

PSYPIB

Psychology program information

Faculty of Sciences
Department of Psychology

Program introductory book 2009

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1. Our Welcome to You

It is a time of change and challenge at USQ.

First of all, I am writing this welcome to you as the new head of the Psychology Department. The Department has not lost the services of Professor Peter Terry who will continue to supervise and teach sports psychology.

As a department, we continue to offer our psychology programs at the Toowoomba and Springfield campuses as well as in distance mode wherever you may be in Australia and even overseas.

The University is participating in its second university-wide quality audit in 2009. This is a major challenge for all who work at the University.

In addition, the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council will conduct an accreditation of all of the psychology programs at USQ in 2009. We started preparing for this accreditation in early 2008, and we have already had a visit to the Springfield campus in October 2008.

This resource has been produced to assist psychology students with general advice about your study and to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

Nearly all careers will require you to work with people, be they as colleagues or clients. We spend considerable time trying to assist people to change some aspect of their behaviours so they may be more productive, have better relationships, or cope better with various demands. By studying psychology you will be better prepared to understand and manage these aspects of your job.

Whatever interest or career ambition has brought you to study psychology, we hope that you will feel sufficiently challenged by the program but will also enjoy it.

Associate Professor Tony Machin, PhD, MAPS
Head of Department (Psychology)
Faculty of Sciences
University of Southern Queensland

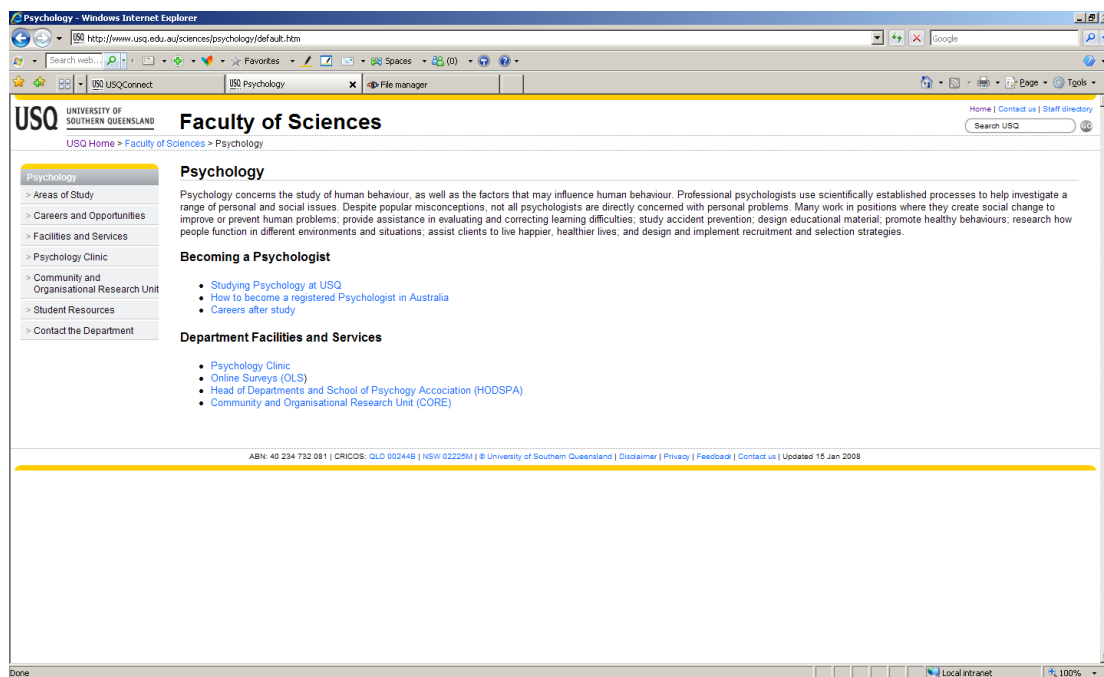


2. Departmental home page world wide web

The department home page is part of the Faculty of Sciences web site at USQ. It is a good idea to keep an eye on this site from time to time. The web site has valuable information on:

- Areas of Study
- Careers and Opportunities
- Facilities and Services
- Psychology Clinic
- Community and Organisational Research Unit
- Student Resources and
- Contacting the Department

The address is: <http://www.usq.edu.au/sciences/psychology/>



3. Careers in psychology

Most graduates are able to find work in an area that makes use of the skills they have learned during their program because there are many diverse jobs that can be undertaken by psychology graduates.

A recent publication by Julie Ann Pooley and Lynne Cohen (see reference below) provides some data that makes the future of the profession seem very bright. There is strong demand for three-year graduates (those with an undergraduate major in psychology) with opportunities in areas such as research, human resources, policy and planning, welfare, counselling and providing employment assistance to disadvantaged job seekers.

While there are many psychology-related jobs that do not require completion of a fourth year of training, the main exceptions to this are jobs with the title Psychologist. These will always require at least completion of an accredited Honours degree (or equivalent).

The Australian Psychological Society web site at <http://www.psychology.org.au/> is a good place to start looking for info about careers. Click on the link “Study and careers” and then “Careers in Psychology”. You will see that this page contains info about these topics: *What do psychologists do? What are the employment prospects for psychologists? Where do psychologists work? What are the main areas of specialisation in psychology? What do psychologists earn? And Where can I find more information about careers in psychology?*

If you want to look at actual jobs that are currently being advertised, try the PsychXchange job site at <http://www.psychxchange.com.au/>. By searching for All Job types in All Locations, you will find all positions currently available. Also remember that not all jobs held by psychologists have the word “Psychologist” in the job title.

