



UNSW Course Outline

VISN5521 Orientation and Mobility Techniques - 2024

Published on the 13 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : VISN5521

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Medicine and Health

Academic Unit : School of Optometry and Vision Science

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course provides you with opportunities to learn, demonstrate and apply techniques, strategies, and teaching while critically analysing them as tools for intervention design in orientation and mobility.

The face-to-face practical component will involve supervised partner work, allowing embodying simulation of travel for people who are blind or have low vision. This also allows you to refine your instructional skills.

Course Aims

This course aims to examine the techniques, strategies and teaching of specific skills used in Orientation and Mobility intervention

Relationship to Other Courses

Assistance with progression checking:

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the [Nucleus Student Hub](#).

Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the [UNSW Medicine & Health website](#).

VISN5512 is a pre-requisite for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Apply visual and non-visual orientation strategies in practice
CLO2 : Identify and demonstrate the blind mobility skill set and visual strategies by analysing the mechanics of teaching them
CLO3 : Critically appraise practical sessions and devise ways to improve their outcomes
CLO4 : Critically analyse travel environments and apply appropriate techniques and strategies for those environments

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Apply visual and non-visual orientation strategies in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Competency• Written Assignment
CLO2 : Identify and demonstrate the blind mobility skill set and visual strategies by analysing the mechanics of teaching them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Competency• Written Assignment
CLO3 : Critically appraise practical sessions and devise ways to improve their outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portfolio• Practical Competency• Written Assignment
CLO4 : Critically analyse travel environments and apply appropriate techniques and strategies for those environments	

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom

Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle.

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the 'Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources' policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

The learning and teaching philosophy underpinning this course is centred on student learning and aims to create an environment which interests and challenges students. The teaching is designed to be engaging and relevant in order to prepare students for future careers. The primary source of information for this course is the written course materials, supplemented by additional

resources such as videos, research articles, published reports and discussion posts. There will be opportunities to learn from the experiences of not only lecturers but also from peers and industry experts through discussion sessions about the real-life projects, practical exercises and online activities.

Additional Course Information

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION INFORMATION, 2024

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

On some occasions, sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may prevent you from completing a course requirement, such as attending a formal end of semester examination. In these cases you may apply for Special Consideration. **UNSW operates under a Fit to Sit/ Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/ submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so.** The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services > Online Services > Special Consideration. Submit the application (including supporting documentation) to UNSW Student Central.

CHRONIC ISSUES AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

If you have chronic issues and pre-existing conditions, we recommend you apply for Educational adjustments for disability support through Disability Services.

Register for Disability Services at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-registration>

Absence from a final examination is a serious matter, normally resulting in a Fail (FL) grade. **If you are medically unfit to attend an examination, YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION TO ADVISE OF THIS** (telephone 02 9385 4639,

email: optometry@unsw.edu.au). You must also submit a Request for Special Consideration application as detailed on the UNSW website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

It is the responsibility of the student to consult the web site or noticeboard to ascertain whether

they have supplementary examinations. This information WILL NOT be conveyed in ANY other manner. Interstate, overseas or any other absence cannot be used as an excuse.

This information will be available on the School web site at <http://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au> (do not confuse the School website with the myUNSW website) and posted on the notice board on Level 3. This information will be available as soon as possible after the School Examination Committee meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR 2024 WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS: FOR TERM 1:

- **WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024 – FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024**

FOR TERM 2:

- **WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024 - FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2024**

FOR TERM 3:

- **WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2024**

Supplementary examinations will be held at the scheduled time only. If students who are granted supplementary examinations do not attend, a failure will be recorded for that course. **Students should not make travel arrangements, or any other commitments, before establishing whether or not they have supplementary examinations. Ignorance of these procedures, interstate, overseas or any other absence will not be accepted as an excuse. But usual Special Consideration still applies.**

If additional assessment is not scheduled, this does NOT indicate whether or not a student has passed or failed the course. Results will be received in the usual way. Please do not contact the School in this regard.

Please note the above applies to OPTM and VISN courses only. Any information on supplementary examinations for servicing courses (e.g. CHEM****) is the responsibility of the School conducting the course.

School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, 3 August 2023

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Practical Competency Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Start Date: 20/05/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 07/06/2024 05:00 PM Post Date: 21/06/2024 05:00 PM
Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 02/08/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 16/08/2024 11:30 PM
Written Assignment Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 19/06/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 02/08/2024 11:30 PM

Assessment Details

Practical Competency

Assessment Overview

Practical competency will be assessed whilst undertaking simulation exercises and supervised work. Feedback will be accumulative and final feedback will be provided within 2 weeks of completing this component. Students will be marked by supervisors regarding their competency in performing and teaching practical skills, techniques, and or understanding of the practical exercise.

This assessment will be a hurdle with a 65% pass mark.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Apply visual and non-visual orientation strategies in practice
- CL02 : Identify and demonstrate the blind mobility skill set and visual strategies by analysing the mechanics of teaching them
- CL03 : Critically appraise practical sessions and devise ways to improve their outcomes

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

The intensive dates are: Monday 20 May 2024 to Friday 7 June 2024, inclusive.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Hurdle rules

This task is a hurdle task and must be passed in order to pass the course.

