



SUBJECT OUTLINE

Subject Name:

Clinical Examination

Subject Code:

BIOE221

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Award/s:	Total Course Credit Points:	Level:
Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture)	128	3 rd Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy)	128	3 rd Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Myotherapy)	96	2 nd Year
Bachelor of Health Science (Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine)	96	2 nd Year
Duration:	1 Semester	
Subject is:	Core	Subject Credit Points: 2

Student Workload:			
No. timetabled hours per week: 3	No. personal study hours per week: 2	Total hours per week: 5	
Delivery Mode*:			
<input type="checkbox"/> On campus	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Digital	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive
Weekly Session^ Format/s - 1 sessions per week:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On campus workshops / tutorials:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 hour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 hours	Practical skills sessions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestream lectures:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 hours	1 hour synchronous lecture
<p>*All modes are supported by the online learning management system which will include subject documents such as handouts, readings and assessment guides.</p> <p>^A 'session' is made up of 3 hours of timetabled / online study time per week unless otherwise specified. Each subject has a set number of sessions as outlined above.</p>			
Study Pattern: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Time			
Pre-requisites: Nil			
Co-requisites: BIOC211			
Special Resource Requirements:			
Bath-sheet sized towel per student (Clinic towels must not be used)			
Clinical Equipment Kit items including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Measuring tape ➤ Otoscope ➤ Pen torch ➤ Percussion reflex hammer 			



- Sphygmomanometer
- Stethoscope
- Thermometer

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Subject Rationale

This subject teaches students the theory and practical skills for clinical examination and assessment of the client using conventional medical diagnostic techniques with standard examination tools. Students are required to interpret the results of the clinical examination techniques performed. These skills are essential to the clinical competence of health professionals regardless of discipline. Students are required to practice examination procedures on each other in a supervised setting, learning appropriate regard for privacy and personal boundaries as well as appropriate work, health and safety practices. The subject supports students to develop their interpersonal and communication skills for the clinical setting and consolidates all previous bioscience learning.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify different physical examination techniques used for gathering clinical information and for monitoring progress.
2. Accurately perform, using appropriate equipment, a range of clinical examination techniques.
3. Interpret the results of history taking, physical, and mental state examination.
4. Interpret the results of the clinical examination techniques performed.
5. Apply general principles of clinical examination to case scenarios.
6. Demonstrate the ability to communicate professionally in a clinical setting.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of privacy, personal boundaries, and work, health and safety practices.

Assessment Tasks

Type	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Session Content Delivered	Due	Weighting
Attendance (Attendance at 100% of indicated sessions is required)	1-7	1-6, 8-13	Weeks 1-6, 8 - 13 (On campus workshop / tutorial)	Pass/Fail
Practical Exam 1	1-7	1-5	Week 7	40%
Practical Exam 2	1-7	3, 8-12	Week 14	60%



Pass Requirements

To achieve a passing grade in this subject, students must:

- have a cumulative mark of at least 50%, and
- have submitted all assessment items with a value greater than 15%, and
- meet attendance requirements (absences require approved attendance waivers and subsequent make-up activities to be completed).

Prescribed Readings:

Jarvis, C., & Eckhardt, A. (2023). *Physical examination & health assessment* (9th ed.). Elsevier.

Recommended Readings:

Innes, J. A., Dover, A. R., & Fairhurst, K. (Eds.) (2018). *MacLeod's clinical examination* (14th ed.). Elsevier

Jarvis, C., & Eckhardt, A. (2020). *Pocket companion for physical examination & health assessment* (9th ed.). Elsevier.

Penman, I. D., Ralston, S. H., Strachan, M. W. J., & Hobson, R. P. (Eds.). (2023). *Davidson's principles and practice of medicine* (24th ed.). Elsevier

Reisner, E. G., & Reisner, H. M. (2022). *Crowley's an introduction to human disease: Pathology and pathophysiology correlations* (11th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. [[ebook available](#)].

Talley, N. J. & O'Conner, S. (2013). *Clinical examination: A systematic guide to physical diagnosis* (7th ed.). Churchill Livingstone Elsevier. [[ebook available](#)]

Tortora, G., Derrickson, B., Burkett, B., Cooke, J., DiPietro, F., Diversi, T., Dye, D., Engel, A., Green, H., Macartney, M., McKean, M., Peoples, G., & Summers, S. (2022). *Principles of anatomy and physiology* (3rd Asia-Pacific ed.). Wiley [[ebook available](#)]

Subject Content

Week	Lectures	Practicals
1.	<p>The Interview and Clinical History; Assessment Techniques and the Ethical Approach to the Clinical Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General examination ➤ Measurement ➤ Weight and height <p>Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection and palpation 	<p>Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Anthropometrics ➤ General examination
2.	<p>Vital Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Temperature ➤ Pulses 	<p>Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Temperature ➤ Pulses



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respirations ➤ Blood Pressure lying and sitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respirations ➤ Blood pressure
3.	Vital Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blood Pressure lying and sitting 	Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blood pressure
4.	Peripheral Vascular and Skin Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skin, general examination including turgor and mobility, hair, and nails ➤ Peripheral vascular system, capillary refill and oedema <p>Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection and palpation 	Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examination of skin, hair, nails ➤ Examination of peripheral vascular pulses, capillary refill and oedema
5.	Examination of the Head and Neck <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eyes ➤ Mouth, throat, thyroid, lymph nodes and ears <p>Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection, palpation, and auscultation 	Supervised student practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eye examination – external and mucous membranes ➤ Examination of the head and neck including mouth, throat, thyroid, lymph nodes and ears
6.	Workshop: Clinical Examination Through Case Studies Supervised student practice using case studies and the performance of the relevant clinical examinations	
7.	Practical Exam 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Anthropometrics ➤ Vital signs ➤ Peripheral vascular system ➤ Head and neck 	
8.	Thoracic Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respiratory examination <p>Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation 	Supervised student practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respiratory examination ➤ Auscultation of heart sounds
	NON-TEACHING WEEK (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week) Semester 1 – This aligns with the week after Easter so it may fall between Weeks 6 to 8 Semester 2 – The non-teaching week falls between Weeks 7 and 8	
9.	The Abdomen Examination <p>Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection 	Supervised student practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Abdominal examination ➤ Ascites assessment



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Palpation ➤ Percussion ➤ Auscultation 	
10.	Neurological Examination – Part 1 Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection, palpation and special tests ➤ Cranial nerve tests ➤ Mental state assessment (Appearance, Behaviour, Cognitive functions, Thought processes) 	Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Neurological assessment and mental state assessment
11.	Neurological Examination – Part 2 Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sensory system assessment ➤ Pain assessment ➤ Reflex testing 	Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sensory system assessment ➤ Reflex assessment
12.	Musculoskeletal Examination Demonstration of appropriate techniques and interpretation of the results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspection ➤ Palpation ➤ Range of motion ➤ Muscle testing 	Supervised practice of demonstrated techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Musculoskeletal examinations
13.	➤ Workshop: Clinical Examination Through Case Studies Supervised student practice using case studies and the performance of the relevant clinical examinations	
14.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 1 Practical Exam 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vital signs- Blood Pressure ➤ Thoracic examination ➤ Abdomen examination ➤ Neurological examination ➤ Musculoskeletal examination 	
15.	Non-Teaching Week/Practical Examination Week 2 Note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week	
16-17.	Final Examination Weeks 1 & 2 There is no final exam for this subject	