The full reference for Julie Ann Pooley and Lynne Cohen’s book is:

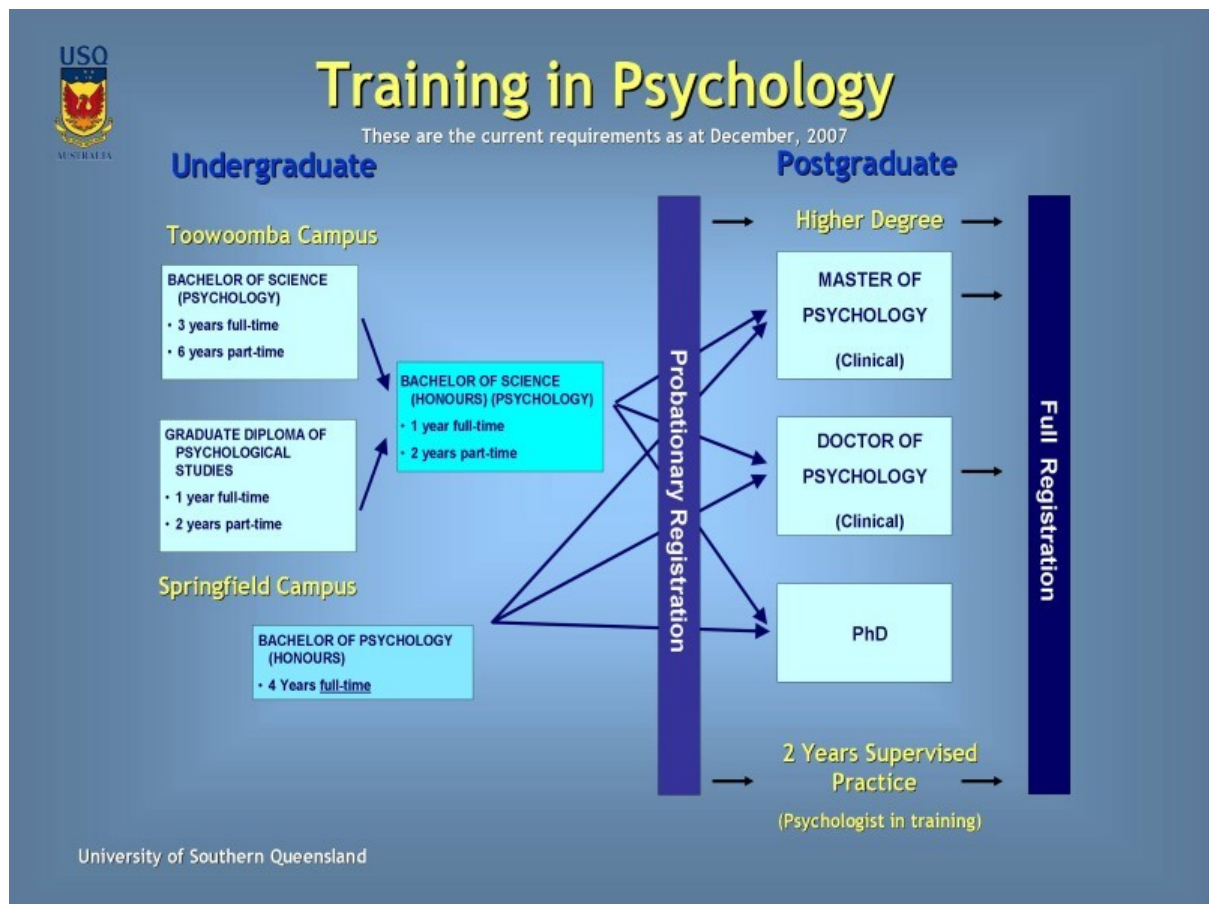
Pooley, J. A., & Cohen, L. (2007). *Careers in psychology: Making informed choices*. Melbourne: Nelson Australia.

3.1 Pathways to becoming a psychologist

The current pathways to becoming a registered psychologist in Australia involves an initial period of training culminating in completion of a fourth year (usually an Honours degree) in psychology which is the minimum requirement for general registration. Further postgraduate study OR a period of supervised experience whilst working are required in order to be fully registered. USQ offers a three year BSc degree majoring in psychology which, when completed, allows a student to apply for a place in the BSc (Honours) program. These degrees are offered oncampus and externally throughout Australia and in some overseas locations (BSc only). A four-year program called the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) is offered oncampus at Springfield. Further details are provided in the next section.

We also have a three-year program called the Bachelor of Psychology in Business (BPsyBus) that is offered oncampus at Springfield. This program requires students to be trained across two disciplines rather than just one in order to provide students with a balance of skills in two areas. Graduates of the BPsyBus will require additional psychology courses to be eligible for entry into a Psychology Honours program.

The Psychologists Board of Queensland <http://www.psychologyboard.qld.gov.au/> has additional information about the criteria that are used in deciding whether an applicant is eligible for general registration including an assessment of their fitness to practise the profession.



4. Undergraduate program

4.1 Objectives – are we going to do what you think we are going to do?

One of the things that you will find out during your studies in Psychology is that problems and unhappiness are often the result of mismatches in expectations. In order to avoid this at the outset it is important for you to know what we intend to achieve in the Bachelor of Science program. If what we hope to do matches what you expect us to do then there will not be any problems. However, if you expect that we will do one thing and we expect that you will do another then we have potential for unpleasantness. Since most of us on the staff at USQ like to avoid unpleasantness, we think it is important that you have a good idea of what we are trying to achieve.

The Bachelor of Science aims to produce graduates who have the generic skills and characteristics that USQ requires of any of its graduates from Bachelors programs.

In addition to meeting the USQ objectives, our program is also aimed at meeting the objectives that the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC) has for

undergraduate courses. Since the undergraduate program is only the first step in producing competent professional psychologists, the aims and objectives of the undergraduate program are more modest than you might expect. It is not our aim to produce qualified psychologists at the end of your BSc degree.

