



PSYC12010 *Psychology Across the Lifespan*

Term 3 - 2024

Profile information current as at 25/04/2025 09:59 am

All details in this unit profile for PSYC12010 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

Developmental psychology offers critical insight into human behaviour across the lifespan: why we are who we are, how we became that way, and how we are likely to end up in the future. In this unit, you will develop and apply knowledge of key underlying principles, theories and concepts in developmental psychology from a lifespan perspective. You will also develop and apply scientific knowledge of developmental processes in the physical, cognitive and psychosocial domains. You will explore the key themes that cut across the many and varied topics in lifespan developmental psychology, including issues of lifelong growth and development, nature vs. nurture, continuity within change, developmental diversity, and the importance of the social, historical, and cultural context in development. Throughout the unit, a scientific approach to the study of developmental psychology will be emphasised, and you will be encouraged to develop a critical and applied understanding of theory and research in developmental psychology.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

24 credit points including PSYC11010 or PSYC11008 or PSYC11009.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 3 - 2024

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Research Proposal**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Take Home Exam**

Weighting: 30%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student feedback

Feedback

The unit was clearly structured with strong links to real-world examples to assist general understanding and the assessment learning materials were thorough and helpful.

Recommendation

Maintain the high level of organisation and clarity in learning materials and assessment tasks, and continue using real-world examples to enhance student understanding and engagement.

Feedback from Student feedback

Feedback

The Online Quizzes (Assessment 1) were helpful in identifying knowledge gaps throughout the term. Students commented that they would have liked to complete Quiz 3 before the take-home exam (Assessment 3) to assist with their revision.

Recommendation

Consider revising the due date of Quiz 3 to be completed before the take-home exam (Assessment 3) to allow students to use it as a study tool, ensuring they can identify and address knowledge gaps more efficiently.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Apply and analyse the key principles, theories and concepts in lifespan developmental psychology.
2. Describe key developmental processes and changes within each of the major domains of development from a lifespan perspective.
3. Describe, apply and critically evaluate major research methods in developmental psychology.
4. Describe and critically evaluate social, historical and cultural influences on development and developmental psychology.

This unit addresses Foundational Competencies as specified by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). The unit specifically aligns to the following APAC graduate competencies:

- 1.1 Comprehend and apply a broad and coherent body of knowledge of psychology, with depth of understanding of underlying principles, theories and concepts in the discipline, using a scientific approach, including the following topics:
 - i. the history and philosophy underpinning the science of psychology and the social, cultural, historical and professional influences on the practice of psychology;
 - ii. individual differences in capacity, behaviour and personality;
 - iv. psychological disorders and evidence-based interventions;
 - v. learning and memory;
 - vi. cognition, language and perception;
 - vii. motivation and emotion;
 - viii. neuroscience and the biological bases of behaviour;
 - ix. lifespan developmental psychology;
 - x. social psychology and
 - xii. research methods and statistics.
- 1.2 Apply knowledge and skills of psychology in a manner that is reflexive, culturally appropriate and sensitive to the diversity of individuals.
- 1.3 Analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in written and oral formats.
- 1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate values and ethics in psychology.
- 1.6 Demonstrate self-directed pursuit of scholarly inquiry in psychology.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%	•	•	•	
2 - Research Proposal - 40%			•	•
3 - Take Home Exam - 30%	•	•		•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•		
2 - Problem Solving			•	
3 - Critical Thinking	•		•	•
4 - Information Literacy		•		
5 - Team Work				
6 - Information Technology Competence			•	
7 - Cross Cultural Competence				•
8 - Ethical practice			•	
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PSYC12010

Prescribed

Life Span Human Development

Edition: 4th Australian New Zealand ed. (2021)

Authors: Sigelman, C. K., De George, L., Cunial, K., Kohler, M., & Ballam, N.

