

Course Title: **Psychological Assessment**

Course Code: **PSYC603**

Descriptor Start Date: **02/01/2026**

POINTS: **15.00**

LEVEL: **6**

PREREQUISITE/S: **PSYC501 or PSYC502 or PSYC580**

COREQUISITE/S:

RESTRICTION/S:

LEARNING HOURS

Hours may include lectures, tutorials, online forums, laboratories. Refer to your timetable and course information in Canvas for detailed information.

Total learning hours: 150

PRESCRIPTOR

This course will introduce students to the field of psychological assessment including how to gather quantitative and qualitative information from interviews, observing behaviour and psychological testing. The purposes, formulation, construction, and administration of assessment strategies will be analysed, while introducing the student to a variety of psychological tests.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of psychological measurement and understanding of some major issues or themes.
2. Describe the process of developing a new psychological test and explain the fundamental scientific principles that underpin the process.
3. Critically evaluate the psychometric properties of a psychological test.
4. Complete simple psychometric analyses of questionnaire data.
5. Discuss some of the major ethical and professional issues involved in the use of psychological tests.

Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters

CONTENT

- The history and growth of the field of psychological assessment - its major approaches and unique terminology
- The construction and use of instruments to assess mental health, intelligence, personality, attitudes and values, abilities and disability, perceptual / motor / cognitive skills and vocational orientation
- Fundamental assessment concepts including test utility, reliability, validity, norms, responsiveness, sensitivity and specificity, measurement error, item analysis, ethical issues and cultural relevance
- Different assessment modes such as self-report questionnaires, rating scales, direct behavioural observation, interviews, physiological and neurological test batteries and other approaches
- Scoring, interpreting and analysing quantitative test data
- Some uses and abuses of psychological assessment
- An examination of the strengths, weaknesses and biases of particular psychological assessment instruments
- Critical evaluation of the psychometric properties of one psychological measure by the student

LEARNING & TEACHING STRATEGIES

Strategies will include formal lectures, selected readings and practical / laboratory exercises undertaken in tutorials or online as homework. Students will get some practical experience of being tested and also as a test administrator with a variety of assessment instruments (in whole or in part). They will have regular opportunities to critically evaluate these measures - analysing both a test's strengths and weaknesses.

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment Event	Weighting %	Learning Outcomes
Test (90 minutes)	20.00	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO5
Laboratory Report	40.00	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5,
Practical Assessment	40.00	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO5

Grade Map

MAP1

A+ A A- Pass with Distinction
B+ B B- Pass with Merit
C+ C C- Pass
D Fail

Overall requirement/s to pass the course:

Students must achieve an overall average grade of at least C- across all summative assessments to pass this course.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Cohen, R.J & Swerdlik, M.E. (2010). *Psychological Testing and Assessment* (8th ed). McGraw-Hill

For further information, contact: Te Ara Hauora A Putaiao - Faculty of Health & Environmental Science

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Principal Programme: HV3680, Bachelor of Health Science in Psychology

Related Programme/s: AK3680 Bachelor of Health Science
AK3704 Bachelor of Arts

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