The APAC proposes two broad objectives that all undergraduate psychology programs should meet. It recognises that the foundation of expertise in any area is based upon an extensive and well-organised knowledge base. Consequently, the first objective is to give students a broad knowledge base of the discipline. As already stated, psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. The emphasis here is on the scientific part. This emphasis is reflected in the choice of psychological skills that we expect students to acquire. In accordance with the second objective of the APS, at the undergraduate level we set out to develop students' skills in doing psychological research. We do not intend to turn out competent counsellors, or competent clinical psychologists, or competent organisational psychologists or competent other types of psychologists. We intend to turn out people who have a well-developed knowledge base in a variety of areas of psychology and who are particularly skilled at doing psychological research.

4.2 Undergraduate program structure

Two pathways by which students may progress towards an accredited psychology major are by enrolling in the BSc (Psychology) or the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Studies (if you have already completed a degree). The structure of these two programs will be explained and then the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) will be explained.

4.2.1 Program structure for the Bachelor of Science (Psychology)

You need to complete 24 courses to qualify for the Bachelor of Science (BSCI) with a major in Psychology. The structure of the Psychology major has changed for new students starting since 2006. This structure will be explained below. However, existing students will be allowed to graduate under the old program structure which is still listed in older versions of the USQ handbook.

In the new program structure (see below), there are 16 compulsory courses (previously 13) in the Psychology Major. The new structure does not require students to take any additional psychology elective courses (3 were required in the old structure). However, the number of psychology and non-psychology electives must total 8.

Structure of the BSc (Psychology) major from 2006 for NEW students:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/BSCI.html>

Courses	Semester offered
Foundation courses	
STA2300 Data Analysis	1,2,3
CSC1402 Foundation Computing	1,2,3
CMS1000 Communication and Scholarship	1,2,3
PSY1030 Cross-Cultural and Indigenous Psychology	2,3
Compulsory courses	
PSY1010 Foundation Psychology A	1,3
PSY1020 Foundation Psychology B	2
PSY2010 Social Processes of Behaviour	1
PSY2020 Motivation and Emotion	1
PSY2030 Developmental Psychology	2
PSY2040 Human Information Processing	2
PSY2100 Research Methods in Psychology A	1
PSY2110 Research Methods in Psychology B	2
PSY3010 Assessment of Behaviour	1
PSY3030 Abnormal Psychology	1
PSY3050 Counselling Psychology	2
PSY3110 Clinical Health Psychology	2
Psychology electives (only choose these if you want to)	
PSY3040 Individual Differences	2
PSY3080 Human Factors (may not be offered in 2009)	1
PSY3100 Advanced Research Methods and Statistics	1
PSY3101 Career Assessment and Development	3
PSY3120 History and Systems of Psychology	3
PSY3250 Sport Psychology	2
PSY3730 Industrial and Organisational Psychology	1
Non-Psychology electives (max. of 8 Psych and Non-psych electives)	

Notes:

1. You must check prerequisite requirements before enrolling in a course. Failure to complete a prerequisite will usually mean that your enrolment in that course will be cancelled. This may be done without prior notification, right up to the last day for dropping courses without penalty.
2. Students who enrolled in the BSc (Psychology) prior to 2006 will still need to complete 13 compulsory courses (all courses listed in the above table starting at STA2300 down to PSY3010 inclusive) and 3 additional third level psychology courses. Contact the Undergraduate Program Coordinator if you are uncertain which courses are compulsory.

We also offer a BSc double major in Psychology and Human Physiology which will be a major advantage in any careers involving promoting people's health and well-being and it

will build a very sound foundation for postgraduate studies in Clinical and Health Psychology. This is an excellent example of how to combine your Psychology major with an area that will enable you to develop expertise that enhances your future career prospects. One constraint with this double major is that most of the Human Physiology courses are only offered on campus. Other double majors that currently exist include Psychology + Human Resource Management, and a range of other disciplines from the Faculties of Arts, Business, and Sciences. A full list of double majors is shown below. If you select a second major, you must conform to the requirements of the major as specified in the USQ Handbook. Students also have the option to enrol in courses from another University through cross-institutional enrolment if there are specific courses that are not offered at USQ which you wish to take. However, doing this would mean that you would not have the second major listed on your degree.

The current list of double majors available in the BSc (Psychology) program includes:

Name	Academic plan	Description
Psychology and Human Resource Management	13810	Psychology+HRM
Psychology and Management and Leadership	15787	Psychology+ManagLead
Psychology and Statistics	15756	Psychology+Stats
Psychology and Anthropology	13806	Psychology+Anthropol
Psychology and Administrative Management	13807	Psychology+AdminMgt
Psychology and History	13808	Psychology+History
Psychology and Visual Arts Prac	13811	Psychology+VArtsPrac
Psychology and Organisation and Business Communication	13813	Psychology+OrgBusCom
Psychology and Marketing	13814	Psychology+Marketing
Psychology and English Literature	13816	Psychology+EngLit
Psychology and Computing	13817	Psychology+Computing
Psychology and Human Physiology.	15844	Psychology+HumanPhysiology
Psychology and Business Law	15751	Psychology+Bus Law
Psychology and Chemistry	15823	Psychology+Chemistry

4.2.2 Program structure for the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Studies

The alternative pathway to completion of an undergraduate major in Psychology for students who already have a degree is to enrol in the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Studies. The structure of the GDPS has also changed for new students starting in 2006. This structure will be explained below. However, existing students will be allowed to graduate under the old program structure.

In the new program structure (see below), there are 8 compulsory courses.

Structure of the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Studies since 2006 for NEW students:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/GDPS.html>

Courses	Semester offered
Compulsory courses	
PSY2010 Social Processes of Behaviour	1
PSY2020 Motivation and Emotion	1
PSY2030 Developmental Psychology	2
PSY2040 Human Information Processing	2
PSY2100 Research Methods in Psychology A	1
PSY2110 Research Methods in Psychology B	2
PSY3010 Assessment of Behaviour	1
PSY3110 Clinical Health Psychology	2

Notes:

1. When a student has already completed one of the compulsory courses, a suitable psychology elective may be taken instead.
2. PSY2100 must be completed before enrolling in PSY2110 and before or concurrently with PSY3010.

