Unit Outline
HEAL6029 Health Sciences Research Dissertation
Semester 1, 2016

Unit study package code: HEAL6029
Mode of study: Internal
Tuition pattern summary: Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise
information refer to the Learning Activities section.
Individual Study: 1 x 16 Hours Weekly
This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value: 50.0
Pre-requisite units:
13151 (v.0) Research Dissertation 600 or any previous version
OR
314799 (v.0) Dietetic Research Methods 581 or any previous version
OR
HEAL6027 (v.0) Health Sciences Research Dissertation Preparation or any
previous version
OR
NUTR5001 (v.0) Dietetic Research Methods or any previous version
Co-requisite units: Nil
Anti-requisite units: Nil
Result type: Grade/Mark
Approved incidental fees: Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website.
Visit fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm for details.
Unit coordinator:
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Location: Building: 400 - Room: 455
Teaching Staff:
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Email: Helman.Alfonso@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 400 - Room: 455
Administrative contact:
Name: School Student Support Office
Phone: +61 8 9266 7927
Email: PHealthStudentSupport@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 400 - Room: 310
Learning Management System: Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)
Acknowledgement of Country
We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus
Completion of a scholarly research project. Submission of a final written dissertation to be examined by the supervisor and one external person approved by the School Graduate Studies Committee.

Introduction
Welcome to HEAL6029 Health Sciences Research Dissertation.
This unit is the completion of your Research Dissertation.
The goal of this unit is for you to complete the research dissertation that was planned in Research Dissertation Preparation. Your dissertation is a significant piece of work that is the capstone for your Master program. The dissertation will result in a final submission similar to an Honours or MPhil dissertation and will reflect your skills in research, analysis and synthesis. The dissertation will be conducted independently under the guidance of a supervisor and is normally examined by an examiner external to the School.
The scope of the dissertation will be determined through discussions with your supervisor and should reflect basic skills in research, analysis and critical synthesis. It is useful to think about the research project in stages. There are a number of directions a dissertation could take dependent on the topic selected (not all of these may apply to you).

Stages of Research:
Below is the list of general stages expected to be done during this semester. You will receive support by weekly lectures and workshops (see Program Calendar in this unit outline).

First Semester of Research (HEAL6027 Health Sciences Research Dissertation Preparation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 1</th>
<th>STAGE 2</th>
<th>STAGE 3</th>
<th>STAGE 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification of a problem and supervisor.</td>
<td>The dissertation proposal</td>
<td>The literature search</td>
<td>Writing the literature review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary literature survey</td>
<td>Ethics approval</td>
<td></td>
<td>Integrate your references in a logical, coherent manner and use an appropriate academic writing style.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This problem or issue is of relevance to your area of interest.</td>
<td>A five (5) page proposal submitted to your supervisor.</td>
<td>Continue to search the literature for relevant references.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The research cannot proceed to data collection without the proposal and ethics being approved (if required).</td>
<td>The aim of literature searching is to acquire an understanding of your topic, what is known about the area, how it has been researched and what the key issues are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This does not stop you proceeding to stage 3 &amp; 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Semester of Research (HEAL6029 Health Sciences Research Dissertation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 5</th>
<th>Data collection</th>
<th>Begin the process of data collection or analysis of an existing data set.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 6</td>
<td>Analysis, review and writing of your results.</td>
<td>Analyse your data and summarise your findings into a clear and concise discussion leading to logical conclusions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 7</td>
<td>Preparation of your dissertation for examination.</td>
<td>Structure your dissertation to meet the objectives defined in your proposal. Complete the final draft for examination by an external examiner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 8</td>
<td>Under examination.</td>
<td>Prepare any potential journal article for submission jointly with your supervisor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE 9</td>
<td>Final submission to School for Graduation.</td>
<td>On the satisfactory completion of the dissertation and after addressing the examiner’s comments, submit to the School for electronic storage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit Learning Outcomes

All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin’s Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On successful completion of this unit students can:</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Conduct research incorporating ethical principles and scientific integrity</td>
<td><img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Thinking skills" /> (use analytical skills to solve problems) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Information skills" /> (confident in new ideas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Analyse data and explain the results relative to the aims, objectives and/or hypotheses of the research</td>
<td><img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Thinking skills" /> (use analytical skills to solve problems) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Technology skills" /> (learning how to learn) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Information skills" /> (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Relate the major findings of the research to the relevant literature and where appropriate make recommendation based upon the results</td>
<td><img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Thinking skills" /> (use analytical skills to solve problems) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Information skills" /> (confidence to investigate new ideas) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Communication skills" /> (value the perspectives of others) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Technology skills" /> (value the perspectives of others) <img src="https://ctl.curtin.edu.au" alt="Professional Skills" /> (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Curtin’s Graduate Attributes

