

DOCTOR OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
RULES OF ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESSION
COHORT 2024



**BOND
UNIVERSITY**

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This document is an addendum to the University's [Assessment Policy TL 3.5.1](#) and is developed in accordance with University Policy and Procedures. It is intended to provide additional clarification and information specific to the Bond University Physiotherapy program.

Approvals:

Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee	
University Learning and Teaching Committee	
Academic Senate	

This document is subject to review on an annual basis.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ❖ [Academic Progress Policy SS 5.4.5](#)
- ❖ [Assessment Policy TL 3.5.1](#)
- ❖ [Assessment Procedure](#)
- ❖ [Student Code of Conduct Policy SS 5.2.1](#)
- ❖ [Student Review and Appeals Procedure](#)
- ❖ [Support for Students' Policy SS 5.8.2](#)

For queries, please contact: HS-Assessment@bond.edu.au

1. Overview of the Structure of the Physiotherapy Program and Assessment

1.1. The duration of the Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPHTY) Program is two (2) years full time and consists of six (6) semesters, organised across eighteen (18) subjects. The semesters occur across three (3) calendar years:

- Year 1: May and September semesters
- Year 2: January, May, and September semesters
- Year 3: January semester

1.2. The subjects that make up the DPHTY program are presented on the table below:

CP	Subject Name	Subject Code
20	Foundations of Physiotherapy	PHTY71-401
20	Physiotherapy: Musculoskeletal 1	PHTY71-402
15	Physiotherapy: Cardiorespiratory	PHTY71-403
10	Physiotherapy: Musculoskeletal 2	PHTY71-404
15	Physiotherapy: Neurological and Rehabilitation	PHTY71-405
10	Maximising Human Potential and Performance	PHTY72-414
15	Community Physiotherapy Across the Lifespan	PHTY72-412
15	Leadership, Management and Advocacy in Healthcare	PHTY72-418
5	Transition to Professional Practice	PHTY71-406
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 1	PHTY71-407
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 2	PHTY71-408
20	Physiotherapy: Evidence Based Practice Research – Part 1	PHTY72-419
20	Physiotherapy: Evidence Based Practice Research – Part 2	PHTY73-423
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 3	PHTY71-409
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 4	PHTY72-413
5	Physiotherapist: Work Ready	PHTY73-424
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 5	PHTY72-416
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 6	PHTY72-417
10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Internship	PHTY73-420

1.3. Assessment in the Doctor of Physiotherapy Program is continuous and involves a range of formative and summative assessment, including tutorial/PBL evaluations, group participation evaluations, written examinations, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE), seminar presentations, written assessments, supervisor reports, mastery-based and workplace based clinical competency assessments. Details on assessment including loading and timelines are included in the relevant subject outlines and iLearn sites. All coursework and clinical-based subjects' assessments are criterion-referenced marking rubrics.

- 1.4. Consistent with Bond University [Assessment Policy TL 3.5.1](#) and [Assessment Procedure](#), the following grading systems are relevant to the DPHTY Program:

Grade	Description	Grade Points	%Guide
HD	High Distinction	4	85-100
D	Distinction	3	75-84
C	Credit	2	65-74
P	Pass	1	50-64
RP	Resit Pass (Bachelor of Medical Studies, Doctor of Physiotherapy and Master of Occupational Therapy only)	1	
RF	Resit Fail (Bachelor of Medical Studies, Doctor of Physiotherapy and Master of Occupational Therapy only)	0	
F	Fail	0	<50
FA*	Fail Absent	0	
AN	Annulled Result	0	0
UGF	Ungraded Fail	0	0
WF	Withdrawn – Fail	0	0

* This grade applies to Bond University College only

Finalised Grades

Grade	Description
ATP	Approved to Progress (Bachelor of Medical Studies & Doctor of Physiotherapy only, where student has been performing at a satisfactory standard)
EX	Exemption granted

FSU	Failed Supplementary Assessment
PSU	Passed Supplementary Assessment
UGP#	Ungraded Pass
W	Withdrawn

Ref: [Assessment Procedure](#) – Award of Grade Procedure – Schedule B

- 1.5. Refer to the [Doctor of Physiotherapy Program Structure and Sequence plans](#), for the list of the 2024 Cohort DPHTY Program subject prerequisites and co-requisites. *Only students admitted into DPHTY CC-63034 will be eligible to enrol into the DPHTY subjects listed.*

2. DPHTY Coursework Subjects Rules of Progression

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1 There are a number of assessment items for each coursework subjects (all subjects excluding the Clinical Practice subjects). The Subject Outline (and associated iLearn site) for each subject states the Assessment Schedule and the weighting of each assessment item. **All assessment tasks must be submitted by the due date unless approved extension has been granted.**
- 2.1.2 Students must achieve a passing standard for the subject overall (50%). If a student fails a mandatory assessment item of a subject, they will fail the subject overall. Additional pass requirements may exist for individual subjects, and these are stipulated on the subject outline (and associated iLearn site).
- 2.1.3 If a student does not demonstrate they have achieved the required level to pass the subject, a supplementary or resit assessment may be available (refer to Supplementary Assessment Procedure and Resit Assessment Procedure).
- 2.1.4 Students cannot progress onto clinical placement until all pre-requisite coursework has been completed to a passing standard.
- 2.1.5 A student will be issued with an Academic Warning by the Head of Program if they fail any subject in the DPHTY program, as all subjects are compulsory subjects. See [Academic Progress Policy](#) section 4.3 for further information.

2.2. Deferred, Resit and Supplementary Coursework Assessment

2.2.1 Deferred Assessments

A student who experiences special or extenuating circumstances and is unable to sit a written assessment or objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) may be eligible to apply for a Deferred Assessment, provided it is an in-semester assessment or final semester examination. For a student completing a Deferred Assessment, the full scale of grades will be applicable.

2.2.1.1 Any student who requests a deferred assessment must make this request in writing (using the official [Extension of Assessment Item form](#)) for the deferred assessment. The form must be submitted along with supporting documentation to evidence exceptional circumstances. Students can access the form via this link: [Extension of Assessment Item form](#) For further information, please refer to [Assessment Procedure – Deferred Examination Procedure Schedule E3 p11-12](#).

2.2.2 Resit Assessment

The resit assessment is a pass/fail assessment that may be granted to a DPHTY student who fails a subject or compulsory assessment item within a subject. For resit assessments, students will be eligible to resit the component of the subject that caused them to fail in accordance with the [Assessment Procedure - Resit Assessment Procedure - Schedule E5](#). Resit opportunities are outlined in each relevant subject outline. In this instance, the student will be allocated a non-finalised grade of Remediation Granted (RM) and will be offered a process of remediation prior to their resit assessment.

If a student undertakes a resit assessment and passes, they will be awarded a finalised grade of Resit Pass (RP). If a student undertakes a resit assessment and fails, they will be awarded a finalised grade of Resit Fail (RF) and will be placed on the 'Students Requiring

Academic Support' register and will be provided with an Academic Warning. Students who receive a final grade of Resit Fail (RF) may be eligible to apply to repeat the failed subject when it is next offered.

Resit assessments are to be scheduled in consultation with the subject coordinator and a negotiated date of the resit assessment will be confirmed in writing via e-mail to the student. If a student is invited to undertake a resit assessment and is unable to do so, then their original result will stand. In this instance, the student will be awarded a fail grade for the assessment item and overall subject and be required to repeat the coursework subject the following year.

2.2.3 Supplementary Assessment

Refer to Schedule E5 in the [Assessment Procedure](#) for information on eligibility and the process of a supplementary assessment.

