

# PUBH 3023 EVIDENCE IN PROFESSIONAL REASONING

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 401384

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

**Description** In this subject, you will incorporate the evidence knowledge and skills developed in previous subjects into professional practice. The evidence-based practice process manages expanding and uncertain knowledge by formulating answerable questions, effectively searching literature, critically appraising evidence and applying and evaluating its significance in clinical practice and healthcare decision-making. Professional reasoning requires consideration of best available evidence, client or patient perspectives, professional expertise and practice context. You will learn professional reasoning for shared decision-making and safe and effective communication for patient scenarios relevant to your program.

**School** Health Sciences

**Discipline** Public Health, Not Elsewhere Classified.

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 2 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** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** Students need to have passed HLTH2024 Research in Methods Health PLUS ONE clinical unit from their specific program (see list below)

HLTH1012 Evidence in Health

REHA2007 Podiatry Pre-Clinical - Students enrolled in Course Code 4661 (Continuing) or 4708 (Current) must have completed this Subject  
REHA2004 Occupational Therapy Practice 2 - Students enrolled in Course Code 4663 (Continuing) or 4711 (Current) must have completed this Subject

REHA3003 Clinical Education General - Students enrolled in Course Code 4662 (Continuing) or 4706 (Current) must have completed this Subject

REHA3049 Speech Pathology Practice 1 - First clinical practice subject in Speech Pathology curriculum

**Equivalent Subjects** HLTH 3005 Evidence-based Practice

**Incompatible Subjects** PUBH 4001 Evidence in Professional Reasoning (Honours)

HLTH 4002 Evidence-based Practice (Advanced)

## Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in one of the programs 4660, 4661, 4662, 4663, 4706, 4708, 4710, 4711, 4763 or 4656

## Assumed Knowledge

Foundation-level knowledge and skills in research and evidence research methods and clinical knowledge gained in at least one clinical subject of the student's program.

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Conduct sensitive and specific PICO search strategy to find best available evidence
2. Justify selection of best available evidence by suitability, strength and relevance
3. Evaluate clinical significance of best available evidence
4. Determine whether the degree of evidence justifies the clinical intervention.
5. Incorporate evidence into professional reasoning and decision making processes
6. Negotiate evidence-informed shared decision-making

## Subject Content

1. Exploring reasons for Evidence-based practice (EBP)
  - a. Management of professional disagreement, situation effects and bias
  - b. Management of information overload
  - c. Management of information uncertainty
2. Appraising evidence in practice
 

For studies of interventions, diagnostic tests, aetiology, prognosis, and experiences

  - a. Relevance
  - b. Strength of evidence
  - c. Statistical and clinical significance
  - d. Generalisability, applicability and usefulness
  - e. Grading a body of evidence
  - f. PICO Framework
3. Professional reasoning
  - a. Relative reasoning between evidence, expertise, patient perspectives and practice context
  - b. Limitations of EBP paradigm
  - c. Communicating evidence to clients
  - d. Evidence-informed shared decision-making
  - e. Evaluation of professional reasoning

## 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
Report	600 words plus 1 search strategy appendix	30	N	Individual	N
Presentatio	Maximum 15 minutes	35	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 hours	35	N	Individual	N

## Prescribed Texts

- Hoffman, T., Bennett, S., & Del Mar, C. (2017). Evidence-based practice across the health professions (3rd ed.). Sydney, New South Wales: Churchill Livingstone. (or any subsequent editions)

## Teaching Periods

## Sydney City Campus - Term 2 (2025)

### Sydney City

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Richard Thomas ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Richard Thomas/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Richard%20Thomas/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=PUBH3023\\_25-SC2\\_SC\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=PUBH3023_25-SC2_SC_1#subjects))

## Spring (2025)

### Campbelltown

#### Hybrid

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