SPCH13010 *Swallowing and Feeding Across the Lifespan*
Term 1 - 2025

Profile information current as at 12/11/2026 12:06 pm

All details in this unit profile for SPCH13010 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
In this unit, you will learn about the development of feeding and the progression of swallowing across the lifespan. You will advance your competency in the assessment, analysis, planning and treatment of swallowing and feeding difficulties across the lifespan. You will consider the aetiology, diagnosis and management of swallowing and feeding in the context of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework. Evidence based practice will provide the foundation for your learning in all stages of diagnosis and management.

Details
Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 3*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *8*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites
Pre-Requisites ALLH12006 Evidence Based Practice for Health Professionals SPCH12003 Functional Anatomy of the Head, Neck, and Thorax SPCH12007 Speech Pathology Work Integrated Learning 1 SPCH13004 Language, Literacy, and Hearing in School-Aged Children
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 1 - 2025
- Rockhampton

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 (Online Quiz(zes))
Weighting: 20%
2. Paediatric Case Study (Case Study)
Weighting: 40%
3. Adult Intervention OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs))
Weighting: 40%

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
- Academic Progression Policy and Procedure
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- 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 evaluations and unit coordinator reflection

Feedback
Recorded lectures and online activities should be posted at least 1 week prior to tutorial.

Recommendation
It is recommended that the unit coordinator ensure all recorded lectures and online activities are available at least 1 week prior to tutorial.

Feedback from Student evaluations

Feedback
Unit requirements were not clear.

Recommendation
It is recommended that the unit coordinator review the task descriptions and rubrics for all assessments, as well as individual quiz questions, and identify any areas where clarity could be further improved.

Feedback from Unit coordinator reflection

Feedback
Adding a third assessment was effective in engaging multiple learning styles and reducing the high stakes nature of two larger assessments.

Recommendation
It is recommended that the unit coordinator retain 3 assessments (quiz, case study, OSCE).

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the mechanism of a safe swallow and its variation across the lifespan
2. Analyse swallowing and feeding behaviour using both formal and informal assessment techniques, and make appropriate recommendations for the management and rehabilitation of swallowing and feeding difficulties
3. Adapt communication to provide information and counselling to clients and others about swallowing and feeding difficulties and implications for safety, nutrition, and hydration
4. Demonstrate ethical practice while making independent holistic decisions

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level | • Introductory Level | • Intermediate Level | • Graduate Level | ◦ Professional Level | ◦ Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•			
2 - Case Study - 40%		•	•	•
3 - Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) - 40%	•	•	•	•

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

SPCH13010

Supplementary

Assessing and treating dysphagia: A lifespan perspective
Edition: First (2019)
Authors: Debra M. Suiter and Memorie M. Gosa
Thieme
New York , New York , United States
ISBN: 9781626232143

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Supplementary

Dysphagia: clinical management in adults and children
Edition: Third (2020)
Authors: Michael E. Groher and Michael A. Crary
Elsevier
St Louis , Missouri , United States
ISBN: 978-0-323-63648-3

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

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

Salma Charania Unit Coordinator
s.charania@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 10 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Overview of Swallowing and Feeding Across the Lifespan	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 2 - 17 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Adult Screening and Clinical Assessment	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 3 - 24 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Paediatric Screening and Clinical Assessment	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 4 - 31 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Bolus Modification	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 5 - 07 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Instrumental Assessment	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	Online Quiz Due: Week 5 Friday (11 Apr 2025) 6:00 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 14 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No classes or assessments this week.		

Week 6 - 21 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Intervention Part 1	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 7 - 28 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Intervention Part 2	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 8 - 05 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Environmental Supports	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 9 - 12 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ethics, Counselling and Cultural Considerations	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	Paediatric Case Study Due: Week 9 Friday (16 May 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Week 10 - 19 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Specific Populations - Paediatric	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 11 - 26 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Specific Populations - Adult	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Week 12 - 02 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Endotracheal Intubation, Tracheostomy and Tube Feeding	Readings will be posted in Moodle.	

