



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

OPTM7208 Research Skills in Optometry - 2024

Published on the 28 Jan 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : OPTM7208

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

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 offers the opportunity to develop a range of research skills including ability to search and critically read the literature, develop a research question, develop aims and hypotheses, develop awareness of ethical considerations in research, basic skills in data collection, data

analysis, and interpretation of outcomes (where appropriate), and verbal and written communication skills.

Participants in the course must elect to focus on one of two skills sets, with an emphasis on literature review, study design, ethical considerations and communication as the first option, and on literature review, data collection and analysis, ethical considerations and communication as the second option. If focusing on the first option, the course may be suitable by distance, but the second option must take place on the UNSW campus. The final presentation will occur at the UNSW campus.

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to develop your skills in research, and your ability to interpret and communicate the findings of your literature search and review.

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](#).

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Optometry Australia competency standards
CLO1 : Understand and apply skills in reviewing, analysing and understanding published literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OPT2 : Professional and Ethical PractitionerOPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner
CLO2 : Demonstrate skills in developing research hypotheses and aims in the context of published literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OPT3 : Communicator and CollaboratorOPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner
CLO3 : Describe research methods and protocol development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OPT3 : Communicator and CollaboratorOPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner
CLO4 : Explain and communicate disciplinary knowledge and your research findings in both written and oral form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OPT1 : Clinical Care ProviderOPT2 : Professional and Ethical PractitionerOPT3 : Communicator and CollaboratorOPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand and apply skills in reviewing, analysing and understanding published literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisors Assessment • Written report • Oral presentation
CLO2 : Demonstrate skills in developing research hypotheses and aims in the context of published literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisors Assessment • Written report • Oral presentation
CLO3 : Describe research methods and protocol development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisors Assessment • Written report • Oral presentation
CLO4 : Explain and communicate disciplinary knowledge and your research findings in both written and oral form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisors Assessment • Written report • Oral presentation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle (or Open Access).

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.

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:

- STAGE 1-4* COURSES: WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024 – FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024
- THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 1 2024

FOR TERM 2:

- STAGE 1-4 COURSES: WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024 - FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2024
- THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 2 2024

FOR TERM 3:

- STAGE 5 COURSES ONLY: DURING THE WEEK OF MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2024 – FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2024
- STAGE 1-4* COURSES: 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.

* Stage 4 includes courses in the first year of the MClinOptom program.

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

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Optometry Australia competency standards
Supervisors Assessment	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPT2 : Professional and Ethical Practitioner• OPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner• OPT1 : Clinical Care Provider
Written report	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPT1 : Clinical Care Provider• OPT3 : Communicator and Collaborator• OPT2 : Professional and Ethical Practitioner• OPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner
Oral presentation	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPT1 : Clinical Care Provider• OPT2 : Professional and Ethical Practitioner• OPT3 : Communicator and Collaborator• OPT4 : Scholar and Lifelong Learner

Assessment Details

Supervisors Assessment

Assessment Overview

Overall participation mark including regular meetings with supervisor, independent research of literature and effort during the course. The supervisor will provide feedback of participation during and at the end of the course

Each student will be assessed by the supervisor on the following:

- a. Quality of involvement and level of engagement in the research project
- b. Communication and clarity of ideas in oral and written communications and during meetings across the terms.
- c. Demonstrated comprehension of the research topic and questions
- d. Evidence of preparation for each meeting with the supervisor and

- e. Willingness to take initiative in meetings/written communication; frequency of contributions to the project
- f. Willingness to raise relevant questions and ideas, discuss areas of lack of understanding, consider alternative viewpoints

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and apply skills in reviewing, analysing and understanding published literature.
- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills in developing research hypotheses and aims in the context of published literature.
- CLO3 : Describe research methods and protocol development.
- CLO4 : Explain and communicate disciplinary knowledge and your research findings in both written and oral form.

Assessment Length

Not applicable

Written report

Assessment Overview

This major assessment will be comprised of a written report submitted at end of the course encompassing a literature review and the student's research overview in the area including discussion and conclusions. The report should be no longer than 5,000 words, and can be prepared as a journal submission in this field of research (the format will be discussed with supervisor). Variations are allowed based on how the type of research is usually reported. The report should generally be presented with an abstract, introduction, literature searching methods, findings and discussion and references.

This report will be marked by one independent assessor in the school or elsewhere (when expertise is needed). This assessment is based on the following components.

- a. Literature review showing knowledge of the topic area, rationale for the research aims and questions.
- b. Details of the methods used to perform literature review.
- c. Content and organisation of the report, coverage of key issues.

- d. Overall discussion and conclusions, including key issues in the context of existing literature and any limitations of the research conducted.
- e. Correctness and appropriate use of references

- f. Appropriate use of figures and tables, including complete legends and details; overall organisation, logic and clarity of the report.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and apply skills in reviewing, analysing and understanding published literature.
- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills in developing research hypotheses and aims in the context of published literature.
- CLO3 : Describe research methods and protocol development.
- CLO4 : Explain and communicate disciplinary knowledge and your research findings in both written and oral form.

Assessment Length

no longer than 5,000 words and can be prepared as a journal submission in this field of research

Assessment information

This report will be marked by one independent assessor in the school or elsewhere (when expertise is needed). This assessment is based on the following components:

1. Literature review showing knowledge of the topic area, rationale for the research aims and questions.
2. Details of the methods used to perform literature review.
3. Content and organisation of the report, coverage of key issues.
4. Overall discussion and conclusions, including key issues in the context of existing literature and any limitations of the research conducted.
5. Correctness and appropriate use of references
6. Appropriate use of figures and tables, including complete legends and details; overall organisation, logic and clarity of the report.

Oral presentation

Assessment Overview

Oral presentation assessed by academics attending presentations.

Excellent (3) Good (2) Acceptable Not attended (0) Presentation Style Super organised effort, interesting, logical presentation, very easy to follow Well organised, interesting, easy to follow

Mostly clear and organised, No presentation	Communication	Clear, engaging, easy to follow, interesting, excellent engagement with audience
engagement	Clear and understandable, good audience engagement	Clear and understandable, limited audience engagement
All questions understood and well answered with no difficulties at all	Most questions understood, attempted to answers all questions	Limited understanding of questions and Not presnet for questions
Content	Detailed, critically reviewed, accurate	Detailed information, relevant, accurate
Most areas covered, some details Imissing or inaccurate	No content	Good evidence of resources used in research
References	Excellent and extensive evidence of resources and references in all areas	Limited evidence of resources used for research
Good evidence of resources used in research	No resources used	No resources used

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and apply skills in reviewing, analysing and understanding published literature.
- CLO2 : Demonstrate skills in developing research hypotheses and aims in the context of published literature.
- CLO3 : Describe research methods and protocol development.
- CLO4 : Explain and communicate disciplinary knowledge and your research findings in both written and oral form.

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

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

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

Course Schedule

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 meet the minimum requirement of 80% attendance for clinical, laboratory and tutorial classes (unless

otherwise specified on Moodle). Course attendance expectations are determined by the requirements of the program accrediting body, OCANZ. 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 (if relevant).

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

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	Mark Willcox		3.054	90655394	9am to 5pm Monday to Friday	Yes	Yes
Head lecturer	Juno Kim			9065 1218	9am to 5pm Monday to Friday	No	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

Short extensions and special consideration

Short extension

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

Special consideration

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for [Special Consideration](#) through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available [here](#), including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

Examinations

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

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>

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 Sean Kennedy (sean.kennedy@unsw.edu.au).