

# NURS 7029 MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 400217

**Coordinator** Tracy Stanbrook ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tracy Stanbrook/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Tracy%20Stanbrook/))

**Description** Assessment is an essential component of the nurse/client interaction in mental health/psychiatric nursing. Effective nursing depends on comprehensive, accurate, systematic and continuous data collection. This assists the nurse and client to accurately identify and document critical client issues and formulate management strategies. This subject prepares the student in the area of mental health assessment, in identifying the factors that affect individual/family mental health and applying this knowledge to decisions about appropriate interventions.

**School** Nursing & Midwifery

**Discipline** Mental Health Nursing

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** Prerequisite for students in 4691 4780 - NURS 3032 Professional Practice Experience 5  
Prerequisite for students in 4785 - NURS 7075 Nursing Practice 3

## Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in 4654 Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Mental Health), or  
4719 Master of Mental Health Nursing, or  
4720 Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing, or  
4721 Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing, or  
4785 Master of Nursing Practice (Preregistration), or  
4780 Bachelor of Nursing (WSU Online), or  
4691 Bachelor of Nursing or  
4693 Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced) or  
4692 Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) or  
4684 Bachelor of Midwifery

## Assumed Knowledge

Students must have some basic knowledge of mental health, mental illness, and assessment processes from previous subjects or workforce experiences.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyse mental health assessment and models of care within a therapeutic recovery framework
2. Examine and analyse the influences of cultural diversity for mental health assessment
3. Critically analyse legal, ethical and professional implications of mental health assessment and documentation including the aspects of mental health recovery

4. Conduct a comprehensive mental health nursing assessment with related documentation to provide holistic consumer centred care.
5. Collaborate with the client, family and others to develop professional therapeutic relationships for decision-making processes

## Subject Content

1. Overview of Mental Health Nursing Assessment
2. Principles of Assessment
  - meaning, process and mechanics of assessment
  - The assessment interview: principles
  - dynamics of The interview
  - observation of behaviour
  - The history and pathways to effective planning
3. Specific Interview Techniques
  - collaboration in assessment
  - strengths model of assessment
  - culture and assessment
  - mental state Examination
  - The family in assessment
  - assessment of relationships problems
  - assessment of The environment
  - exploring psychosis
  - Risk of violence
  - Victimisation
  - substance Abuse
  - neurological Examination
  - needs assessment
  - assessment of mood (including Risk of suicide)
  - assessment of personality Disorder
  - assessment of anxiety
4. Documentation
  - moral and Ethical Issues
  - The whole person
5. Documentation of assessment and care plan

## Special Requirements

Essential equipment

Access to an internet enabled device is essential in order to be able to: access course materials; to participate in discussion groups; and to access additional resources provided by the lecturer during the session. See [http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/uwsonline\\_student\\_support](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/uwsonline_student_support) ([http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/uwsonline\\_student\\_support/](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/uwsonline_student_support/)) for further information.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Critical Review	1500 words	50	N	Individual	Y
Presentation	10 minutes	30	N	Group	Y
Reflection	800 words	20	N	Individual	Y

### Prescribed Texts

- Barker, P.J. (2004). Assessment in psychiatric and mental health nursing: In search of the whole person (2nd ed.). Cheltenham: UK: Cengage Learning. AND EITHER

- 1. Shea, S.C. (2017). Psychiatric interviewing: The art of understanding (3rd ed.). Edinburgh: Elsevier. OR
- 2. Morrison, James. (2008) The First Interview (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Guildford Press. OR
- 3. Morrison, J. (2014). The First Interview (4th ed.). New York, NY: Guildford Press. Online

Teaching Periods

## WSU Online TRI-2 (2025)

### Wsu Online

#### Online

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View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=NURS7029\\_25-OT2\\_OW\\_2#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NURS7029_25-OT2_OW_2#subjects))

## Spring (2025)

### Online

#### Online

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