Review/Exam Week - 09 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Adult Intervention OSCE Due: Review/Exam Week Wednesday (11 June 2025) 9:00 am AEST

Exam Week - 16 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No classes or assessments this week.		

Term Specific Information

The unit content will be delivered via online lectures and activities, and on campus face-to-face tutorials. The classes will require significant participation from the student. Please ensure that you review the weekly Moodle tile and complete all assigned readings, lectures, and online activities prior to attending the class to ensure that you are prepared.

Assessment Cupboard Access
Students will require access to the CQU Speech Pathology assessment cupboard to prepare for their OSCEs. Students will be provided with scheduled weekly access, the available dates and times will be outlined on Moodle.

Office Hours
If you wish to arrange a meeting with Salma Charania (Unit Coordinator and Lecturer), please contact her via email (s.charania@cqu.edu.au) and a mutually agreeable time will be arranged.

Assessment Tasks

1 Online Quiz(zes)

Assessment Title
Online Quiz

Task Description
The purpose of the online quiz is to consolidate and challenge your knowledge of content covered in the first four weeks of the unit. This content focuses on the nature of feeding and swallowing conditions, clinical assessment of these conditions and bolus modification. The online quiz will include a range of question types, such as single choice, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and or true/false, etc. All students are required to complete the quiz independently. The online quiz accounts for 20% of the overall unit mark. This is a must-pass assessment task.

Number of Quizzes
1

Frequency of Quizzes
Other

Assessment Due Date
Week 5 Friday (11 Apr 2025) 6:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 6 Friday (25 Apr 2025)
Results will be released in Moodle by Friday 25th April.

Weighting
20%

Minimum mark or grade
This is a must pass assessment task. Students must receive a minimum grade of 50% to pass.

Assessment Criteria
Quiz questions will include closed-type questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching etc.) and short answer questions. Points assigned are identified for each question. You will attain points for questions answered correctly.

The CB87 Academic Integrity handout contains information on paraphrasing, source quality, and artificial intelligence use in the CB87 speech pathology course. Please see this assessment's Task Description in Moodle for additional details.

Referencing Style
American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
The quiz will open at 8:00 am on Thursday 10th of April and close at 6:00 pm on Friday 11th of April. Once you start the quiz, you will have one hour to complete it.

Learning Outcomes Assessed
- Describe the mechanism of a safe swallow and its variation across the lifespan

2 Case Study

Assessment Title
Paediatric Case Study

Task Description
This written assessment task is based on a case study of a child with swallowing and feeding needs. The profile will include a case history, assessment results, and other pertinent clinical and personal information. As a speech pathologist working in a community private practice setting, you will need to review all of the information, analyse the assessment results, and complete the following three parts. Please note that the case study child you have been allocated will be provided on Moodle under the Assessment Tile.

Part A
- Write two long-term goals and four short-term goals using the SMART goal format. All goals must address the pertinent aspects of the case information and assessment results, demonstrating a clear understanding of child and family needs, and consideration of the child's swallowing and feeding needs that impact on safety, nutrition, and hydration.

Part B
- Choose two short-term goals from Part A and justify why your goals are appropriate for your allocated case study. Your justification should reference the case information, the assessment results, and evidence-based practice.

Part C
- To address the two short-term goals that you did not choose in Part B, create one parent handout per short-term goal (two parent handouts in total). The purpose of each handout is to provide an informative resource to the parent/caregiver to support their child in achieving the identified short-term goals. The handouts should clearly outline the intervention procedure (i.e., positioning, environment, equipment, diet modification, exercises, parent education) that the parent/caregiver will utilise in the home environment. The handouts must use parent-friendly language and images and must be tailored to the specific needs of the case child, whilst also reflecting evidence-based practice.

Assessment Due Date
Week 9 Friday (16 May 2025) 9:00 am AEST
This assessment task must be uploaded to Moodle by the due date/time.

Return Date to Students
Week 11 Friday (30 May 2025)
Feedback will be uploaded to Moodle.

Weighting
40%

Minimum mark or grade
This is a must pass assessment task. Students must receive a minimum grade of 50% to pass.

