

GD-MHSC Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Science

Year and Campus:	2015 - Parkville
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Level:	Graduate/Postgraduate
Duration & Credit Points:	100 credit points taken over 24 months part time.
Coordinator:	Associate Professor James Oliver
Contact:	<p>Academic contact A/Prof James Oliver</p> <p>Administrative contact Aris Cologon acologon@unimelb.edu.au</p>
Course Overview:	<p>Mental health issues are an increasing problem in current social contexts. They range from high prevalence problems such as stress, anxiety, depression and substance misuse to severe chronic, disabling and life threatening conditions. The burden of mental health issues is borne by the healthcare system, organisations and the community as a whole. The main approach to managing mental health issues has emphasised a multidisciplinary framework. The Master of Mental Health Science (MMHSc) course is aimed primarily at those currently working or planning to work in the field of mental health or for those working in organisations where mental health issues are prevalent. This may include those with backgrounds in nursing, social work, occupational therapy and other allied health fields and also those working in the emergency services, schools and other organisations. The MMHSc is a part-time, nested programme with potential exit points of Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master. It is themed according to five across the lifespan streams including Infant, Child, Youth, Adult and Aged Mental Health. The programme involves core subjects as well as a number of selectives by stream over the first two years of the course. The third year entails a research project within the nominated lifespan stream of the course. The research project will require students to propose a research question, choose and design a methodology for a relevant mental health issue within their stream, and conduct a research investigation for that lifespan cohort. The aim of the course is to broaden the understanding and skill sets of those working in the mental health field through critical analysis, and practical application.</p> <p>The MMHSc involves a tiered approach to learning. The Graduate Certificate (Year 1) provides essential background theory and foundation subjects. Students will be asked to critically appraise the theories and frameworks which lie at the basis of working in the field of mental health. Following successful completion of Year 1, students may elect to exit with a Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Science. Progression to the Graduate Diploma course (Year 2) will require a pass of greater than 70% (H2B). The Graduate Diploma course will build upon theoretical considerations presented in Year 1 and focus more on the application of these concepts as they are used in the field of Mental Health. Included in this is an emphasis on the methods used in developing an evidence base and the critical appraisal of the evidence supporting these approaches. Students successfully completing the Year 2 may elect to exit with a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Science. Progression to the Masters (Capstone, Year 3) will require a pass of greater than 75% (H2A) in Year 2 and the successful completion of key research subjects including "The Principles of Social Research Design" and "Clinical Research Tools" subjects.</p>
Learning Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # To develop advanced knowledge of the principles of methodology used in the development of an evidence base in mental health # Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in understanding key psychological interventions in mental health # Critically appraise the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence base in the field of mental health # Demonstrate advanced communication skills in the transmission of knowledge of the underpinnings and management of mental health conditions

Course Structure & Available Subjects:	Students must obtain a passing grade at 70% (H2B) average to progress from the Year 1 Graduate Certificate component to the Year 2 Graduate Diploma component of the course.		
Subject Options:	Infant (Stream A)		
	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
	PSYT90027 Infant and Parent Relationship	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90080 Clinical Infant Case Studies	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90081 Infant Observation and Assessment Skills	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90030 Infancy: Family and Social Context	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90082 Mental Health Disorders in Infancy	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90028 Infant Observation 1	Semester 1	12.50
	POPH90200 Principles of Social Research Design	February	12.50
	PSYT90029 Infant Observation 2	Semester 2	12.5
	Child (Stream B)		
	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
	PSYT90031 Foundations of Working with Children	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90033 Clinical Practicum: Children	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90032 Foundations of Working with Adolescents	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90034 Clinical Practicum: Adolescents	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90038 Foundations of Working with Families	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90040 Clinical Practicum: Families	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90039 Foundations of Parent and Liaison Work	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90041 Clinical Practicum: Parent&Liaison Work	Semester 2	12.50
	Youth (Stream C)		
	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
	PSYT90007 Personality Theory & Human Behaviour	Semester 2	12.50
	PSYT90083 Basic Structured Psychotherapies	Semester 1	12.50
	NURS90012 Psychopharmacology	Semester 1	12.50
	PSYT90085 Mental Health and Substance Use	Semester 2	12.50
	CLRS90010 Basic Clinical Research Tools	Semester 1	12.50
	PAED90007 Professional Practice in Context	Semester 1	12.50
	POPH90200 Principles of Social Research Design	February	12.50
	PSYC90062 Mental Health and Young People	Semester 2	12.50
	Adult (Stream D)		

Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
PSYT90007 Personality Theory & Human Behaviour	Semester 2	12.50
PSYT90083 Basic Structured Psychotherapies	Semester 1	12.50
NURS90012 Psychopharmacology	Semester 1	12.50
PSYT90085 Mental Health and Substance Use	Semester 2	12.50
CLRS90010 Basic Clinical Research Tools	Semester 1	12.50
PSYT90084 Advanced Structured Psychotherapies	Semester 1	12.50
POPH90200 Principles of Social Research Design	February	12.50
SCWK90027 Advanced Trauma Perspectives	Semester 2	12.50

Aged

Mental Health in Later Life 1 and Mental Health in Later Life 2 (subject codes to be determined)

Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
NURS90012 Psychopharmacology	Semester 1	12.50
PSYT90083 Basic Structured Psychotherapies	Semester 1	12.50
PSYT90007 Personality Theory & Human Behaviour	Semester 2	12.50
PSYT90084 Advanced Structured Psychotherapies	Semester 1	12.50
CLRS90010 Basic Clinical Research Tools	Semester 1	12.50
POPH90200 Principles of Social Research Design	February	12.50
PSYT90092 Mental Health and Ageing	October	12.5

Entry Requirements:

- In order to be considered for entry, applicants must have completed:
 - either
 - an undergraduate degree in a cognate field of health or mental health, or
 - within the last 10 years at least five years (full time equivalent) of documented professional experience in a mental health field, including a component of appropriate advanced training, substantiated by two referee reports, which demonstrates health-related knowledge and writing skills comparable to holders of cognate undergraduate degrees.
 Meeting this requirement does not guarantee selection.
 - In ranking applications, the Selection Committee will consider:
 - prior academic performance and/or the professional experience.
 - The Selection Committee may seek further information to clarify any aspect of an application in accordance with the **Student Application and Selection Procedure (<https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1034>)**.
 - Applicants are required to satisfy the university's English language requirements for postgraduate courses. For those applicants seeking to meet these requirements by one of the standard tests approved by the Academic Board, performance **band 6.5 (<http://about.unimelb.edu.au/academicboard/resolutions>)** is required.
- Note:
- Students undertaking clinical subjects in Stream A (Clinical Infant Case Studies, Observation and Assessment Skills) or Stream B (Clinical Practicum: Working with Children, Clinical Practicum: Working with Adolescents) will be required to be employed in a Health or Mental Health Field and have a current Working With Children check.
 - A hurdle requirement of an average of at least H2B (70%) on the first 50 points is required for progression in the Diploma or Master. Diploma or Master students who complete the first 50 points successfully with a lower average will exit the program and receive the Certificate. Certificate students with an average of at least H2B (70%) will be permitted to enter the Diploma or Master with 50 points credit.

	(c) A hurdle requirement of an average of at least H2A (75%) on the first 100 points is required for progression in the Master. Master students who complete the first 100 points successfully with a lower average will exit the program and receive the Diploma. Diploma students with an average of at least H2A (75%) will be permitted to enter the Master with 100 points credit.
Core Participation Requirements:	80% attendance of designated workshops and contact sessions; submission of all required assessment tasks; and, where applicable, completion of exams.
Graduate Attributes:	<p>Knowledge Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Science will have advanced knowledge of: The principles of the methodologies used in the development of an evidence base in mental health The key psychological management techniques used in mental health problems across the lifespan The complex context of the emergence of mental health issues</p> <p>Skills Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Science will have advanced cognitive skills in: Critically analysing the strengths and weaknesses of an evidence base in the field of mental health Generating a sophisticated approach to the psychological understandings and management of mental health problems Evaluate the context and complexity of mental health problems in an individual Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Science will have advanced communication skills in: Transmitting a developmental understanding in mental health problems The presentation of the complex interplay of the context and the developmental understandings in the management of mental health issues</p> <p>Application Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Science will be highly skilled in: The application and justification of psychological approaches in the management of mental health issues Demonstrating the application principles of key research methodological approaches in the mental health field Demonstrating an autonomous and highly responsible approach</p>