan.silveira@mq.edu.au

Contact via 0477202129

NextSense Institute

Tuesday - Thursday 8am - 4pm

Graduate Studies Coordinator

Tanya Kysa

tanya.kysa@mq.edu.au

Contact via 0484913641

NextSense Institute

Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 4pm

Administration Coordinator

Celise Morrison

prof.exp@nextsense.org.au

Contact via 0405120463

NextSense Institute

Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(Admission to MDistStudies and SPED926 or SPED8926) or (Admission to MAccComm)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This Unit explores the diversity of technology, formats, software and apps that assist individuals with blindness/low vision to access and communicate information in early childhood, education, vocational and community settings. Students will be introduced to assessment and instructional approaches, options for visual and non-visual access to information, assistive technology financing and usage.

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: Draw on recent and relevant sources to identify inclusive assistive devices, software/apps and literacy formats for persons with blindness/low vision

ULO2: Independently design, develop and critically evaluate a professional learning program that addresses the specific technology requirements of an individual with blindness/low vision

ULO3: Effectively communicate information about vision-specific technology to individuals who are blind or have low vision, their parents/carers, educators or other professionals

ULO4: Demonstrate your knowledge and skills in reflective practice in the field of technology through the development of a evaluation tool for self-reflection and critical feedback from other professionals

General Assessment Information

Submission time for all written assessments is set at **11.55pm**.

Academic Integrity

Students should be aware of and apply the University policy on academic integrity (see: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>).

Students should be aware of and apply the University advice on Artificial Intelligence (see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/assessments/ai-and-assessment> <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=394>)

In accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy a student must take responsibility, be proactive, take ownership and hold oneself responsible for ensuring all information and content, including citations and references in their assignment, have been generated and communicated in an ethical, honest and responsible manner. Failure to show responsibility by checking the accuracy

and integrity of your own content, citations and references, or the submission of falsified content, is a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Assignment preparation guidelines

- Word limits (+/- 10%) are strictly applied and must be adhered to. Work above the word limit will not be marked.
- 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.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.
- The assignment title page should include the student's name, student number, unit code, title of the assignment and correct submitted word count.

All assignments must be submitted electronically through Turnitin as a **Word document – do not submit as a pdf. Assignments submitted as pdfs will not be marked.**

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.

Assignment submission guidelines

All assignments must be submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assignments. 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 assignment guidelines. Failure to submit work in an acceptable format may result in delays in processing your submission and potential penalties for non-compliance with assignment 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 items of assessment are missing it is the student's responsibility to contact the unit convenor.

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

Online quizzes are an individual assignment 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 will:

- have an awareness of, and act in accordance with the Macquarie University Academic Integrity Policy <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>
- adhere to standard principles of ethical behaviour that apply to professionals such as themselves.
- complete the quiz with integrity and honesty and when they do otherwise, understand that they risk causing personal reputational and academic harm.
- demonstrate an understanding of the impact of unethical behaviour on their chosen professional role in supporting people with sensory disability.
- not to participate in any unacceptable academic activities such as cheating, collusion, deception, fabrication, impersonation, obstruction, plagiarism and/or sabotage
- refrain from copying any or all aspects of the quiz using screenshots, photos or other methods.
- refrain from sharing any aspects of the quiz on social media or in other ways.
- not include content in their answer/s that have previously been submitted for academic credit in this or any other unit.
- submit answers which are their own work.
- acknowledge that they are not permitted to directly copy answers from this unit's learning content or copy information from the Internet or from a GAIT source.

Special Consideration / Late Penalties

Applications for extensions must be made via [Service Connect](#).

Late submission penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day to late submissions, up until the 7th calendar 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 for students who experience a technical issue.

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.
- A Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic. Applications must be made via Service Connect.

Assignment 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 assignments are marked using a marking scheme or a rubric.
- Marking of all assignments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.
- Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assignments.

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 the Unit Convenor, are not confirmed because they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to student email addresses 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 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 [Service Connect](#) 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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Design of a training module	50%	No	13/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Critical Evaluation	50%	No	01/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Design of a training module

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **13/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Design a training module that outlines the implementation of one access technology. (2500 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Draw on recent and relevant sources to identify inclusive assistive devices, software/apps and literacy formats for persons with blindness/low vision
- Independently design, develop and critically evaluate a professional learning program that addresses the specific technology requirements of an individual with blindness/low vision
- Effectively communicate information about vision-specific technology to individuals who are blind or have low vision, their parents/carers, educators or other professionals

Critical Evaluation

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **01/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Critical evaluation of the training module, (2500 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Independently design, develop and critically evaluate a professional learning program that addresses the specific technology requirements of an individual with blindness/low vision
 - Effectively communicate information about vision-specific technology to individuals who are blind or have low vision, their parents/carers, educators or other professionals
 - Demonstrate your knowledge and skills in reflective practice in the field of technology through the development of a evaluation tool for self-reflection and critical feedback from other professionals
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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

Information about the iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. All requirements for this unit begin Session 2 Week 1, 2026. Students are expected to access the iLearn site and engage with unit materials regularly during session 2.

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

Prescribed Textbook

Siu, Y-T., & Presley, I. (2020). *Access technology for blind and low vision accessibility* (2nd ed.). American Printing House for the Blind.

- Access options:
 - Text may be purchased directly from [APH](#)

- Free access online is available via Waranara (MQU Library) at Multisearch and Leganto

Refer to SPED8925 iLearn for information regarding additional prescribed texts and recommended readings.

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/technology/systems/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 onehelp@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

This unit is divided into five modules, released progressively throughout the session:

- Module 1 - Introduction to technology in blindness/low vision
- Module 2 - Technology and the sense of vision
- Module 3 - Technology and the sense of touch
- Module 4 - Technology and the sense of hearing
- Module 5 - Technology beyond the classroom

Weekly online sessions are scheduled on Wednesday evenings (7-8pm, Sydney time) commencing Week 2. Student attendance is recommended. Online sessions will be recorded.

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 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.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)