- Apply discipline knowledge
- Thinking skills (use analytical skills to solve problems)
- Information skills (confidence to investigate new ideas)
- Communication skills
- Technology skills
- Learning how to learn (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)
- International perspective (value the perspectives of others)
- Cultural understanding (value the perspectives of others)
- Professional Skills (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)

Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: [ctl.curtin.edu.au](https://ctl.curtin.edu.au)
Learning Activities

- This is a self-directed unit.
- You will work in association with an academic supervisor.

Learning Resources

Other resources

No external resources are available for this unit.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit final dissertation for examination</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Week: 15</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day: Friday, 10th June 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 5 PM (WST)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. **Research Proposal:**
   - Submit final research proposal to supervisor using Turnitin.

Pass requirements

- In order to pass this unit, students must obtain PASS mark.

Fair assessment through moderation

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm

Late assessment policy

This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Late submission of assessments is not accepted in this unit. Students will receive a zero mark for any assessment item submitted late.

Assessment extension

A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at students.curtin.edu.au/administration/) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student’s control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the
assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners’ meeting.

**Assessment extensions:**

The Application for Assessment Extension form can be found at the following link:


NO Application for Assessment Extension will be considered without supporting documentation (as per instructions on the form).

Applications for Assessment Extensions can be sent to:

- Directly to the Unit Coordinator - for requests for up to 5 days extension.
- School of Public Health Teaching Support Office (PHTeachingSupport@curtin.edu.au) – where the extension is for more than 5 days or the final piece of assessment.

The outcome of your Application for Assessment Extension will be notified to you by the **Official Communication Channel (OCC)** as per the Assessment and Student Progression Manual (refer to Section 13).


**Appeals:**

For details on the student appeals process please refer to the Assessment and Student Progression Manual.


**Deferred assessments**

If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check your OASIS email for details.

Deferred examinations/tests will be held from 20/07/2016 to 22/07/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

**Supplementary assessments**

Supplementary assessments are not available in this unit.

**Referencing style**

The referencing style for this unit is APA 6th Ed.

More information can be found on this style from the Library web site:

http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing

**Copyright**

© Curtin University. The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites.

**Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)**

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one's own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or
contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

From Semester 1, 2016, all incoming coursework students are required to complete Curtin’s Academic Integrity Program (AIP). If a student does not pass the program by the end of their first study period of enrolment at Curtin, their marks will be withheld until they pass. More information about the AIP can be found at: https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/AIP.cfm

Refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au for more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support: oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre: life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

Additional information

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University’s Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University’s policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University’s policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University’s “Student Rights and Responsibilities” website at: students.curtin.edu.au/rights.
Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesi@curtin.edu.au or go to http://eesi.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm for more information.

You can also contact Counselling and Disability services: http://www.disability.curtin.edu.au or the Multi-faith services: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/about_multifaith_services.htm for further information.

It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin’s Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/student_wellbeing_service.htm

Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin’s online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

To view previous student feedback about this unit, search for the Unit Summary Report at https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/student/unit_search.cfm. See https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/dates.cfm to find out when you can eVALUate this unit.

Recent changes to this unit include:

- More precise information is provided, regarding the time at which tasks need to be delivered.
Program calendar

This unit does not have weekly workshops. Under your supervisor guidance, you will need to develop the activities listed below.

Semester 1 2016 Program Calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Review approved proposal &amp; time-plan with supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>Have plans in place to collect data if not already doing so.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Commence data collection if not already doing so, or commence analysis of an existing data set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Continue data collection/analysis and meet with supervisor as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Review your results and start writing your dissertation (if you have not already started).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>Begin structuring your dissertation to meet the objectives of your proposal; summarize your findings into a discussion leading to conclusions and recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Submit DRAFT of your dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>Revise incorporating supervisor feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>Revise incorporating supervisor feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Submit FINAL DISSERTATION for Assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The external examination may take between 4 to 6 weeks. You need to submit ON TIME to be able to graduate in the next graduation ceremony.