Admission requirements for the GDPS

To be admitted to the Graduate Diploma, applicants must (a) hold a bachelor's degree from a recognised university in a field other than psychology; and (b) have completed the pre-requisite courses listed below (or their equivalent elsewhere) within the last five years prior to commencing the program.

Course code	Course name	Offered
STA2300	Data Analysis	S1, S2, S3
PSY1010	Foundation Psychology A	S1, S3
PSY1020	Foundation Psychology B	S2
PSY1030	Cross-Cultural and Indigenous Psychology	S2, S3

4.2.3 Program structure for the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

The Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree entails four years of full-time study, during which time the student will complete 32 courses.

The Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) is focused on professional outcomes within a community setting. An experience-learning theme will underlie the content and learning processes of this program. Students will engage with local services, institutions and societies to acquire knowledge from the community as their laboratory and to develop problem-solving competencies related to their areas of study. Generally we want you to build a knowledge base of the discipline, think critically and analytically, to work cooperatively within and across disciplines in order to seek solutions to real world problems.

Structure of the BPsych (Honours) from 2008:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/BPSH.html>

Year 1	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PSY1010: Foundation Psychology A	PSY1020: Foundation Psychology B
PSY1101: Critical Thinking	PSY2050: Facilitation and Negotiation
PSY1102: Interpersonal Skills	PSY1105: Psychological Skills B
PSY1104: Psychological Skills A	STA2300: Data Analysis
Year 2	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PSY2010: Social Processes of Behaviour	PSY2030: Developmental Psychology
PSY2020: Motivation and Emotion	PSY2040: Human Information Processing
PSY2100: Research Methods A	PSY2110: Research Methods B
PSY2104: Psychological Skills C	PSY2105: Psychological Skills D
Year 3	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PSY3010: Assessment of Behaviour	PSY1030: Cross-cultural and Indigenous Psychology
PSY3030: Abnormal Behaviour	PSY3050: Counselling Psychology
PSY3104: Psychological Skills E	PSY3105: Psychological Skills F
One third level psychology course	One third level psychology course
Year 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PSY4001 Psychology Honours Project 1	PSY4002 Psychology Honours Project 2
PSY4010 Multivariate Statistics A	PSY4011 Multivariate Statistics B
PSY4020 Ethical and Professional Practice	PSY4070 Advanced Assessment
PSY4030 Skills and Issues in Counselling	PSY4040 Advanced Psychological Theory

Note: The courses in the BPsych (Honours) are only offered oncampus at Springfield.

4.3 Exemptions

If you have done any other post-secondary school course, you **may** be eligible for an exemption from part of your degree, particularly in the non-psychology electives. However, we may consider studies completed prior to the last five years as not sufficiently recent for awarding exemptions. If you think you have grounds for an exemption, please contact the Undergraduate Program Coordinator with the details of your previous studies:

Dr Andrea Lamont-Mills
 Phone: 07 4631 1703
 Fax: 07 4631 2721
 Email: lamontm@usq.edu.au

Although the maximum time for completion of the BSc is 8 years (and only two years for the GDPS), if you are awarded exemptions, this maximum time will be less. For example, if you are enrolled in the BSc (Psychology) major, the following table can be used to assist you to work out how long you will be allowed to complete your degree.

Number of exemptions granted	Maximum time to complete program
4 exemptions	6 years and 2 semesters
5 exemptions	6 years and 1 semester
6 exemptions	6 years
7 exemptions	5 years and 2 semesters
8 exemptions	5 years and 1 semester
9 exemptions	5 years
10 exemptions	4 years and 2 semesters
11 exemptions	4 years and 1 semester
12 exemptions	4 years
13 exemptions	3 years and 2 semesters
14 exemptions	3 years and 1 semester
15 exemptions	3 years
16 exemptions	2 years and 2 semesters

5. Teaching support

USQ uses a range of methodologies in teaching its courses. Some of the more frequently used methods are:

On campus classes: For each course that you study at USQ you could expect to have a one- or two-hour lecture which is supported by a two-hour tutorial. Thus those students who are studying full-time on campus could expect to have up to 16 hours of class contact per week.

External (distance education): If you are studying via distance mode (and sometimes on campus), the primary source of information is contained in a study package that is usually developed by the examiner for the course. The package usually contains an introductory book that contains a course specification. This course specification provides a summary of the course including the topics covered, the amount and type of assessment, and procedures concerning various problems that you may experience. The course study book deals with the content of the course and there is sometimes a book of readings that is required to replace or supplement a text book. Some course packages might also include workbooks, audiotapes, or other resources, depending on the course design and content.

Residential schools: We think that it is important for students studying through distance mode to also have the opportunity for direct and immediate interaction with USQ staff. Consequently, many psychology courses also have a residential school scheduled (usually during mid semester breaks). These residential schools (in the undergraduate program) are not compulsory, but we recommend that you attend if at all possible. I have not had many people come to the residential school and come away thinking that it was a waste of time and resources.

Electronic discussion groups: Each course has a computer based discussion group as a means of facilitating communication between student and lecturer and among students.

Details appear in the relevant course materials. This form of communication is a crucial one and as such we expect that all students will have access to these groups. You do not have to actively participate (unless requested by the course examiner), but we do expect that you will regularly monitor what is being discussed. Our staff will use this medium as one of the principal ways of communicating with students, and will expect that all students will monitor the discussion group for each of the courses they are enrolled in.

USQConnect: This is the computer-based student intranet that allows students to monitor and maintain their academic process. It allows students to access discussion groups, their assignment and exam marks and important dates like examination times. Again this is a crucial resource that we expect students to become familiar with. You will need your student number and password to access *USQConnect*, which can be entered via the USQ home page <http://usqconnect.usq.edu.au>.

6. Computer requirements

Given the above modes of teaching support, it should be clear that we expect all students doing psychology to have computer access. This does not mean that you have to go out and buy a new computer, but you do have to ensure that you have the means for regular computer access both to discussion groups for your course and to *USQConnect*. You may be able to do this by arranging access via a friend, through work, through an Internet Cafe, or a local library.

