PSYN853
Psychological Assessment I
S1 Day 2016
Department of Psychology

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 3
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 5
Unit Schedule 6
Policies and Procedures 7
Graduate Capabilities 8

Disclaimer
Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.
# Unit guide

**PSYN853 Psychological Assessment I**

## General Information

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**

**Unit Convenor**  
Susanne Meares  
*sue.meares@mq.edu.au*  
Contact via sue.meares@mq.edu.au  
C3A510  
By appointment

**Lecturer**  
Melanie Porter  
*melanie.porter@mq.edu.au*  
Contact via melanie.porter@mq.edu.au

**Lecturer**  
Alex Walker  
*alexandra.walker@mq.edu.au*

**Lecturer**  
Jane Southwell  
*jane.southwell@mq.edu.au*

**Credit points**  
4

**Prerequisites**  
Admission to MClinNeuro or DClinNeuro

**Corequisites**

**Co-badged status**

**Unit description**

This unit provides an introduction to psychological assessment and familiarises students with the Wechsler scales that are commonly used in neuropsychological practice. Detailed theoretical and clinical information is provided, as well as training in the administration and scoring of selected instruments. Tests covered include those typically employed to assess intellectual function and memory, and both adult and child assessment techniques are addressed. Students are introduced to tests of premorbid function and effort that are new additions to the Wechsler range. The assessment of special populations, such as individuals from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and individuals referred for the assessment of decision-making capacity, is discussed.
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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:

- 1) standardised administration of psychological tests
- 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures
- 3) use of appropriate base rates, and
- 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment

To demonstrate competence in:

- administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pass-out Examinations</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Dates TBA in Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Take home exams</strong></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Weeks 3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WISC-IV Video Rating</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Dates TBA by Dr Mel Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discrepancy Analysis</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pass-out Examinations**
Due: **Dates TBA in Week 1**
Weighting: 0%

All students attend three individual pass-out examinations. Each session involves the student administering one of the three of the Wechsler Scales (WAIS-IV, WMS-IV, and WISC-IV) to an examiner who will assess their competency in test administration. Further details will be provided in class. The assessment is competency based (Satisfactory/Fail).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  - 1) standardised administration of psychological tests
  - 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures
  - 3) use of appropriate base rates, and
  - 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales

Take home exams
Due: Weeks 3, 4, 5
Weighting: 40%

The take home exams are scoring exercises from the WAIS-IV and WMS-IV.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales

WISC-IV Video Rating
Due: Dates TBA by Dr Mel Porter
Weighting: 30%

Students will rate the administration of the WISC-IV.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

Discrepancy Analysis
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 30%

Students will complete a discrepancy analysis assignment using the Advanced Clinical Solutions software.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures 3) use of appropriate base rates, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report
Delivery and Resources

Lectures
The unit is taught by lectures (13 x 3 hour lectures), with some lectures involving substantial practical content and interactive learning. Students are required to spend a significant period outside of class time completing assessment tasks and preparing for pass-out examinations.

*All students must pass the administration of the WAIS-IV, WMS-IV and WISC-IV. Successful completion of all pass-out examinations is a mandatory requirement of this unit. Competency in all practical components and achieving a minimum professional standard of a pass grade in the coursework is required to obtain an overall pass in this unit.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend and participate in all lectures. Late attendances are disruptive to all participants, and compromise the late student's full participation in the lecture content. Due to the practical nature of the unit any missed sessions are unable to be adequately compensated through the usual ways of listenting to audio recordings, reading and discussion with fellow students. If there are exceptional circumstances where you will be late or a session must be missed this needs to be discussed with the unit convenor beforehand.

Required texts

Recommended texts

Required Equipment
Stopwatch, clipboard, protractor, ruler, eraser, and pencils.

Online resources
Relevant journal articles are provided in iLearn for this unit.
## Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychological Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Overview and Introduction to the WAIS-IV, Administration and Scoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3    | Clinical interpretation of the WAIS-IV  
Take home exam: Scoring exercise |
| 4    | Introduction to the WMS-IV: Subtests and Index Scores: Administration and Scoring  
Take home exam: Scoring exercise |
| 5    | Clinical Interpretation of the WMS-IV  
Take home exam: Scoring exercise  
WAIS-IV PASS-OUT |
| 6    | Introduction to Advanced Clinical Solutions: Premorbid IQ, Effort Measures, Demographic Adjustments, Reliable Change  
**SEMESTER BREAK** |
| 7    | Paediatric Assessment  
**WMS-IV PASS-OUT** |
| 8    | WISC-IV Lecture: Submission date of WISC-IV Video rating TBA |
| 9    | WISC-IV Practical |
| 10   | Assessment of the culturally and linguistically diverse patient  
Guest Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Walker |
| 11   | History taking and Report writing  
**WISC-IV PASS-OUT TBA** |
| 12   | Interviewing and Counselling I  
Guest Lecturer: Jane Southwell |
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://stu](http://stu)
Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the: 1) standardised administration of psychological tests 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures 3) use of appropriate base rates, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report
Assessment tasks

• Pass-out Examinations
• Take home exams
• WISC-IV Video Rating
• Discrepancy Analysis

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  1) standardised administration of psychological tests 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures 3) use of appropriate base rates, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
• To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the the Wechsler scales
• To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

Assessment tasks

• Pass-out Examinations
• Take home exams
• WISC-IV Video Rating
• Discrepancy Analysis

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  1) standardised administration of psychological tests 2) selection of psychometrically
Unit guide PSYN853 Psychological Assessment I

strong measures 3) use of appropriate base rates, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment

• To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the Wechsler scales
• To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

Assessment tasks

• Pass-out Examinations
• Take home exams
• WISC-IV Video Rating
• Discrepancy Analysis

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  1) standardised administration of psychological tests 2) selection of psychometrically strong measures 3) use of appropriate base rates, and 4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
• To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the Wechsler scales
• To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

Assessment tasks

• Pass-out Examinations
• Take home exams
• WISC-IV Video Rating
• Discrepancy Analysis

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57923/unit_guide/print
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  1) standardised administration of psychological tests
  2) selection of psychometrically strong measures
  3) use of appropriate base rates, and
  4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

**Assessment tasks**

- Pass-out Examinations

**PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- To apply ethical principles of psychological assessment in clinical practice through the:
  1) standardised administration of psychological tests
  2) selection of psychometrically strong measures
  3) use of appropriate base rates, and
  4) application of a hypothesis testing approach throughout the stages of an assessment
- To demonstrate competence in: administration, scoring and interpretation of the Wechsler scales
- To understand the structure and content of a neuropsychological report

**Assessment tasks**

- Pass-out Examinations
- Take home exams
- WISC-IV Video Rating
- Discrepancy Analysis

[https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57923/unit_guide/print](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57923/unit_guide/print)