

NURS4301: Health Research Methods

Callaghan, Gosford
Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description The main component of the Honours program is an original research project on a topic relevant to nursing/midwifery practice, conducted under the close supervision of an academic staff member. In this Course the student will need to work with their supervisor/s to develop a research question and then develop the proposal for their project. The student will acquire the skills of developing a research proposal and an ethics application. They will be required to explore and develop skills in the application of research methods relevant to the research project they are undertaking. They will be required to identify a research problem, select an appropriate research technique and describe the associated ethical considerations. The student will be required to present a seminar on their identified research design and method.

Requisites This Course is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) [10954], Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) [12330] or the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) [11691] programs.

Assumed Knowledge Completion of a Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery or equivalent degree, with evidence of high academic achievement.

Contact Hours

- Individual Supervision**
Face to Face Off Campus
26 hour(s) per Term Full Term
To be arranged via appointment with the course coordinator and/or supervisor
- Lecture**
Online
1 hour(s) per Term Full Term
- Self-Directed Learning**
Self-Directed
20 hour(s) per Week for Full Term
- Seminar**
Online
3 hour(s) per Term Full Term starting Week 10

Unit Weighting 20

Workload Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Callaghan**
Dr Jennifer St George
Jennifer.Stgeorge@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 6690

Consultation:

Contact via email to arrange a suitable time. Consultation will occur in person or via Zoom
NOTE: Responses to emails can be expected within three (3) working days unless the tutor or Course Coordinator is off campus.

General Course Questions should be posted to Canvas, where the answer may be of benefit to other students. Students are required to check their UON (University of Newcastle) email account regularly and to use their student-mail accounts for all email correspondence with the University.

Teaching Staff Teaching staff will be advised on the Course Canvas site.

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General Enquiries AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au
(+61) 2 4921 5000

**Program &
Enrolment Advice** ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au

Student Support For academic and personal support services for students, visit
<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support>

SYLLABUS

Course Content In this Course, the specific focus will be on the development of a research proposal. This includes:

- the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for the identification of research problems;
- the selection of research techniques;
- the evaluation of data forms; and the conduct of critical analyses.

**Course Learning
Outcomes** **On successful completion of this Course, students will be able to:**

1. identify research problems;
2. select appropriate research techniques;
3. identify and describe the ethical implications of undertaking research with humans

4. present clear and coherent verbal and written communication of a research problem, design and method

Course Materials Available via Canvas

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this Course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Written Assignment: Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course.
- Assessment 2 - Written Assignment: Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course.
- Assessment 3 - Presentation: Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course.

ASSESSMENTS

This Course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Research Problem & Methods Paper *	Week 7, Friday 12 April 2024, 11:00 PM.	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Seminar Presentation*	Week 10, date and time TBC	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Research Proposal*	Week 12, Friday 31 May 2024, 11:00 PM.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

Late Submissions The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Note: No more than 10% of any assessment item may consist of material directly quoted from another source.

Assistance with academic literacies is available at the following hyperlinks:

1. APA 7th Referencing: <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/referencing>
2. Academic Learning Support: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/learning/study-skills>

ASSESSMENT 1 - RESEARCH PROBLEM & METHODS PAPER

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The purpose of this assignment is to 1) demonstrate an understanding of the two major research paradigms that underpin health research - qualitative or quantitative methodologies; 2) identify a problem or issue that you will be exploring in your Honours research; 3) develop a question to help answer the problem; and 4) justify the chosen approach to answering the question.
Description	<p>When a clinical problem is identified, it is better addressed by either a qualitative or a quantitative approach (and sometimes both – mixed methods), depending on the question/ s that need to be answered.</p> <p>In the paper,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify and briefly explain the background and significance of one problem/issue you would like to investigate. Background includes previous research on this issue.2. State the approach you will take, either a qualitative or a quantitative approach, giving an aim (or objectives) for your research, as well as a specific research question.3. For your chosen approach, provide a brief justification as to why the chosen approach is the most appropriate to address the proposed research question.4. Provide a justification as to why the alternative approach is not appropriate.5. Describe and justify the specific study design (e.g., phenomenology; observational study; experimental study) that might be most appropriate for the question and state why other methods within that approach may not be appropriate.6. Briefly describe the sample size and procedures, the data collection method, and data analysis plan.
Weighting	30%
Compulsory requirement	Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course: 50%
Length	1,500 words (+/-10%), excluding reference list
Due Date	Week 7, Friday 12 April 2024, 11:00 PM
Submission Method	Via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Via Canvas
Return Method	Via Canvas
Feedback Provided	Via Canvas
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to re-attempt this assessment.

ASSESSMENT 2 - SEMINAR PRESENTATION

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	To describe a research project succinctly to academic peers
Description	Students are required to present their research project proposal to their peers, supervisors and other academics. The presentation is limited to 15 minutes, 15-20 slides. An additional 5 minutes is added for questions from the audience. The presentation should be clear and logical. The presentation should contain the key areas outlined in the written research proposal to be submitted in Assessment 3. Students will make an oral presentation and submit the presentation file.
Weighting	30%
Length	20 minutes including 5 minutes for questions
Due Date	Week 10, in person (or ZOOM depending on circumstances), exact date, time and venue TBA.
Submission Method	Oral presentation and submission of file Via Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	Via Canvas
Return Method	Via Canvas
Feedback Provided	Via Canvas
Compulsory requirement	Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course: 50%
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to re-attempt this assessment.

ASSESSMENT 3 - RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The purpose of this assessment is to prepare a written research proposal which includes a detailed plan to answer a specific research question.
Description	<p>This proposal should link the problem with the question and the approach to answer the question, so that it is methodologically sound and rigorous. It should be logical and coherent and should include elaboration or discussion of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and significance of the problem• Research question, or study aims or objectives• Methodological approach: The selected paradigm and its justification; revised based on feedback from Assessment 1• Methodological approach also includes The methodological approach/study design, justification revised based on feedback from Assessment 1• The study aims and objectives• Your methods: setting, sampling and sample, sample size, recruitment, study procedures and measures, data collection, data management and data analysis• Inclusion and exclusion criteria• Other essential considerations related to your specific methodology• Strengths and limitations of the study design• Ethical considerations• Rigour appropriate for approach
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Week 12, Friday 31 May 2024, 11:00 PM.
Length	2000 words (+/- 10%), excluding reference list
Submission Method	Via Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	Via Canvas

Return Method	Via Canvas
Feedback Provided	Via Canvas
Compulsory Requirements	Minimum Grade / Mark Requirement - Students must obtain a specified minimum grade / mark in this assessment item to pass the Course: 50%
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to re-attempt this assessment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This Course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Withdrawal from Course

You can withdraw from a course without financial penalty on or before the census date **Friday 22nd March 2024**. If you withdraw after this date, it is considered you have been enrolled in the course and will be liable for HECS-HELP payment or degree fee. For further information see University Key dates.

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Announcements
- Canvas Discussion Forum
- Regular course coordination drop-in Q&A sessions via zoom
- Consultation time with course coordinator as required

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement. No changes were made from last offering.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this Course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of

Circumstances

allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the Course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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