Assessment Criteria
There are four marking criteria that will be used to assess Assessment 2 for SPCH13010:

1. The first criterion focuses on your analysis and interpretation of case information to inform the development of appropriate and effective goals that align with evidence-based practice and client needs. This criterion is worth 20% of the case study grade.

2. The second criterion focuses on your clinical reasoning and justification of your chosen short-term goals, which connect the identified needs in the case information, assessment results, evidence-based practice, ethical considerations, and a holistic view of child and family needs. This criterion is worth 30% of the case study grade.

3. The third criterion focuses on your development of informative therapy resources that directly contribute to the achievement of the corresponding short-term goal, integrate evidence-based practice, and are customised to the family's needs. This criterion is worth 35% of the case study grade.

4. The fourth criterion focuses on the quality of your writing including your use of appropriate writing style and conventions and use of APA-7 referencing. This criterion is worth 15% of the case study grade.

The CB87 Academic Integrity handout contains information on paraphrasing, source quality, and artificial intelligence use in the CB87 speech pathology course. Please see this assessment's Task Description in Moodle for additional details.

Referencing Style
American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Assessment must be uploaded to Moodle by the due date/time.

Learning Outcomes Assessed
- Analyse swallowing and feeding behaviour using both formal and informal assessment techniques, and make appropriate recommendations for the management and rehabilitation of swallowing and feeding difficulties
- Adapt communication to provide information and counselling to clients and others about swallowing and feeding difficulties and implications for safety, nutrition, and hydration
- Demonstrate ethical practice while making independent holistic decisions

3 Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)

Assessment Title
Adult Intervention OSCE

Task Description
For this assessment task, you will be required to complete an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) based on a clinical scenario of an adult with swallowing needs. This assessment task requires you to complete the OSCE in the role of a clinician. This OSCE includes preparatory time followed by two stations. Each station of your OSCE is timed with the entire OSCE totalling 25 minutes.

OSCE Preparation
Your assigned assessment time will be provided to you on Moodle at least two weeks prior the OSCE.

The case information will be released in Moodle 24 hours prior to your OSCE start time. The case will provide assessment results, and other clinical and personal information for an adult with swallowing needs. In preparation for the OSCE, you must analyse the provided information and use clinical reasoning to:
- Choose one evidence-based rehabilitative intervention to help improve the strength/coordination/speed of the individual’s swallowing function,
- Choose one evidence-based compensatory intervention to help improve the safety and/or efficiency of the individual’s current swallowing function,
- Choose one alteration to food texture or fluid viscosity to help improve the safety and/or efficiency of the individual’s current swallowing function, and
- Create and print out a clinical record template that is maximum two pages long, which you will use in Station 1 to document by hand all procedures implemented, and all outcomes achieved by the simulated individual.

The only items you may bring into the OSCE room are:
- Any tools/materials/handouts** required to support your demonstration and/or explanations (NOTE: If you require an item from the storage room, you must book the item a minimum of one day in advance by contacting the Unit Coordinator. Multiple items may be requested),
- The printed clinical record template you created (on which you will document the procedures and outcomes of the session), and
- A pen or pencil to document on the clinical record template.

**Handouts should not exceed two back-to-back A4 pages of material.

STATION 1 (20 minutes)
You will have 20 minutes to complete Station 1, including time to address the individual's questions/concerns – be sure to allocate time to respond to questions and concerns when you are planning prior to the OSCE. You do not need to use the full 20 minutes if you have effectively demonstrated all requirements in less time. You will be alerted when there are 5 minutes remaining. Station 1 will be stopped at the 20 minute mark, whether or not you have completed your teaching. You will only be marked on performance demonstrated up until the 20 minute mark.

In Station 1, you will meet with a simulated adult with swallowing needs and will be required to:
- Effectively explain and demonstrate your chosen rehabilitative intervention,
- Effectively explain and demonstrate your chosen compensatory intervention,
- Effectively explain the rationale for the food texture or fluid viscosity modification* and clearly and accurately address any questions or concerns raised by the individual, and
- Document the individual's performance on the clinical record form you developed and printed. You do not need to complete all documentation from the session in Station 1 as you will have additional time in Station 2 for this purpose. However, you will find it helpful to at least partially document the individual's performance as it happens in Station 1.