Cengage

Australia

ISBN: ISBN-10: 0170452816 ISBN-13: 9780170452816

Binding: Paperback

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Supplementary

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition 7th (Revised Edition) (2020)

Edition: 7th (2020)

Authors: American Psychological Association

American Psychological Association

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1

Binding: Paperback

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- CQUniversity Library Website (e-Journals)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Cassy Dittman Unit Coordinator

c.dittman@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 04 Nov 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Understanding Life Span Human Development: Definitions, Issues and Theory	Chapter 1 (pp. 1-15) and Chapter 2	

Week 2 - 11 Nov 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Science of Life Span Human Development	Chapter 1 (pp. 15-43)	

Week 3 - 18 Nov 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Interaction of Genetics and the Environment	Chapter 3 (pp. 97-120)	

Week 4 - 25 Nov 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Physical Growth and Development	Chapter 3 (pp. 120-146) and Chapter 4	

Week 5 - 02 Dec 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Brain and Cognition	Chapter 5	Quiz 1 Due: Week 5 Wednesday (4 Dec 2024) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 6 - 09 Dec 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sensory-Perception, Attention and Memory	Chapter 6	

Week 7 - 16 Dec 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Relationships Across the Lifespan	Chapter 11	

Vacation Week - 23 Dec 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No scheduled classes or activities		

Vacation Week - 30 Dec 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No scheduled classes or activities		

Week 8 - 06 Jan 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Language Development	Chapter 8	

Week 9 - 13 Jan 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Social Cognition and Moral Development	Chapter 10	Quiz 2 Due: Week 9 Wednesday (15 Jan 2024) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 10 - 20 Jan 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Personality, Self and Gender	Chapter 9	Research Proposal Due: Week 10 Monday (20 Jan 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Week 11 - 27 Jan 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Developmental Psychopathology	Chapter 12	

Week 12 - 03 Feb 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Death and Dying	Chapter 13	Take-home test (30%) Due: Week 12 Monday (3 Feb 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Exam Week - 10 Feb 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Online Quizzes (30%)

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

This assessment task comprises three (3) quizzes to be completed and submitted online via the PSYC12010 Moodle site. Each quiz contains 40 multiple-choice questions (10 questions per topic). You will have 90 minutes (1.5 hours) to complete each quiz. Only one attempt per quiz is permitted.

Each quiz will be open for 1 week. Details of content and opening and closing dates are detailed below:

- Quiz 1 assesses topics 1 to 4. It opens Wednesday of Week 4 (27th November) at 5.00pm AEST and closes Wednesday of Week 5 (4th December) at 5.00pm AEST.
- Quiz 2 assesses topics 5 to 8. It opens Wednesday of Week 8 (8th January) at 5.00pm AEST and closes Wednesday of Week 9 (15th January) at 5.00pm AEST.
- Quiz 3 assesses topics 9 to 12. It opens Wednesday of Week 12 (5th February) at 5.00pm AEST and closes Wednesday of the Exam Week (12th February) at 5.00pm AEST.

Your responses to the quiz questions must be your own work. It is **not permissible** to use Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools to assist you with this task.

Number of Quizzes

3

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

Quiz 1 closes Wednesday of Week 5 at 5.00pm (AEST). Quiz 2 closes Wednesday of Week 9 at 5.00pm (AEST). Quiz 3 closes Wednesday of the Exam Week at 5.00pm (AEST).

Return Date to Students

Quiz total marks will be returned to students immediately after each quiz is submitted. Feedback for each quiz question will be available after each quiz closes.

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

- For each quiz, one (1) mark will be awarded for each quiz question answered correctly.
- There is no negative marking penalty for incorrect answers.
- Each quiz is marked out of 40 and weighted at 10% of the final unit grade.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

All quizzes are to be completed and submitted on the PSYC12010 Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply and analyse the key principles, theories and concepts in lifespan developmental psychology.
- Describe key developmental processes and changes within each of the major domains of development from a lifespan perspective.
- Describe, apply and critically evaluate major research methods in developmental psychology.

