



Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH
Course ID:	MSWPG7211
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	090501

Description of the Course:

This course requires students to develop research as a resource for social work practice. It introduces students to research paradigms, methodologies, methods and strategies that are necessary to undertake research and evaluation in a practice or an academic context. Students will learn to examine the nature of evidence by evaluating existing research and/or evidence and unpack the ways in which it has been produced and for what purpose and how it informs their practice. Furthermore, students will learn techniques, such as designing a research project, recognising ethical dilemmas in undertaking research, data collection and analysis, and dissemination of research findings.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

Placement Component: No

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks.

Program Level:

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes:**Knowledge:**

- K1.** Appraise the major research traditions relevant to Social Work
- K2.** Understand the interrelationships between epistemology, ontology, theoretical perspectives, methodology and methods;
- K3.** Critically appraise research methodologies and their application in social work research;
- K4.** Determine and differentiate between ethical issues pertinent to research in Social Work contexts and;
- K5.** Design research proposal by applying knowledge of the research processes, including, methodologies/methods and ethical considerations.

Skills:

- S1.** Independent research, time management and planning skills;
- S2.** Skills in evaluating various techniques for gathering and analysing data, including qualitative and quantitative approaches;
- S3.** Identify potential ethical issues relating to participant engagement, data collection, data analysis and dissemination of findings;
- S4.** Investigate, evaluate, analyse and synthesise concepts and issues pertaining to research for Social Work contexts;
- S5.** Written and verbal communication skills for the appropriate dissemination of research to a range of audiences and;
- S6.** Competence in accessing and utilising databases and evidence to research practice issues.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Determine the most appropriate research methods for inquiry in a given Social Work context;
- A2.** Critically evaluate the usefulness and validity of research data for Social Work practice
- A3.** Develop skills in conducting a literature search, and writing up a literature review investigating a given topic in Social Work research
- A4.** Develop competence and creativity in developing the design and articulating a proposal for a Social Work research project
- A5.** Develop competence in completing an appropriate ethics application for research involving humans

Course Content:

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Topics may include:

- Topics may include:

What is Research?

What is Research: Varied contexts and purposes of research in social work.

Different ways of knowing/Philosophy of Research

What is evidence and how is it framed in social work practice and research?

Ethical codes and principles that underpin research including, National Human Medical Research Council guidelines and the Australian Association of Social Work Code of Ethics (2020).

What are literature Reviews?

Social Work Research Methodologies

Qualitative and Quantitative methodologies

Emancipatory Research

Evidence based Practice (EBP)

Service Users and Research

Practice Research

Anti Oppressive Research Practices

Evidenced Based practice

Developing a Research Proposal

Components of the Research Design Process: research question, research methodology, Concepts/Variables, Developing a standpoint, ethical consideration etc.

Developing a Research Proposal

Values:

- V1.** Examine the influence of the Social Work Code of Ethics and Practice Standards, and the value base of the social work profession, on social policy development and analysis
- V2.** Explore individual beliefs and attitudes and consider the impact these have in shaping policy debates and potential social work practice in Australia and within the global context
- V3.** Apply principles of self-directed learning in a co-operative education environment which demonstrates respect for themselves and others

Graduate Attributes

The Federation University FedUni graduate attributes (GA) are entrenched in the [Higher Education Graduate Attributes Policy](#) (LT1228). FedUni graduates develop these graduate attributes through their engagement in explicit learning and teaching and assessment tasks that are embedded in all FedUni programs. Graduate attribute attainment typically follows an incremental development process mapped through program progression. **One or more graduate attributes must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni course, and all attributes must be directly assessed in each program**

Graduate attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of GAs in the course	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
GA 1 Thinkers	Our graduates are curious, reflective and critical. Able to analyse the world in a way that generates valued insights, they are change makers seeking and creating new solutions.	K1, K2, K3, S2, S4, A1, A2	AT1, AT2
GA 2 Innovators	Our graduates have ideas and are able to realise their dreams. They think and act creatively to achieve and inspire positive change.	K5, S5, A4	AT3

Graduate attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of GAs in the course	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
GA 3 Citizens	Our graduates engage in socially and culturally appropriate ways to advance individual, community and global well-being. They are socially and environmentally aware, acting ethically, equitably and compassionately.	K4, S4, S3, A5	AT1, AT3
GA 4 Communicators	Our graduates create, exchange, impart and convey information, ideas, and concepts effectively. They are respectful, inclusive and empathetic towards their audience, and express thoughts, feelings and information in ways that help others to understand.	K5, S5, S6, A4	AT2, AT3
GA 5 Leaders	Our graduates display and promote positive behaviours, and aspire to make a difference. They act with integrity, are receptive to alternatives and foster sustainable and resilient practices.	K5, S5,	AT#3

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K4, S3, S4, S5, A2, A5	Critical learning exercises will explore key concepts and ethical considerations of research covered in the course using a range of written and/or oral activities. Hurdle Assessment: Complete the Research Integrity Module. Upon completion print the certificate of completion.	Learning Portfolio	15%-30%
K3, S1, S4, S6, A2, A3	Students can choose any social work topic and critically evaluate the evidence informing practice, identify a gap in the literature, and develop a clear statement of the problem that needs further investigation.	Literature Review	30%-45%
K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S5, A1, A4, A5	Students are required to design a research proposal that includes aims/objectives, research questions, concepts/variables, methodologies, methods and ethical considerations.	Research Proposal	35%-50%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA

 Refer to the [library website](#) for more information

 Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)