* You are not required to demonstrate or explain methods to alter diet textures or fluid consistency (e.g., how to test IDDSI levels, how to thicken fluids). You are only required to explain the rationale for changing the texture/viscosity.

STATION 2 (5 minutes)

Station 2 of the OSCE will be completed immediately after Station 1 on campus. You will be required to use the clinical record form you developed to finish accurately and concisely documenting the procedures implemented and the outcomes achieved. You will be provided 5 minutes to finish filling in your clinical record form. You do not need to use the full 5 minutes if you have effectively documented all procedures and outcomes in less time. Station 2 of the OSCE will be stopped at the 5 minute mark, whether or not you have completed filling in your form.

The completed clinical record form and any handouts utilised during the OSCE must be handed in at the end of Station 2 of the OSCE. These forms part of the marking criteria for this assessment. Ensure all forms and handouts have your first and last names on them.

You should aim to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your assessment commencement time. In the extraordinary circumstance that you are late, you will be permitted late entry of up to 5 minutes after the assessment commencement time. The period of lateness will be deducted from your assessment time. If you are denied access to the assessment due to lateness (i.e., arriving beyond the permitted late entry period), you should make an online application for a deferred assessment. If your application for deferred assessment is denied, you will receive a fail grade; however, you may be eligible for a supplementary assessment per CQU policy.

Please note that per section 5.54 in the Higher Education Assessment Policy, late penalties do not apply to this assessment task. If you do not attend or complete this assessment task at the specified date/time, you will receive a mark of zero. In the event that you are unable to attend or complete the assessment task for reasons outlined in the Higher Education Assessment Policy, you must submit an extension request through Moodle.

Assessment Due Date
Review/Exam Week Wednesday (11 June 2025) 9:00 am AEST
OSCE schedule will be posted on Moodle under the Assessment Tile, two weeks before the OSCE.

Return Date to Students
Exam Week Wednesday (18 June 2025)
Feedback will be uploaded to Moodle.

Weighting
40%

Minimum mark or grade
This is a must pass assessment task. Students must receive a minimum grade of 50% to pass.

Assessment Criteria
There are four marking criteria that will be used to assess Assessment 3 for SPCH13010:

1. The first criterion focuses on how well your choices of rehabilitative and compensatory interventions and food or fluid modification are supported in the evidence, and how well they map to the individual's needs. This criterion is worth 25% of the OSCE grade.

2. The second criterion focuses on the accuracy of the rehabilitation and intervention procedures you teach and the person-centeredness of your explanations/instructions/demonstrations. This criterion is worth 30% of the OSCE grade.

3. The third criterion focuses on the person-centeredness of your explanation of the food or fluid modification recommendation and how accurately and ethically you respond to the individual's questions/concerns. This criterion is 30% of the OSCE grade.

4. The fourth criterion focuses on the clarity and organization of the headings/sections in your clinical record template, and the accuracy of the procedures and outcomes you documented within the template. This criterion is worth 15% of the OSCE grade.

The CB87 Academic Integrity handout contains information on paraphrasing, source quality, and artificial intelligence use in the CB87 speech pathology course. Please see this assessment's Task Description in Moodle for additional details.

Referencing Style
American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Offline

Submission Instructions
The clinical record form and handouts must be handed in upon completion of Station 2 of the OSCE.

Learning Outcomes Assessed
- Describe the mechanism of a safe swallow and its variation across the lifespan
- Analyse swallowing and feeding behaviour using both formal and informal assessment techniques, and make appropriate recommendations for the management and rehabilitation of swallowing and feeding difficulties

- Adapt communication to provide information and counselling to clients and others about swallowing and feeding difficulties and implications for safety, nutrition, and hydration
- Demonstrate ethical practice while making independent holistic decisions

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