



University Foundation Studies

900126

COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR HEALTH SCIENCE 1

2021

UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	June 2021
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors: The Academic English Staff of Western Sydney University The College.

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Unit name	Communication Skills in Health Science 1
Unit number	900126
Coordinator	Gabriela Jakubowicz
Session	2021.2
Handbook summary	This unit is designed to introduce students to academic culture as a culture of critical debate and equip students with the academic literacy skills necessary to perform successfully in this culture. In particular, the unit aims to help students access the conventions of academic English by focussing on attitudes to knowledge, and the ways in which ideas are structured and presented in academic texts and speech. The unit assists students to comprehend academic texts, identify key ideas and concepts, and identify and use the rhetorical moves used in academic texts. It also aims to help students compare and contrast ideas across texts, improve grammatical skills that relate to academic writing, summarise and synthesise information, and understand why, when and how to reference information.
Credit point value	10
Prerequisite/s	N/A
Corequisite/s	N/A
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	N/A
Assumed knowledge	N/A
Unit level	University Foundation Studies
Attendance requirements	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
Enrolment restrictions	Students must be enrolled in Western Sydney University The College, Course 9019.
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. define academic culture and explain the use of evidence to support an argument 2. employ effective listening strategies to identify and report main ideas and supporting evidence 3. utilise appropriate reading strategies to comprehend academic texts 4. produce writing that successfully summarises and paraphrases the work of others

5. demonstrate a command of academic English, including grammar, phrasing, effective sentence structure, spelling and punctuation in a variety of written contexts
6. apply the conventions of academic presentations in written and oral formats
7. critically reflect on their own learning, and
8. reflect on feedback to advance the development of literacy skills.

Unit content	<p>In this unit students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic culture as a culture of argument • Active listening and note-taking skills • Reading in an academic culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the development of ideas ○ the relative importance of ideas ○ identifying arguments • Writing in an academic culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ academic language skills and grammar ○ paraphrasing/summarising and synthesising skills ○ comparing and contrasting ideas across multiple texts ○ research and referencing • Speaking in an academic culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the structure of presenting ideas ○ tutorial/presentation skills
Mode of delivery	This unit consists of two three-hour tutorials per week, as well as online activities via vUWS.
Online learning requirements	Students need to possess basic technical knowledge and have Internet access to complete online activities and assessments.
Essential requirements	<p>Essential text</p> <p>There is no essential text for this unit.</p> <p>Recommended texts:</p> <p>McCormack R 2002, <i>Learning to Learn: the next step: teaching adults how to read and write the academic discourse</i>, Language Australia for Victoria University, Melbourne.</p> <p>Shields M 2010, <i>Essay Writing: a student's guide</i>, Sage, London</p>

ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Summary — listening and summarising task — 300 words	15%	1, 2, 4	Yes
2. Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Essay plan — 300 words (10%) b. Expository essay — 1000 words (30%) 	40%	3, 4, 5	Yes
3. Oral presentation — 3-5 minutes	20%	6, 7	Yes
4. Quiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Language skills test Part 1 — 1 hour (10%) b. Language skills test Part 2 — 1 hour (15%) 	25%	3, 4, 5, 8	Yes
TOTAL	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.