



PODI14009 Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine in Podiatry Practice

Term 1 - 2025

Profile information current as at 26/03/2025 05:56 am

All details in this unit profile for PODI14009 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

In this unit, you will assess and manage complex musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders common to the lower extremity. Rheumatology as it relates to the foot and associated arthropathies will be covered in detail with respect to aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, investigation, and management. You will learn how these disorders can be managed by different interventions, including the use of pressure reducing devices and footwear intervention.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 4*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Pre-requisite: PODI13011 Podiatry Clinical Practice 3. Co-requisite: PODI14008 Podiatry Clinical Practice 4.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2025

- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

2. **In-class Test(s)**

Weighting: 50%

3. **On-campus Activity**

Weighting: 30%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Staff feedback

Feedback

Assessment requirements and the scaffolding against relevant learning outcomes should be clearly articulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the unit coordinator clearly articulates assessment requirements and understand how individual assessment items scaffold upon one another throughout the term.

Feedback from Staff feedback

Feedback

Consideration should be made to maximise exposure to practical elements of this units content

Recommendation

It is recommended that opportunities for practical exposure and application of skills consistent with the units be considered in the unit design.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
2. Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
3. Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.
4. Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

Per NPC1320

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 20%		•		•
2 - In-class Test(s) - 50%	•		•	
3 - On-campus Activity - 30%	•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work		•		•
6 - Information Technology Competence	•	•	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•	•	•	
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PODI14009

Prescribed

Neale's Disorders of the Foot and Ankle 9th Edition

9th Edition (2020)

Authors: Gordon Burrow, Keith Rome, Nat Padhiar

Elsevier

ISBN: 978-0-7020-6233-0

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom access for weekly meetings

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Sally Purvis Unit Coordinator

s.purvis@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction to rheumatology and musculoskeletal diseases - 10 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be outlining the expectations and layout of this unit and providing you with an introduction to rheumatology and musculoskeletal disease. We will also cover the complexities around pain and explore osteoarthritis.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Week 2 - Imaging modalities and pathology in rheumatology - 17 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
During this lecture we will be diving into the imaging modalities and laboratory investigations used in rheumatology.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Week 3 - Sero-positive arthropathies - 24 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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This week we will be exploring Sero-positive arthropathies including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Scleroderma and Sjorgen's syndrome.

Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.

Week 4 - Sero-negative arthropathies - 31 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be exploring sero-negative arthropathies including but not limited to psoriatic arthritis, reactive arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, enteropathic arthritis.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Week 5 - Infectious and Crystal induced arthritis - 07 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we explore infectious and crystal induced arthritis such as septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, gout and pseudo-gout.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Vacation Week - 14 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No delivery of lecture material this week.		

Week 6 - Non-inflammatory acute and chronic arthritides and pharmacology in rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine - 21 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will explore conditions such as torn ligaments, avascular necrosis and Charcot neuroarthropathy. We will also dive into the pharmacological management of Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions and the impacts this has on the body and the lower limb.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	Written Assessment Due: Week 6 Monday (21 Apr 2025) 11:59 pm AEST

Week 7 - Biomechanical analysis in rheumatology - 28 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
We will explore gait changes associated with Rheumatological and musculoskeletal disease and the associated management.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Week 8 - Invasive and non-invasive management of rheumatological conditions pertinent to the lower limb - 05 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Together we will explore and discuss the conservative management of certain rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions and when to refer for surgical opinion. We will also explore the surgical options and procedures available in the management of these conditions and when this is required.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	

Week 9 - Revision week - 12 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

This week we will be focused on consolidating the prior weeks of learning and spending time revising content ready for the in-class test in week 10.

Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.

Week 10 - In-class test - 19 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessed during the examination.	You will be undertaking assessment item 2 (in-class test, 50%) during normal scheduled class time. In-class test Due: Week 10 Tuesday (20 May 2025) 2:00 pm AEST

Week 11: Exam revision session and mock OSCE - 26 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Utilise this time to review the results of your in-class test and prepare for your upcoming OSCE.		

Week 12: OSCE - 02 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
During normal lecture time this week, you will be required to undertake assessment item 3 - Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) which contributes to 30% of marks for this unit.		On-Campus Activity (OSCE) Due: Week 12 Tuesday (3 June 2025) 2:00 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 09 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 16 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Term Specific Information

Please refer to your PODI14009 Moodle site for more term specific information pertaining to this unit.

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You will be required to submit a written assessment in the form of an essay based off a rheumatological case study relevant to podiatry practice. You are required to review the literature in order to establish the current knowledge of rheumatology and musculoskeletal (MSK) assessment in podiatry practice. You will then be required to demonstrate your knowledge regarding holistic assessment and management.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is permitted within this assessment item for brainstorming, creating structures, and generating ideas for improving work. No AI content is allowed in the final submission. The over-reliance on AI may impact upon assessment quality, reflective in the overall grade. Any Generative AI used in this assessment item must be referenced appropriately. Referencing AI resource can be found here: [guidelines-referencing-artificial-intelligence-1063631.pdf](#)

If the use of AI outside of that permitted is suspected, CQU Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure will be followed.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Monday (21 Apr 2025) 11:59 pm AEST

Submission via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Week 8 Tuesday (6 May 2025)

Feedback will be returned to you within 2 weeks from submission.

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

The assessment and marking rubric will become available to you on the PODI14009 Moodle site by week 1.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submission via Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
- Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

2 In-class test

Assessment Type

In-class Test(s)

Task Description

You will be examined in the form of a closed book, in-class test scheduled for week 10, Tuesday May 20th, 2025. This will take place in your usual lecture time slot and be conducted over 120 minutes. You will be examined on all delivered content for PODI14009 to meet learning objectives.

This is a real time assessment and there will be no access to generative AI throughout.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Tuesday (20 May 2025) 2:00 pm AEST

In-Class test will be conducted in your usual lecture time slot in week 10 and will be conducted over 120 minutes inclusive of reading time. Ensure you arrive at least 10 minutes prior to start time. There will be no scheduled practical this week.

Return Date to Students

Week 11 Tuesday (27 May 2025)

The results of the in-class test will be provided to you during usual class time in week 11.

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

The in-class test will be marked according to a marking guide developed specifically for this assessment task.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Submission Instructions

At the completion of the in-class test, all completed in-class test papers are to be handed to the unit coordinator or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
- Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.

3 On-Campus Activity (OSCE)

Assessment Type

On-campus Activity

Task Description

You will be required to attend campus for an Objective Structured Clinical Examination. This assessment will allow students to demonstrate their clinical knowledge, skill and competence, in clinical scenarios. During this assessment, you will be tasked with multiple clinical stations/scenarios to demonstrate your clinical skill set. You will be made aware of the station topics and number of stations prior to the examination date. Included topic will be relating to all areas covered in PODI14009 until the end of year 4 term 1. Based on clinical scenarios, you will be required to discuss and perform aspects of relevant patient management and clearly articulate and demonstrate your knowledge and clinical skills. This will be a closed book on-campus assessment.

This is a real time assessment and there will be no access to generative AI throughout.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Tuesday (3 June 2025) 2:00 pm AEST

The location of this assessment will be made available to you closer to the date.

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Tuesday (17 June 2025)

Results will be made available when grades are released.

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed according to an assessment rubric made available to you via the PODI14009 Moodle site during the term.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
- Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
- Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.
- Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem