

PSYC485 Principles & Practices of Psychological Assessment

The aim of this subject is to examine the principles underpinning psychological assessment and introduce students to the practices of psychological assessment. The subject is designed to integrate learning in previous years including theories of personality, intelligence combined with statistical theory and then examine how these issues are used in practice. Criteria to understand and evaluate psychological tests will be used as a common theme throughout the subject, including examination of their construct validity. The general ethical issues of psychological assessment will be compared to the specific Australian Psychological Society guidelines for psychological assessment. After examination of the theoretical principles, students will have the opportunity to administer, score and interpret commonly used assessment tools used to assess general intelligence, emotional intelligence, personality, vocational preference and psychological well-being for adults and children.

PSYC488 Contemporary Issues for Professional & Research Psychologists

The subject draws together key issues in ethics, research and professional practices in psychology. Ethics theory will be addressed and ethical and legal issues will be explored in research, therapeutic and professional settings. Other contemporary issues in experimental psychology and clinical practice including, for instance, the psychophysiology of ADHD, conflict resolution, funding applications, supervision and self care, reflective practice, etc. are also covered.

PSYC489 Advanced Abnormal Psychology

This subject builds upon previous study in core areas of abnormal psychology, with contributions from personality, learning, and developmental psychology to consider the way theories of human behaviour help our understanding of psychopathology. Students will be expected to develop a critical and analytical understanding of the conceptual frameworks and assumptions of a number of major schools of abnormal psychology. The etiology and maintenance of clinical disorders will be examined from a variety of theoretical and research perspectives.

WHY STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The School of Psychology offers excellent facilities and staff which guarantee high quality education and opportunities for first rate research. It boasts extensive computer facilities as well as teaching and research laboratories which are equipped with the latest technology and supported by a team of professional technical staff.

Students will find the pleasant atmosphere of the University of Wollongong campus a relaxing and enjoyable one in which to study.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about this or any other courses offered by the School of Psychology, please see the School website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/health/psyc/>. Alternatively, contact the School Administrative Assistants: by phone, (02) 4221 3742; or by email, psycsec@ow.edu.au

Application forms are obtainable from the University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong, 2522, or <http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply/> and should be lodged with transcripts showing details of previous study. Applications close 31 October.

Note: This information was correct at the time of preparation (October 2010) but may change.

* Our the degrees are set up to meet the requirements of the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council. For information about the Council, visit www.apac.psychology.org.au. For information about professional bodies, their regulations, and about post university practice as a Psychologist, please contact the Australian Psychological Society at www.psychology.org.au and the Psychology Board of Australia at www.psychologyboard.gov.au directly. The School's representative of the APS, Mitch Byrne, can also answer APS queries



School of Psychology

Psychology IV

BPsc 4th Year – Alternative to BPsc(Hons)

University of Wollongong 

February 2011

For information about BPsych (Hons) 4th year see the Honours Brochure and the 4th Year in Psychology Guide on the School website.

Psychology IV is offered by the University of Wollongong in the fourth year of study of the BPsych degree and is accredited by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC). It is offered on a one year full-time, or two year part-time basis. It is a partial qualification for registration as Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia – a post diploma period of supervision also being required.

Psychology IV is not intended as a route to PhD studies but it can serve as a 4th year preparatory to 5th and 6th year post graduate coursework degrees (eg. the Clinical Masters degree) at Wollongong. It may also allow access to similar postgraduate courses in other universities. However, applicants should check with individual university departments on this matter before committing themselves to the course of study.

Alternative accredited fourth years are available: the **Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology** and Psychology IV Honours (the honours version of the BPsych 4th year). Information about these can be obtained from the School of Psychology or from this website:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/health/psyc/4thyear/index.html>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BPsych Applications

Students already in the BPsych Programme, who have completed all their 100, 200 and 300 level subjects and are performing at a level high enough to keep them enrolled in the BPsych, are automatically eligible for the BPsych 4th Year. However, they still need to fill out an internal 4th Year Psychology application form and return it directly to the School of Psychology by October 31st. It **does not** go through UniAdvice. Students who state on their application that they want to do Psychology IV rather than Psychology IV honours, and those who do not reach the threshold mark for Honours entry will be offered Psychology IV as the final year of their 4 Year BPsych.

Proceeding to 4th year of the BPsych 4th year program - either Psychology Honours, or the Non-Honours year - requires that:

- a. The student has completed the degree requirements at 100-, 200- and 300-level in Psychology and non-Psychology subjects;
- b. The student has only 48 credit points of 400 level Psychology remaining to complete the degree.

BPsych applicants must note that which 4th year they are offered as the final year of the BPsych depends on their marks. The best 11 subjects at 200- and 300-level are used for calculating entry. BPsych students who are not accepted into the Honours program are offered the Psychology IV (BPsych non-Honours) program.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This program comprises:

- 1 **PSYC478** Child & Adolescent Psychology
- 2 **PSYC479** Major Research Project
- 3 **PSYC484** Social Psychology & Health
- 4 **PSYC485** Principles & Practices of Psychological Assessment
- 5 **PSYC488** Contemporary Issues for Professional & Research Psychologists
- 6 **PSYC489** Advanced Abnormal Psychology

Part time students would normally do PSYC488: Contemporary Issues for Professional and Research Psychologists (6 cp) and PSYC479 Major Research Project (18 cp) in their second year, and fit the other subjects around these, depending on the sessions subjects are offered, to get as even as possible a spread of credit points per session.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC478 Child & Adolescent Psychology

This subject will review a number of topics essential to understanding the nature of Child and Adolescent development and threats to normal functioning. For

example, the subject covers advanced conceptual and theoretical discussion and knowledge concerned with what constitutes the nature of self control, information processing, and the structure of memory and the acquisition of reading skills in relation to developmental progression in children's development. This subject will also develop an understanding of the factors and conceptual underpinnings of the nature of at-risk behaviour in childhood and adolescence. The focus of this subject will be on further developing a wider theoretical understanding of some of the most important issues in relation to threats to normal child and adolescent development.

PSYC479 Major Research Project

Students complete an empirical study on a research topic chosen from given areas of staff expertise. Projects may be conducted in small groups; however, write-ups will be completed and assessed individually. Weekly research seminars consist of discussion of the research process, selecting a topic, and enhancing writing and oral presentation skills. The complete write up will be a research report of 9,000 words.

PSYC484 Social Psychology & Health

This subject addresses key theoretical and empirical issues in the area of Social Psychology and explains their implications for health behaviours. The focus is on the joint effects of internal and external processes in the causation and maintenance of human behaviours. Emphasis is placed on elaborating social psychological models of health behaviours, the roles of attitudes, values and beliefs in shaping different behaviours and the effects of conformity, compliance and life events on behaviour. A range of psychological and health principles will be examined within the context of formulating treatment and evaluation proposals or prevention programs designed to change social behaviours in relation to health issues, such as stress and coping strategies, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual behaviours, exercise and nutrition, and aged care. The applicability of major research findings across cultures will also be addressed.