2.3. Process for Repeating Coursework Subjects

- 2.3.1 A student who has failed a coursework subject will be interviewed by the Head of Program and Student Affairs and Service Quality (SASQ) staff. The student will be formally informed that they are at risk of failing the DPHTY program based on professional and/or academic performance.
- 2.3.2 The student will be placed on the HSM 'Students Requiring Academic Support' register within the DPHTY program, to ensure they are able to access the Faculty and University support to assist them with their study and progression in the DPHTY program.
- 2.3.3 A revised study plan will be developed with the student and recorded on the student's file.
- 2.3.4 The student will be required to meet with the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education to develop a plan for their remediation and progression into clinical practice once the coursework subject has been successfully passed.

3. DPHTY Clinical Practice Subjects

Clinical Practice subjects make up a significant component of the DPHTY program and are designed to provide students with supervised opportunities to apply the theoretical and practical skills acquired in the preceding coursework subjects. All required compliance for clinical practice subjects must be completed and submitted by published due dates in accordance with the [Fit to Practice requirements](#) and [Physiotherapy Program Student Charter](#). Any student who is not Fit to Practice will not be allocated to a clinical placement and will be referred to the Head of Program. Ongoing non-compliance by students will be referred directly to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Service Quality (AD SASQ). This is likely to impact progression in the program.

Clinical Practice subjects, also referred to as Clinical Placement, occur in a clinical workplace environment under the supervision of external physiotherapy and/or other allied health clinicians. The assessment schedule reflects this environment.

The overall grade awarded for a clinical practice subject, as listed below, will be competency-based Ungraded Pass/ Ungraded Fail (UGP/UGF).

The **clinical practice subjects** included in the DPHTY program are:

Semester Offered	CP	Subject Name	Subject Code
May	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 1	PHTY71-407
May	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 2	PHTY71-408
Sep	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 3	PHTY71-409
Sept	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 4	PHTY72-413
Jan	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 5	PHTY72-416
Jan	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Practice Unit 6	PHTY72-417
Jan	10	Physiotherapy: Clinical Internship	PHTY73-420

The assessment process for Clinical Practice subjects involves a variety of components including but not limited to:

Clinical Practice Assessment items:

- Assessment of Physiotherapy Practice (APP) scored by the external clinical supervisor (Formative Mid-subject / Summative End of Subject)
- Written assignments – Clinical Reflective Tasks

3.1 Overview of the Rules of Progression (Clinical Practice Subjects)

- 3.1.1 Students will receive a mid-subject formative result (not including reflective tasks) for each clinical practice subject to assist the student to remediate any deficiencies in performance prior to the end of clinical placement assessment where the student will be provided with a summative APP result.
- 3.1.2 Students must achieve a passing standard on the APP to pass a clinical practice subject. Students must meet the following criteria at the end of subject APP to be deemed competent on this assessment item:
- A minimum score of 50% overall
 - A minimum score of 50% in each of the combined domains of the APP:
 - Professional Behaviour + Communication and
 - Assessment + Analysis and Planning + Intervention + Evidence-based Practice and Risk Management.
 - A score of adequate or higher on the Global Rating Scale
- 3.1.3 A student who does not meet the competency requirements stipulated on the subject outline, will be deemed to have failed the subject and will be awarded an ungraded fail. The Resit assessment will be an end of subject APP after the completion of full five-week clinical practice subject, in accordance with the [Assessment Procedure – Resit Assessment Procedure – Schedule E5](#).
- 3.1.4 A student can repeat a clinical practice subject **ONCE** only. A second fail of the same subject may result in the student being excluded from the DPHTY program (ref: [Academic Progress Policy SS 5.4.5](#)).

3.2 Process for Repeating Clinical Practice Subjects

- 3.2.1 A student who has failed to meet the competency requirements for a clinical practice subject will meet with the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education, Head of Program, and a representative from SASQ. Access to the available support will be ensured to assist them with their study and further progression in the DPHTY program. A revised study plan will be developed and recorded on the student's file by SASQ.
- 3.2.2 The student will be placed on the HSM 'Students Requiring Academic Support' register within the DPHTY program, to ensure they are able to access the Faculty and University support to assist them with their study and progression in the DPHTY program.
- 3.2.3 The student will be given the opportunity to repeat the clinical practice subject at an appropriate time when a placement in the required environment can be located. For the repeat clinical practice subject, the student will be placed with a different clinical supervisor in a different facility and clinical supervisor.