Computers are playing an important role in the studying and learning process, and students are strongly encouraged to make use of up-to-date computer technology in a number of ways to facilitate learning, and in the production of assessment material. As indicated above, our courses all make use of the Internet through on-line discussion groups and course web pages. Some courses require substantial access to a computer because computer software or CD-ROMs are integral to the material being taught in the course.

Students may be able to study successfully for many courses with a computer sufficient to run one of the current word-processing and spreadsheet programs. **All students, particularly those studying in the external mode, are required to have access to the Internet.** We anticipate that students' use of computers – for assignment preparation, online discussion, and information searching – will help develop skills which will be valuable not only in their study environment, but also in their chosen professions.

The Student Computing Standards are available from <http://www.usq.edu.au/ict/students/standards/default.htm> .

7. Residential schools

Residential schools are planned throughout the year for some courses. Please check the residential school website at <http://www.usq.edu.au/residentialschools> to see if your course is offering a residential school.

8. Policies and procedures

Like any organisation USQ has rules, regulations and procedures. The policies and regulations are readily available in the University Handbook. It is strongly suggested that you have a look at these regulations now. They can be accessed electronically at:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/policies/default.htm>

8.1 Academic honesty

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences in any setting, especially in universities. Of all the rules and regulations, those dealing with cheating and plagiarism are considered the most serious. Thus we include some information here.

When the staff at USQ give you assessment pieces to do, it is on the understanding that the work you present for assessment is your own. After all, we wish to gauge the extent to which you are developing expertise in psychology. At the same time we will be encouraging you to read widely by consulting journals and books and other reference materials. It can sometimes be difficult to take the information in these works and present it in such a way that it represents your own work. So read the following sections and make sure you understand what is expected of you. If you don't please seek clarification. **This is important.**

Copying of another student's work, taking prohibited material into examinations, submitting work that is not your own, using false medical certificates and many other such forms of cheating are absolutely prohibited. Students caught cheating can be given zero marks for an assignment, failed in a course, or excluded from their program or from the university.

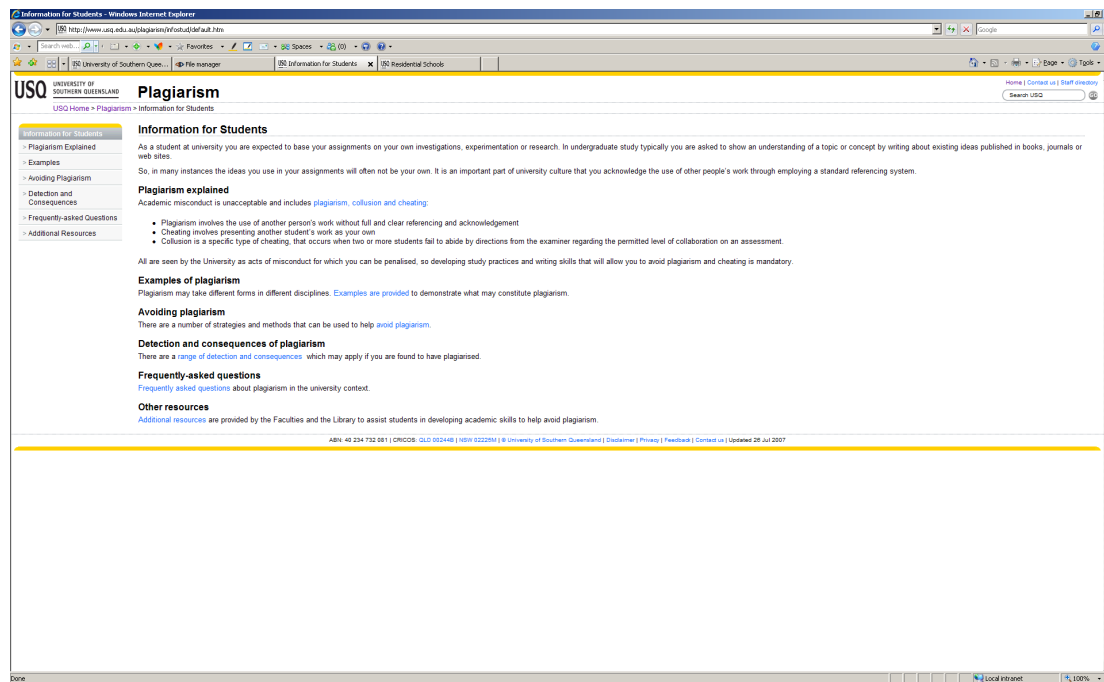
Plagiarism is an academic offence. Plagiarism involves the use of ideas or material that belong to another in such a way that it is presented as your own. Common examples include:

- Copying passages from books or journal articles word for word without acknowledging them as quotations.
- Inappropriate citation including using ideas from other sources without acknowledging the source.
- Summarising or paraphrasing the words of other sources without acknowledgment of their source.

In written work, the source of such quotations, ideas, or words must always be given by the correct form of referencing or citation.

The penalties for these offences range from getting no marks for the work, to exclusion from the University.

Further information is available at the following website shown below. Just click on the link to: <http://www.usq.edu.au/plagiarism/infostud/default.htm>



8.2 Referencing in psychology

Many of the problems associated with plagiarism stem from inadequate citations and referencing. You need to become familiar with the correct way of doing this to avoid problems.

In writing assignments in psychology, students will be expected to acquire knowledge of the referencing system which is universally used in the discipline. This is the ‘style’ or system of referencing known as the American Psychological Association Style (APA Style). It is similar to, but not the same as the Harvard System. Note that DeC typically uses the Harvard System, and some study material produced by DeC has a combination of Harvard referencing and the APA Style. Hence study materials supplied cannot be taken as a correct guide to your requirements in all instances.