2 Research Proposal

Assessment Type

Research Proposal

Task Description

This assessment task involves the preparation of a research proposal to investigate a topic within lifespan developmental psychology. Students will be required to select a research question on a topic in developmental psychology from two possible research questions. Students then need to design either a cross-sectional or longitudinal study to address the question based on their review of relevant literature and theory. Students should consider the major methods for studying development and select methodology that will provide information or data to answer the research question. The task involves considering the significance of their proposed research project in terms of its practical importance to the community or society, as well as its scientific contribution to existing theory and research in the chosen topic area.

The research proposal should be completed using the **provided template** on Moodle. It will comprise the following 5 sections:

- Background/literature review;
- Project aims and hypotheses;
- Methodology;
- Significance; and
- Ethical considerations.

The research proposal length is 1,500 words (acceptable range is 1,350 to 1,650 words). The word count includes everything in your submission except the title page (section 1 of the proposal template) and reference list. Tables and any figures or bullet points that might be used within the proposal will all contribute to the word count.

The research proposal topic choices, proposal template and marking rubric is available from the Assessment tile on the PSYC12010 Moodle site. Further support and task details will be discussed in class.

Please refer to the Moodle site for permissible uses of Generative AI tools for this assessment task. Remember that it is plagiarism to directly copy and paste material produced by Generative AI tools into assessments. For guidance on using Generative AI in assessments, please access the resources developed by the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): [GenAI Student Resources \(ALC\)](#) and [Referencing Guidelines for Large Language Models or AI in Assignments \(ALC\)](#). If you have questions about Generative AI material and plagiarism, please speak with your unit coordinator and/or contact an ALC advisor.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Monday (20 Jan 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Monday (10 Feb 2025)

Marks and feedback will be available 2 to 3 weeks after the due date.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

The following aspects of the written assessment will be marked using a rubric that provides detailed criteria for performance at each grade level. The marking rubric will be available from the Assessment tile on the PSYC12010 Moodle site.

1. Background and literature review (10 marks)
2. Aims and hypotheses (5 marks)
3. Significance (4 marks)
4. Methodology (10 marks)
5. Ethical considerations (4 marks)
6. Quality of written communication skills, presentation style and adherence to word count (5 marks)
7. Adherence to APA (7th ed.) referencing style (2 marks)

The research proposal will receive a total mark out of 40 and also has an overall weighting of 40%.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit through Moodle in a word document using the provided template.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe, apply and critically evaluate major research methods in developmental psychology.
- Describe and critically evaluate social, historical and cultural influences on development and developmental psychology.

3 Take-home test (30%)

Assessment Type

Take Home Exam

Task Description

- The take-home test will comprise 3 questions, each requiring a 'long answer' written response (approx. 500-600 words for each response).
- The instructions and test questions will be released on the PSYC12010 Moodle site on **Friday, 31st January at 9.00am (AEST)**.
- You will complete the test **offline** in a word document.
- You will have the weekend to complete the test and submit it via the designated submission portal on Moodle.
- Your response must be your own work. It is **not permissible** to use Generative AI tools to assist you with this task.
- The test response is due **Monday, 3rd February at 9.00am (AEST)**.

This means you will need to be available to complete the test between between the 31st January and the 3rd February. Please contact the unit coordinator as early as possible in the term if you have extenuating circumstances that mean you cannot complete the test during this time period.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Monday (3 Feb 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Return Date to Students

Grades will be released via Moodle approximately 2 weeks after submission.

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

Each question is worth 10 marks. Marks for each question will be based on the following criteria:

- 9 to 10 marks: a comprehensive and well-written response in which 90-100% of possible answer points are included.
- 7 to 8 marks: a good response in which 70-80% of possible answer points are included.
- 5 to 6 marks: an adequate response in which 50-60% of possible answer points are included.
- 3 to 4 marks: a limited response in which 30-40% of possible answer points are included.
- 1 to 2 marks: a very poor response in which 10-20% of possible answer points are included.
- 0 marks: no response or irrelevant response.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Write the response to each question in a word document and submit via the Moodle assessment submission portal.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply and analyse the key principles, theories and concepts in lifespan developmental psychology.
- Describe key developmental processes and changes within each of the major domains of development from a lifespan perspective.
- Describe and critically evaluate social, historical and cultural influences on development and developmental psychology.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem