



PSYN853

Advanced Evidence-Based Neuropsychological Assessment

S1 Day 2019

Department of Psychology

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	8
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	9
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	10
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	12

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor & Lecturer

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By appointment

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MCLinNeuro or DCLinNeuro

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to an evidence-based approach to neuropsychological assessment and familiarises students with the Wechsler scales that are commonly used in advanced 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 the Advanced Clinical Solutions that include tests of premorbid function, performance validity, reliable change and demographic adjustment that advance the use and interpretation of clinical assessment. To support the first supervised clinical placement, a structure for clinical interviewing and history taking is introduced; counselling and assessment skills are presented to use to support distressed and to assess suicidal clients.

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:

To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment

To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report

To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment

To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

General Assessment Information

Competency (defined as 'fitness to practice' at a first clinical placement level) in all practical components and achieving a minimum professional standard of a pass grade is required to obtain an overall pass in this unit.

Consistent with the Assessment Policy, students who make a serious attempt at a Hurdle Assessment, but fail to meet minimum standards (i.e., pass the task) will be given a second

opportunity to complete the task to the minimum standard. Students who fail to meet minimum standards on the second attempt will fail the unit. The maximum mark achieved after a second attempt is a pass (50%).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination</u>	0%	Yes	23rd March 2019
<u>WMS-IV Pass-out Examination</u>	0%	Yes	4th May 2019
<u>WISC-V Pass-out Examination</u>	0%	Yes	25th May 2019
<u>WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam</u>	15%	No	18th March 2019
<u>WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam1</u>	15%	No	1st April 2019
<u>WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam2</u>	15%	No	8th April 2019
<u>ACS Assignment</u>	30%	No	3rd June 2019
<u>Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz</u>	10%	No	5th April 2019
<u>Ethics Assignment</u>	15%	Yes	31st May 2019

WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination

Due: **23rd March 2019**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

The pass-out examination involves the student administering the WAIS-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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

WMS-IV Pass-out Examination

Due: **4th May 2019**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

The pass-out examination involves the student administering the WMS-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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

WISC-V Pass-out Examination

Due: **25th May 2019**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

The pass-out examination involves the student administering the WISC-V 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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam

Due: **18th March 2019**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a take home scoring exercise based on the WAIS-IV. Details are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam1

Due: **1st April 2019**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a take home scoring exercise based on the WMS-IV BCSE. Details are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam2

Due: **8th April 2019**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a take home scoring exercise based on the WMS-IV. Details are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible

hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment

- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales

ACS Assignment

Due: **3rd June 2019**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will complete an assignment using the Advanced Clinical Solutions (ACS) software. Details are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales
- To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report

Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz

Due: **5th April 2019**

Weighting: **10%**

This quiz is based on the Suicide and Risk Assessment workshop to be held on 29/03/2019. Quiz details will be provided during the workshop. Students will complete the quiz online during the week following the workshop.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report
- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Ethics Assignment

Due: **31st May 2019**

Weighting: **15%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle

assessment tasks)

This is a 1000-word written assignment based on the Ethics Workshop held on 24/05/2019. Assignment details will be provided during the workshop. Students will submit the assignment online during the week following the workshop.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Delivery and Resources

Seminars

The unit is taught by seminar (13 x 3 hour seminars, Monday 2-5pm in 12 Second Way, Room 401), with some seminars 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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend and participate in all seminars. Late attendances are disruptive to all participants, and compromise the late student's full participation in the seminars content. Due to the practical nature of the unit, any missed seminars are unable to be adequately compensated through the usual ways of listening to audio recordings, reading, and discussion with fellow students. If there are exceptional circumstances where you will be late, this needs to be discussed with the unit convenor beforehand. This is considered good etiquette in a professional context. A late attendance may be regarded as a missed seminar. A disruption to studies request must be submitted to the unit convenor through www.mq.edu.au if a class is missed.