The USQ Library has comprehensive guides to academic referencing (including Harvard, Oxford and APA styles) on their website at http://www.usq.edu.au/library/help/ehelp/ref_guides/default.htm. You can also access the library web site from the USQ home page and then click *Referencing Guides*.

The basic elements to APA referencing style are described below. There are two components – the citation in the text, and the reference list at the end of the assignment. Each will be outlined in turn.

8.2.1 Citation in the text

Every work from which ideas or information is drawn must be cited in the text. The basic method of referring to a work is by use of the author’s name and year of publication of the work. The following examples illustrate some of the most common examples.

Reference to a work by a single author

In a study by Skinner (1965) pigeons were trained ...

or

There has been much debate on the issue of whether hereditary or environment influences this most (Brown, 1996).

Works by two authors

... though this finding is contradicted by Black and White (1994).

or

... though this finding is not universal (Black & White, 1994).

(Note: that **and** is used outside the brackets, **&** is used inside).

Three or more authors

The first time a work by three or more authors is cited, all authors are listed.

Black, White, and Green (1995) resolved this debate by proposing ...

There may well be separate processes operating in each task (Black, White, & Green 1995).

The second and subsequent time a work with three or more authors is cited it is abbreviated by using only the first author's name and et al. (Latin for 'and others').

Black et al. (1995) also claimed ...

... so this issue is still not settled (Black et al., 1995).

8.2.2 Reference list

The reference list is a list of **every** work cited in your assignment, and **only** those works cited. Note that it is **not** the same as a bibliography (a list of works consulted, but not necessarily mentioned). Bibliographies are not used in psychology.

Works are listed alphabetically by the names and initial of authors. If there are multiple works by the same author(s) they are then listed by date of publication (earliest to latest).

Sample references

Books

For books, the required elements are as follows: Authors' names and initials, year of publication, title of the book in full, city of publication, publisher. Note the placement of punctuation.

Brown, A. B. (1994). *The causes of depression: A comprehensive theory*. Sydney: Grandiose Press.

Jones, C. D., & Brown, A. B. (1995). *A new theory of depression*. New York: Academic Press.

Smith, E. F., Brown, A. B., & Jones, C. D. (1996). *The ultimate theory of depression: The critics answered*. London: Obscure & Mighty Books.

Chapter in edited books

The required elements here are the authors' names and initials, year of publication, title of the chapter, editors' names (initials first), title of book, pages of the chapter referred to, place of publication, publisher.

Black, I. M. (1993). Framework for a theory of depression. In A. B. Brown & U. R. Blue (Eds.), *Recent research on depression* (pp. 199–220). Hong Kong: Orient Express.

Journal articles

The elements required are as follows.

Author's name followed by initials, year of publication, title of article, journal name, volume number, pages. Note the placement of punctuation.

Green, V. R. (1995). Models of depression assessed: Case studies from five hospitals. *Journal of Psychopathology*, 25, 251–299.

Completed reference list

References

Black, I. M. (1993). Framework for a theory of depression. In A. B. Brown & U. R. Blue (Eds.), *Recent research on depression* (pp. 199–220). Hong Kong: Orient Express.

Brown, A. B. (1994). *The causes of depression: A comprehensive theory*. Sydney: Grandiose Press.

Green, V. R. (1995). Models of depression assessed: Case studies from five hospitals. *Journal of Psychopathology*, 25, 251–299.

Jones, C. D., & Brown, A. B. (1995). *A new theory of depression*. New York: Academic Press.

Smith, E. F., Brown, A. B., & Jones, C. D. (1996). *The ultimate theory of depression: The critics answered*. London: Obscure & Mighty Books.

(Note that in your assignment, referencing should be double spaced and the reference list would start on a new page.)

8.3 Withdrawing without penalty

Sometimes students will experience difficulty in completing a course due to factors beyond their control. The University has a process by which students can apply to withdraw from the

course without academic penalty and have the fees reversed. Applications must be made on the appropriate form and the details are available from <http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/policies/waivepenalty/default.htm> .

9. What happens when things go wrong?

Unfortunately, things do not go smoothly all the time. When things start to go wrong there is one golden rule you should follow. “Do something about it at the time”. We can usually solve the problem much more easily at the time when things go wrong than, say, two months later. Let’s have a look at some commonly occurring issues:

- *Late assignments:* The Department will apply the USQ policy regarding late submission of assignments. This policy allows for a penalty of 5% per day for late submission. We will not accept any late assignments that arrive after the assignments that have been handed in on time are returned to students. This date is usually three weeks after the due date for the assignment.
- *Deferred exams:* Through force of circumstance you may not be able to sit for an exam. It is possible to request a deferred exam under special circumstances. This can only be done by writing to the Faculty Administrator to make a formal request for a deferred exam. This request will only be granted if students are up to date with assignments and any other form of assessment that has to be submitted prior to the exam period. There are some serious consequences associated with deferred exams, so you need to think seriously about requesting them. The consequences are:
 - Deferred exams will now be held at the end of the next semester rather than when the course is next offered. You may have to sit the deferred exam along with your other exams for that semester.
 - Deferred exams cannot be deferred. If you are unable to sit for the deferred exam for any reason what so ever, you will be awarded a Fail grade.
- *Dropping courses:* You can drop courses without any penalty up until a specified date. (This date is specified in the Student Handbook and on the calendar included in your general package.) After that date, it is still possible to drop courses but it becomes more difficult. You can consult the regulations in the Handbook on the conditions and procedures that need to be followed for waiving academic penalty. However, again it is important for you to know that you can only have a course dropped without penalty if you are up to date with your assignments. There is no point applying in the last week of semester, when you have not handed in any assignments for a course. Your application will not be accepted.
- *Leave of absence:* There may come a time when you would like to take a break from your studies. The simplest way to do this is to write to the undergraduate coordinator and request a leave of absence.