Portfolio

Assessment Overview

The portfolio is a rolling document that will be marked on its structure, engagement, content, and demonstration of reflective and critical analysis throughout the program. For this course, the focus will be reflections of the simulation component which will be completed periodically throughout the term. Feedback will be given at the end of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL03 : Critically appraise practical sessions and devise ways to improve their outcomes

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Assessment Length

700-800 Words

Submission notes

Refer to Moodle for submission information.

Assessment information

Please refer to Moodle for the level generative AI allowed.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Written Assignment

Assessment Overview

This assessment will require students to write about the accessibility in the built environment as a case report including examples of the types of areas, clients, situations, suggestions for improvement, and techniques/skills that can be utilised by an orientation and mobility specialist to help a client with vision impairment to navigate the areas. The case report will be a review and critical analysis of a collection and synthesis of related literature regarding accessibility in the built environment. Written feedback will be given in two weeks from submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Apply visual and non-visual orientation strategies in practice

- CLO2 : Identify and demonstrate the blind mobility skill set and visual strategies by analysing the mechanics of teaching them
- CLO3 : Critically appraise practical sessions and devise ways to improve their outcomes

Detailed Assessment Description

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Submission notes

Refer to Moodle for submission information.

Assessment information

Please refer to Moodle for the level generative AI allowed.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

The practical competency assessment task must be passed in order to pass the course. Failure to achieve 50% in this assessment will result in a grade of Unsatisfactory Failure (UF) because an essential component of the course has been failed.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Intensive	Compulsory face-to-face component The first week of a three week intensive.
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Intensive	Compulsory face-to-face component The second week of a three week intensive.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Intensive	Compulsory face-to-face component The third week of a three week intensive.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Implications for Orientation and Mobility(O&M) Practice O&M 1: Sensorimotor development and O&M
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Implications for Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practice O&M 2: Gait, balance, and posture
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Implications for Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practice O&M 3: Concept Development
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Lecture	Implications for Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practice O&M 4: Orientation and sensory processes.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Tutorial	Tutorial to assist in the development of the written assignment on "Accessibility in the Built Environment".
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Homework	Written assignment due Friday 19/7/2024: Accessibility in the Built Environment.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Catch up on any lectures missed or need reviewing.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Tutorial	Tutorial to discuss reflections about O&M for Portfolio development.

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all scheduled clinical, laboratory and tutorial classes. An Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) may be recorded as the final grade for the course if students fail to attend and pass the face-to-face component of this course as they will not be deemed WIL ready, thus unable to proceed to VISN5523. Where a student is unable to attend, they are advised to inform the course convenor as soon as possible but no later than 3 days after the scheduled class and, where possible, provide written documentation (e.g. medical certificate) to support their absence. Students may submit a request for special consideration in the case of prolonged or multiple absences. Please note that there are severe consequences for submitting fraudulent documents such as false medical certificates. Such cases will be referred to the Student Conduct and Integrity Unit (SCIU) for investigation.

General Schedule Information

The times and locations of classes can be found on [myUNSW](#) under Class Timetable.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This includes lectures, tutorials, readings, and completion of assessments and exam preparation (of relevant).

For courses with practical sessions only:

Swapping practicals

Swapping between practical groups, including practicals that involve cycloplegia or dilation, is not permitted.

Additional attendance requirements for practical classes

All practical classes are compulsory because they act to reinforce theoretical components of the course, while teaching critical practical clinical skills prior to use in the clinic in the final years of the program and are linked to clinical competencies.

Attendance will be monitored by taking the roll. Any absences due to illness must be accounted for by a medical certificate presented to your Course Convenor. Submission to Special Consideration may be required pending the number of absences.

Punctuality is expected. Lateness for practical classes may be recorded as an absence.

Contact the Laboratory Supervisor Dale Larden d.larden@unsw.edu.au if you are running late so your partner can be allocated to alternate work.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

Additional Costs

Some SOVS courses have additional costs. Please check the course Moodle page for information about additional costs for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback. We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle

page at the end of term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Felicity Gates		Remote		By appointment, requests via email.	No	Yes
Lecturer	Matthew Walker				By appointment, requests via email.	No	No
	Sieu Khuu		Sydney		By appointment, requests via email.	Yes	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The [UNSW Student Code of Conduct](#) website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#).

The [Student Conduct and Integrity Office](#) provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit](#).

In addition to the information you are required to review in your [ELISE training](#), UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task.

Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student [Referencing page](#).

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#). Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the [UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure](#). Plagiarism is defined in the [UNSW Plagiarism Policy](#) and is not tolerated at UNSW.

Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the [use of Generative AI in assessments](#). This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

In cases where illness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control will prevent you from submitting your assessment by the due date and you require an extension, you need to formally apply for [Special Consideration](#) through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit/Submit rule**, which means that by sitting or submitting an assessment on the scheduled assessment date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

Other assessment tasks

Late submission of assessment tasks

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the [UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure](#), with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

Failure to complete an assessment task

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>

- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Guide to studying online: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study>

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support>

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students>

Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the [myExperience survey](#), which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at [UNSW Ask Us](#).

Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints>

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact the School Grievance Officer, A/Prof Sieu Khuu (s.khuu@unsw.edu.au).