3.3 Process for Modifying Study Plans for Clinical Practice Subjects

- 3.3.1 A student who experiences special or extenuating circumstances and is unable to undertake a clinical practice subject in the designated period should in the first instance meet with the Head of Program (or designated delegate – such as Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education) to discuss options for a modified study plan.
- 3.3.2 Students to note that a modified study plan in the DPHTY program is likely to impact the students' program completion time and graduation.

4. Attendance Requirements

Overview

Physiotherapy programs are by nature, intensive and include lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, laboratory and resource/practical sessions, clinical skills sessions, clinical placements, and an internship. This combination of learning opportunities is carefully designed and scheduled to guide students towards meeting intended program learning outcomes. Students are required to attend all scheduled sessions (ref: [Assessment Procedure – Class Attendance and Participation Procedure Schedule C](#)).

4.1 Coursework Requirements:

- 4.1.1 It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they adhere to the attendance requirements and be aware of their attendance status (ref: [Assessment Procedure – Class Attendance and Participation Procedure Schedule C p7](#), & *Section 5.1.2. – Attendance Requirements*).
- 4.1.2 Students are expected to complete the "Notification of Absence" process for any intended or unintended absence.

4.2 Clinical Placement Requirements:

- 4.2.1 Students are permitted to have no more than approximately ten (10) working days of absences across all compulsory clinical practice subjects before they may be required to make up the clinical placement hours.
- 4.2.2 Leave of absence during clinical placements for reasons other than the student health requirements will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.2.3 Should a student exceed five (5) days of absences within one clinical practice subject, they will be required to submit a request for deferred assessment in writing to the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and meet to discuss their progression through the clinical practice subject.
- 4.2.4 There are no guarantees that any make-up hours granted will be possible in the clinical placement facility in which the student undertook the original placement.
- 4.2.5 The requirement to undertake make-up hours for a clinical placement subject may result in a delayed progression through the DPHTY program.

5. Students Requiring Support (Academic or Personal)

Overview

The Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine is dedicated to shaping professionals who are distinguished, not just by their superior scientific clinical skills but by their professionalism, namely their skills in ethics, empathy, communication, and collegiality.

The Faculty aims to ensure that students at risk of poor performance and requiring support are identified as soon as possible and that appropriate interventions are implemented and monitored by academic, administrative and support staff (ref: [Accessibility and Inclusion](#))

5.1 Students Requiring Academic Support may be identified through unsatisfactory academic performance, poor behavioural and/or professional attributes including but not limited to the following:

5.1.1 Academic performance:

Unsatisfactory academic performance as determined by performance in formal assessments and examinations ratified by the BOE at the end of each semester. Unsatisfactory academic performance in Clinical Placements as determined by performance against the assessment schedule for each subject.

5.1.1.1. Students identified as requiring academic support will be monitored for compliance with respect to requirements.

5.1.1.2. Students identified as requiring academic support will be placed on the Faculty HSM – ‘Students Requiring Academic Support’ register and will be required to participate in remedial and/or support activities. The remedial and/or support activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Scheduled meetings with Head of Program
- b) Scheduled meetings with SASQ
- c) Scheduled meetings with the Coordinator of Clinical Education
- d) Scheduled meetings with the Subject Coordinator
- e) Scheduled meetings with the University support services.

5.1.1.3. At the end of each semester the Board of Examiners (BOE) will identify students on the HSM ‘Students Requiring Academic Support’ register.

5.1.1.4. The Faculty aims to ensure that students in need of support are identified as soon as possible and that appropriate supports are implemented. Students in need of support may be also identified through borderline academic performance, behaviour and/or professional attributes identified through academic performance, behaviour and /or professional attributes which whilst not warranting placement on the HSM ‘Students Requiring Academic Support’ register (see Section 5.1) are deemed to be of borderline status and may still be identified as appropriate for referral to additional support services.