10. Undergraduate coordinator and First year coordinator

The Coordinator of the Undergraduate Program is now Dr Andrea Lamont-Mills, telephone (07) 4631 1703, fax (07) 4631 2721, email lamontm@usq.edu.au. You should contact her preferably by fax, mail, or email for all general enquiries concerning your program, including dropping or adding courses, exemptions, leave of absence, your program progression, and eligibility to graduate. Questions concerning specific courses should be directed to the examiner of that course.

Dr Majella Albion is the First year coordinator and students enrolled in the three first year psychology courses should direct their questions and concerns to her. Her telephone number is (07) 4631 1672 and her email is albionm@usq.edu.au.

11. The psychology department

11.1 Staff of the department

Details are available from the Psychology Department web site at <http://www.usq.edu.au/sciences/psychology/contact.htm> .

11.2 Contacting staff

The normal (and most certain) method of contacting academic staff is via Outreach services, DeC. Some staff may arrange regular times to be available for direct telephone inquiries but these will be advised direct to students with normal mailings.

Most staff (but not all) are also able (and willing) to be contacted by electronic mail. Those students who have access to this facility via their study centre or home computer are welcome to use it.

How to contact academic staff

Staff may be contacted by telephone or by electronic mail. You can access all contact details on the Psychology Department web site at <http://www.usq.edu.au/sciences/psychology/contact.htm> .

Callers from outside Australia should precede the number with +61 7 (Australia and area code).

Faculty of Sciences fax number: (07) 4631 2721

Postal address: Psychology Department
Faculty of Sciences
The University of Southern Queensland
Toowoomba QLD 4350

12. The Fourth Year in psychology

Please note: This information was correct at 16 November, 2008, but is subject to change without notice.

12.1 Structure of Bachelor of Science (Honours) – BSCH

As illustrated in the Section 3.1 Pathways to becoming a psychologist, we offer a separate fourth year in Psychology called the Bachelor of Science (Honours) majoring in psychology. The BSc (Honours) program is available in both on-campus and external mode, and is fully

accredited by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council. There are two compulsory workshop blocks each semester. These workshop weeks are compulsory for both on-campus and external students in the program. **Students who apply from overseas will only be accepted if they are able to be oncampus for the duration of their enrolment in the program.**

As a graduate of the BSc (Honours) program, you will be eligible to apply for General Registration with Probationary Conditions (previously called conditional registration) as a Psychologist with the Psychologists Board of Queensland. Further information about registration can be found at the Psychologists Board web site at: <http://www.psychologyboard.qld.gov.au>. You are also eligible to apply to the Australian Psychological Society for Associate Membership. If you achieve a high level of Honours (either First Class or Second Class, Division A), you would be eligible to apply for a Masters program or PhD at USQ and other universities.

12.2 Entry requirements

In order to be considered for entry into the Honours program, students must meet the following essential criteria:

1. You must have an APAC-accredited undergraduate degree majoring in psychology. Overseas students who have not completed their undergraduate studies through USQ will need to have their degree assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) before applying for the Honours program. The APS charges a fee for this assessment.
2. Your undergraduate studies in psychology must have been completed no more than three years prior to applying for Honours. So if you are interested in applying for the 2010 intake, you would have needed to complete your undergraduate psychology studies no later than Semester 2, 2006.

You must have a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5, according to our Honours formula. However, please note that the actual GPA for entry is usually higher than that, as there are limited places available each year.

12.3 What formula do you use to calculate GPA for entry into Honours?

When deciding which students to accept into our Honours program, we do not use the GPA that appears on your academic transcript. Instead, we use our own weighted formula as shown below:

$$[\text{GPA}(1) + 2 \times \text{GPA}(2) + 2.5 \times \text{GPA}(3)] / 5.5$$

GPA(1) means your GPA for your first-level subjects and so on, according to the first number in the course code. For example, PSY1010 is counted as a first-level subject, while PSY3030 is counted as a third-level subject. The only exception is Data Analysis, which is

counted as a first-level subject even though it has a second-level code. This is because psychology students typically do that subject in their first year.

When calculating your weighted GPA, we only count psychology subjects and Data Analysis. In working out your GPA for each year level, we don't count fails. If you have repeated a subject, we count the higher grade. In the calculations, HD = 7, A = 6, B = 5, C = 4, and LP = 3.

Example - Imagine you got the following grades:

1st year	PSY1010 Foundation	HD
	Psychology A	
2nd year	PSY1020 Foundation	C
	Psychology B	
	STA2300 Data Analysis	B
	PSY2010 Social Processes of Behaviour	A
	PSY2100 Research Methods	B
	A	
3rd year	PSY2110 Research Methods	A
	B	
	PSY2030 Developmental Psychology	HD
	PSY3010 Assessment of Behaviour	A
	PSY3030 Abnormal Psychology	A
	PSY3110 Clinical Health Psychology	HD

So your formula would be: $[5.33 + (2 \times 6.00) + (2.5 \times 6.33)] / 5.5 = 6.03$

12.4 What is the main difference between studying as an undergraduate students and studying as an Honours student?

The main difference is that Honours students are seen as professionals in training. Therefore, we expect that Honours students will be able to take more initiative for their own learning. Staff will certainly provide relevant materials and guidance throughout the program, but students will also need to be more proactive in searching out relevant literature, analysing the material they are learning, and engaging in regular discussion group forums. High levels of critical thinking and indepth analysis are required and there is more of a focus on the application of knowledge and acquisition of skills. While a good academic performance in the undergraduate program provides a solid foundation or baseline for further study, the Honours program will challenge you in new ways. For example, you will be further developing skills in counselling, professional ethics, assessment, and intervention and will be more fully engaged in research. Some students may also need to brush up on their statistics skills and knowledge of SPSS prior to commencing the Honours year, especially if it has been several years since they last studied statistics. If you have aspirations of going on to further postgraduate study after Honours, you would usually need to get a 2A class of

Honours which would mean you would need to get a GPA of 5.8 or greater. Some universities may accept students with lower GPAs than that, but many require at least a 2A. Therefore, you may find you need to perform at a higher level than in your undergraduate studies in order to achieve the desired result. Although this may sound challenging, staff will guide you as you rise to meet these challenges. Hopefully, you will find the Honours program to be very rewarding both professionally and personally.

