

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
Course Title:	HONOURS RESEARCH METHODS
Course ID:	SCHON4001
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	019999

Description of the Course :

This course develops the skills necessary for conducting and managing an honours research project. The course is also important for preparing students for a higher degree by research. Topics addressed will include, among others, research ethics, developing a research project, experimental design, data collection and analysis, and scientific writing and communication.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Work Experience:

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

Placement Component: No

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory				✓		
Intermediate						
Advanced						

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify occupational health and safety standards and ethical responsibilities, and understand their relevance to effective research outcomes;
- K2.** Define characteristics of effective research hypotheses and objectives, and the role of the literature review;
- K3.** Explain and appreciate the importance of robust experimental design;

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- K4.** Recognise the qualities of effective communication of research through publication, text, oral presentations and visual media;
- K5.** Describe the principles of different qualitative and quantitative approaches to data analysis.

Skills:

- S1.** Prepare a research proposal, incorporating OH&S, ethics and risk assessment documentation as required;
- S2.** Appreciate the necessary qualities of a productive research project;
- S3.** Critically analyse research from journals, books and seminars;
- S4.** Deliver clear and professional oral communication of research to colleagues and collaborators.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Write a research proposal relevant to project;
- A2.** Demonstrate ability to critically analyse published research;
- A3.** Design and deliver research seminar.

Course Content:

This course will assist students in the design and management of a research project. The course will primarily serve to address the issues and challenges of the student's honours research project, though it will also provide an introduction to research philosophy, post graduate research, and the challenges facing an early career researcher. The course will introduce students to the methodologies of disciplines other than their own, and hence it serves as an introduction to the broader scientific community. The course is designed to be taken in the first semester of the one-year BSc(Hons) program, and to contribute to the graduate attributes expected of an honours graduate.

Topics may include:

- Occupational Health and Safety issues relating to research
- Research ethics
- Developing a research proposal
- Qualitative and quantitative research
- Experimental design
- Literature review and critical reading
- Data collection and management issues
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Scientific writing for a thesis and journals
- Science communication, including seminar presentations
- Intellectual property

Values:

- V1.** Pursue and value knowledge, scholarship, creativity and acquisition of new ideas;
- V2.** Appreciate and understand the social responsibility of conducting research in an ethical and objective manner.

Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Students will develop their research knowledge and skills, and gain insight into the scientific process.	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students will require self-reliance to complete assessment tasks, and will also learn about the self-reliance and intellectual independence required to run a research project.	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	By developing an understanding of contemporary challenges in science, and by managing their own research projects, students will engage with the broader scientific community.	Low
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students will appreciate the importance of ethical practices to conducting scientific research and interpreting data.	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Students are encouraged to participate in the faculty seminar program, and other external seminars.

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K3, K4, S3, A2	Discuss and critically analyse research papers	Short report	10% - 30%
K1, K3, K4, S4, A3	Oral presentation of research proposal	Presentation(s)	20% - 40%
K1, K2, K5, S1, S2, S4, A1, A2	Research proposal	Report	40% - 60%

Adopted Reference Style:

Australian Harvard