



# Unit Outline (Higher Education)

<b>Institute / School:</b>	Institute of Health and Wellbeing
<b>Unit Title:</b>	ADULT PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
<b>Unit ID:</b>	PSYCM7015
<b>Credit Points:</b>	15.00
<b>Prerequisite(s):</b>	Nil
<b>Co-requisite(s):</b>	Nil
<b>Exclusion(s):</b>	Nil
<b>ASCED:</b>	090701

## Description of the Unit:

This unit addresses the common psychological disorders occurring in adulthood. Knowledge and skills will be taught in relation to aetiology and diagnosis of these disorders, the mechanisms that maintain them as well as their neurobiological underpinnings. It will also introduce students to frameworks of assessment, formulation and intervention with consideration of client and clinician variables. Intervention will be approached from a pharmacological as well psychological perspective.

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

## Work Experience:

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

**Placement Component:** No

**Supplementary Assessment:** No

Supplementary assessment is not available to students who gain a fail in this Unit.

## Course Level:

Level of Unit in Course	AQF Level of Course					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Learning Outcomes:**
**Knowledge:**

- K1.** Describe the key features of the major mental disorders, including primary presenting features, co-morbidity, prevalence and incidence data, course and outcome in a culturally relevant manner.
- K2.** Evaluate the ethical issues within the assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders
- K3.** Explain the role of psychopharmacology within psychological practice for management of common psychological disorders.
- K4.** Apply the DSM 5 classification system and relevant international taxonomies of classification of common psychological disorders at professional standard levels of competency.

**Skills:**

- S1.** Perform a detailed clinical assessment of adult psychological disorders in a peer-reviewed setting
- S2.** Create a detailed diagnosis of adult psychological disorders based on DSM-5 criteria and relevant international taxonomies of classification in conjunction with a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment.
- S3.** Critically evaluate the relevant literature to create an informed best-practice/evidenced based approach to clinical assessment and diagnosis.
- S4.** Create an evidenced-based formulation and treatment plan for adult psychological disorders.

**Application of knowledge and skills:**

- A1.** Describe, explain and evaluate the process of clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures.
- A2.** Evaluate the ethical issues within the assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders.
- A3.** Evaluate the issues associated with each clinician related variables, client related variables and the evidence base in the assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders.

**Unit Content:**

Topics may include:

- Diagnosis of psychological disorders using diagnostic classification systems such as the DSM-5
- Stress and adjustment
- Anxiety Disorders
- Mood disorders
- Neurobiological bases for common mental health problems

**Learning Task and Assessment:**

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K4. S1-S4, A1 - A3	The written report will give students the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to translate client material from a clinical assessment into a report intended for a professional audience incorporating biopsychosocial, mental status and diagnostic information.	Written Report	40-60%
K1, K2, K3, K4, S2-S4, A1-A3	Students will complete a test to demonstrate their knowledge of common psychological disorders, competency in the application of DSM and international diagnostic classification systems for diagnosis and differential diagnosis, and knowledge of the role of psychopharmacology within psychological practice.	Test	40-60%

**Adopted Reference Style:**

APA

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

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