Required texts (Held In Reserve in the Test Library)

Crowe, S.R., (2010). *Evidence of Absence: A guide to Cognitive Assessment in Australia*. Queensland, Australia: Australian Academic Press.

Lezak, M. D., Howieson, D. B., Bigler, E.D., & Tranel, D. (2012). *Neuropsychological Assessment. Fifth Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended texts (Held in Reserve in the Test Library)

Drozdick, L.W., Holdnack, J.A., & Hilsabeck, R.C., (2011). *Essentials of WMS-IV Assessment*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Lichtenberger, E.O., & Kaufman, A.S., (2009). *Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessment*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Strauss, E., Sherman, E.M.S., & Spreen O. (2006). *A Compendium of Neuropsychological Tests: Administration, Norms, and Commentary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Required Equipment

Stopwatch, clipboard, ruler, eraser, and pencils.

Online resources

Relevant journal articles are provided on iLearn for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Lecturer
1	25 Feb	Introduction to Neuropsychological Assessment	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
2	04 Mar	WAIS-IV: Administration and Scoring	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
3	11 Mar	WAIS-IV: Clinical Interpretation WAIS-IV Pass-out Workshop (Date TBC)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
4	18 Mar	WAIS-IV: Revision & WMS-IV: Introduction WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam Due (bring to lecture) WAIS-IV Pass-out (Saturday 23rd March)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
5	25 Mar	WMS-IV: Administration and Scoring Suicide & Risk Assessment Workshop (Friday 29th March)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
6	01 Apr	WMS-IV: Clinical Interpretation WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam 1 Due (bring to lecture) Suicide & Risk Assessment Workshop Quiz Due (Friday 5th April)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
7	08 Apr	Advanced Clinical Solutions – Part 1 WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam 2 Due (bring to lecture)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
MID-SEMESTER BREAK			
MID-SEMESTER BREAK			

8	29 Apr	Advanced Clinical Solutions – Part 2 WMS-IV Pass-out (Saturday 4th May)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic
9	06 May	WISC-V: Administration	A/Prof Melanie Porter
10	13 May	WISC-V: Scoring and Interpretation I	A/Prof Melanie Porter
11	20 May	WISC-V: Scoring and Interpretation II Ethics Workshop (Friday 24th May) WISC-V Pass-out (Saturday 25th May)	A/Prof Melanie Porter
12	27 May	Interviewing and Counselling Ethics Assignment Due (Friday 31st May)	Dr Philippe Gilchrist
13	03 Jun	The Clinical Interview and Overview of Report Writing ACS Assignment Due (bring to lecture)	Dr Jasmina Vrankovic

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the

key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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 ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales
- To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report
- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WMS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WISC-V Pass-out Examination
- ACS Assignment
- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz
- Ethics Assignment

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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
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- To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report
- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WMS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WISC-V Pass-out Examination
- WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam1
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam2
- ACS Assignment
- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz

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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment

- To demonstrate competence in administration, scoring, and advanced clinical interpretation of the Wechsler scales
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- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam1
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam2
- ACS Assignment
- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz
- Ethics Assignment

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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
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- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WMS-IV Pass-out Examination
- WISC-V Pass-out Examination

- WAIS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam1
- WMS-IV Take Home Scoring Exam2
- ACS Assignment
- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz
- Ethics Assignment

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.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To apply advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
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- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- WAIS-IV Pass-out Examination
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- WISC-V Pass-out Examination
- ACS Assignment
- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz
- Ethics Assignment

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 advanced neuropsychological knowledge to assessment in neuropsychological practise through: a) A standardised administration of neuropsychological tests b) An understanding and application of psychometrically strong measures c) An understanding of the use of base rates in clinical interpretation d) An understanding of a flexible hypothesis testing approach to advanced neuropsychological assessment
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- To be able to apply a structure to clinical interviewing/ taking a history from clients and obtaining collateral information to write a neuropsychological report
- To develop skills in suicide and risk assessment
- To develop skills in responsible and ethical practise

Assessment tasks

- Suicide & Risk Assessment Quiz
- Ethics Assignment