5.1.1.5 Students identified as appropriate for referral to support services will be strongly recommended to participate in remedial and/or support activities identified by the Head of Program, Learning and Teaching Lead or Coordinator of Clinical Education. The remedial and/or support activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Scheduled meetings with the Head of Program
- b) Schedule meetings with SASQ
- c) Scheduled meetings with the Coordinator of Clinical Education

- d) Scheduled meetings with the Subject Coordinator
- e) Scheduled meetings with Accessibility and Inclusion Office
- f) Development of a Learning Access Plan (LAP)

5.1.2 **Attendance Requirements:**

All sessions within the DPHTY program are compulsory teaching sessions in a face-to-face (on site) format unless stated otherwise. Students must seek approval for absences (planned and unplanned) from the subject convenor. Students must complete a 'Request for approved absence form' at least ten (10) days prior to a planned absence and within five (5) days of an unplanned absence. Students' attendance will be monitored through a daily attendance register and should unexplained absences arise, the issue will be raised by the subject convenor to the Head of Program to take further action. If a student is unable to attend in a face-to-face format, they may apply for access to online delivery subject to the conveners and/or lead educator's approval and dependent on the content.

If absent for one (1) day due to an illness, a medical certificate is not required, however an explanation for the absence must be provided in the leave form. If absence exceeds two (2) or more consecutive days due to illness, a Bond University Student Medical Certificate completed by a medical practitioner is required stating:

- The date on which the medical practitioner examined the student;
- The duration of the complaint expressed as a medical opinion. Certificates merely reporting the students account of an illness will not be accepted (ref: [Assessment Procedure](#)).

5.1.2.1 **Clinical Placement Attendance Requirements:**

All clinical placement days are compulsory and if a student is absent, they must notify the educator, the clinical support, and the clinical team as soon as possible. In line with the medical certificate requirements of on-site teaching, students must provide a medical certificate if they are absent for more than two consecutive days. Should student miss more than two (2) days within a single placement block, they risk having to either make up additional hours for that placement or failing the placement.

6 Management of Allegations of Student Misconduct

Upon commencement of studies at Bond University, Bond students are automatically bound by the University's [Student Code of Conduct Policy SS5.2.1](#), [Faculty's protocols and rules](#), and associated program charter and inherent requirements.

Students who are non-compliant to academic and professional standards are referred to the [Student Academic Misconduct Procedure](#) and/or [Student General Misconduct Procedure](#) (ref: [Student Code of Conduct Policy SS5.2.1](#)).

ABBREVIATIONS:

AD-SASQ	Associate Dean – Student Affairs and Service Quality
APP	Assessment of Physiotherapy Practice
BOE	Board of Examiners
DPHTY	Doctor of Physiotherapy
HSM	Health Science and Medicine
LAP	Learning Access Plan
OSCE	Objective Structured Clinical Exam
RP	Resit Pass
RF	Resit Fail
SASQ	Student Affairs and Service Quality
UAU	University Academic Unit

USEFUL LINKS AND REFERENCES:

[Australian Qualifications Framework](#)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES / FACULTY PROTOCOLS AND RULES / PROCEDURES

- [Accessibility and Inclusion](#)
- [Assessment Policy TL3.5.1](#)
– [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Bond University HDR Handbook](#)
- [Bond University Student Charter](#)
- [Enrolment Policy SS 5.4.4](#)
- [Fit to Practice](#)
- [HSM - Inherent Requirements – Doctor of Physiotherapy Program](#)
- [HSM - Student Charter – Physiotherapy Program](#)
- [Sexual Harm Policy SS 5.8.3](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct Policy SS5.2.1](#)
- [Student Grievance Management Policy SS 5.8.1](#)
- [Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy SS 5.8.4](#)
- [Support for Students' Policy SS 5.8.2](#)