

HSC218.9 Research in Counselling & Psychotherapy

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Research in Counselling and Psychotherapy (HSC218.9)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Masters	One semester	Advanced	Dr Kirsten Macaitis

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
- elective unit
- other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6	96

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	7	10

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: __0__ hours per week

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Unit Descriptor

Provide below a brief unit description, which includes a summary of the key content of the unit.

This unit introduces students to the fundamentals of research in counselling and psychotherapy. Students engage with logics, methods of social inquiry, and with a particular focus on how current research can be evaluated and incorporated into clinical practice. Key principles and methodologies of qualitative research will be explored and current research priorities within counselling and psychotherapy will be identified and discussed. Students critically review and evaluate literature in an area of clinical interest, culminating in the development of a research proposal for both academic contribution and applied potential.

Learning Outcomes for Unit

Learning outcomes for unit:

1. Critically review contemporary counselling and psychotherapy literature demonstrating a working knowledge of terms, assumptions and approaches to research.
2. Synthesise contemporary literature as a bridge to incorporating research findings into clinical practice.
3. Construct appropriate research questions using theoretical and methodological justification in an area of clinical interest.

Assessment tasks

Type *	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
Literature Review Students will collect, synthesise and critique a review of contemporary literature in an area of research interest of their own choosing. Equivalent word count: 2500	1	Week 7	35%
Practice Application Students will develop their own case study and practice application based on their review of the current literature, incorporating research findings into clinical practice. Equivalent word count: 2000 words	1 & 2	Week 11	35%
Research Proposal Students will develop a research proposal in their chosen context of counselling, outlining a research question, aim, outcome, methodology, justification and truncated literature review. Equivalent word count: 1500	1, 2 & 3	Week 14	30%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Required Textbook

McLeod, J. (2022). *Doing research in counselling and psychotherapy* (4th ed.). SAGE.

Hanley, T., Lennie, C., & West, W. (2013). *Introducing counselling and psychotherapy research*. SAGE.

Recommended Readings

Boeije, H. (2010). *Analysis in qualitative research*. SAGE.

Byrne, D. (2012). *Research design*. SAGE.

Hughes, J., & Goodwin, J. (2012) *SAGE Internet Research Methods*. SAGE.

Kumar, R. (2011). *Research methods: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. SAGE.

Machi, L. A., & McEvoy, B. T. (2016). *The literature review: Six steps to success* (3rd ed.). Corwin.

Merriam, S. B., & Tisdell, E. (2016). *Qualitative research: A guide to design and implantation*. Jossey-Bass.

McLeod, J. (2010). *Case study research in counselling and psychotherapy*. SAGE.

McLeod, J. (2011). *Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy*. SAGE.

McLeod, J. (2016). *Using research in counselling and psychotherapy*. SAGE.

Paoletti, I., Tomás, M. I., & Menéndez, F. (2013). *Practices of ethics: An empirical approach to ethics in social sciences research*. Cambridge.

Tracy, S. J. (2019). *Qualitative research methods: Collecting evidence, crafting analysis, communicating impact*. Wiley Blackwell.

Recommended Journals & Websites

Counselling and Psychotherapy Research

Psychotherapy Research

Journal of Psychology and Christianity

Journal of Psychology and Theology