12.5 Applications for 2010

All applications for the BSc (Honours) must be made directly to USQ using the Direct Entry Application Form. Electronic copies can be downloaded from <http://applyonline.usq.edu.au/>. Applications close at the end of October for the intake in semester 1, 2010. Students who complete the last of their psychology courses in semester 3 may be considered for entry in semester 1. Direct Entry Application Forms are also available from Student Administration, USQ, Toowoomba, QLD, 4350. Applications that are received after the closing date or that do not contain the required documentation will not be considered. Properly certified copies of documents are acceptable.

12.6 Further information

Further information is available from the Psychology Department web site at <http://www.usq.edu.au/sciences/psychology/programs.htm>.

13. Higher degrees in psychology

The Department offers both coursework and research higher degrees, which can all be completed part-time. Some details are listed below with full information available from the USQ Handbook at <http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/allprog.html>.

Information about the programs mentioned below can be obtained from the Postgraduate Program Coordinator, Dr Paul Bramston: telephone +61 7 4631 2932; email bramston@usq.edu.au.

Master of Psychology (Clinical) (MPCL) – MPsych(Clinical)

Applicants for admission must be able to:

- demonstrate that they have achieved a minimum result of Second Class Honours Division A in an APS-accredited four-year Honours program; and
- provide two satisfactory referee reports indicating the applicant's abilities to successfully undertake the professional and research components of the program; and
- be assessed in an interview with a panel of Departmental staff as having interpersonal skills required for professional course work.

Before commencing the program, students must have General Registration with Probationary Conditions or full registration from the Psychologists Board of Queensland.

Normally, entrants would be eligible for Associate Membership of the Australian Psychological Society having completed four years of study of psychology accredited by the Society.

Further details are available from <http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/MPCL.html>.

Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) (DPCL) – DPsych(Clinical)

Applicants for admission must be able to:

- demonstrate that they have achieved a minimum result of First Class Honours in an APS-accredited four-year Honours program; and
- provide two satisfactory referee reports indicating the applicant's abilities to successfully undertake the professional and research components of the program at a doctoral level; and
- be assessed in an interview with a panel of Departmental staff as having interpersonal skills required for professional course work.

Before commencing the program, students must have General Registration with Probationary Conditions or full registration from the Queensland Registration Board.

Further details are available from <http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/DPCL.html>.

Master of Psychology (Health) (MPSH) – MPsych(Health)

Entry into this program has been discontinued.

Doctor of Psychology (Health) (DOHP) – DPsych(Health)

Entry into this program has been discontinued.

Master of Science in Behavioural Studies in Health – (MSBH) – MScBehavStudHlth

Entry into this program has been discontinued.

Doctor of Philosophy (DPHD) – PhD

The normal requirements for entry to the degree are either a bachelor degree with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Division A) or equivalent, or a masters degree (with a research component) or other qualifications equivalent to First Class Honours, together with evidence of professional standing. Normally, all students will be enrolled as provisional

candidates, with their status being reviewed within 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time enrolment. Because the degree is based on supervision by a principal and an associate supervisor, it is essential that intending candidates clarify their topic for research and seek an academic staff member able to provide supervision. Application forms and advice on procedures for enrolment may be obtained from the Office of Research and Higher Degrees. Intending students are advised to allow several months for discussion with potential supervisors and for consideration of the application prior to the commencement of candidature.

Further information is available from <http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/sci/sci-DPHD.html> .

14. Registration as a psychologist

The Queensland Psychologists Act (and similar legislation in all other States in Australia) regulates the practice of psychology. It is illegal to use the title psychologist, or to represent yourself in any way which leads people to believe you are a psychologist without being registered. Heavy penalties apply for breaches.

Requirements for initial registration are the completion of four years of approved training – such as completing the BSc (Honours) at USQ or elsewhere. In addition there is a requirement to complete two years of supervised practice after initial registration. Alternatively an approved Masters Coursework program (such as the MPCL at USQ) can be undertaken. For more information contact the Registration Board.

Queensland Psychologists Registration Board
GPO Box 2438
Brisbane 4001

Telephone, Fax, Email

Telephone: 07 3234 1164

Facsimile: 07 3225 2527

Email: psychology@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Web site: <http://www.psychologyboard.qld.gov.au/>

15. Membership of The Australian Psychological Society

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the major professional organisation of psychologists in Australia. It has a National Office located in Melbourne, and branches and regional groups throughout Australia, including Toowoomba, and has more than 11 500 members. Its role is to ‘represent, promote, and advance psychology and psychologists within the context of improving community well being and scientific knowledge’. If you are

a student enrolled in the Psychology major, you can join as a student subscriber, and receive four publications:

- The Australian Journal of Psychology (Scientific research reports).
- The Australian Psychologist (Professional issues).
- *In Psych*: The Bulletin of the APS (News of conferences, workshops and general issues).
- The Newsletter of the branch nearest to where you live.

To join, fill out the application form (available from the APS site below), send it to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Sciences, USQ, for endorsement. The membership application form is available at (then click on the link to Student Subscriber): <http://www.psychology.org.au/membership/>.

On completion of four years of study, graduates of approved courses can join as Associate Members.

Full membership of the APS

The **current** requirement for full membership of the Society is completion of four years approved university training plus a further two years (i.e. six years of training). The fifth and sixth years of training are most often completed by a Masters coursework degree (such as the Master of Psychology course at USQ), but can also be satisfied by postgraduate research study (such as a Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy degree).

Australian Psychological Society
PO Box 38
Flinders Lane VIC 8009

Tel: (03) 8662 3300

Toll free: 1800 333 497

Fax: (03) 9663 6177

Email: contactus@psychology.org.au

