

Academic Skills (H002120)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Houwer, Jan

PP05

lecturer-in-charge

Beyers, Wim

PP07

co-lecturer

Van Dessel, Pieter

PP05

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Clinical Psychology\)](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Education\)](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology\)](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology \(Joint Section\)](#)

4

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Clinical Psychology\)](#)

4

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology\)](#)

4

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

4

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Searching for literature, referring to literature, summarizing and critical evaluation of literature, writing skills, scientific integrity, academic use of generative AI models

Position of the course

Academic skills is a basic course in the psychology program. The course provides a basic introduction into a number of core competencies of psychologists that are relevant for both future researchers and practitioners (such as writing skills and critical reflection). The course is taught by experts from three different departments.

Contents

This course consists of two modules: searching for and referring to scientific literature (M1); critical evaluation of and writing about scientific literature (M2).

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Searching for scientific literature using search engines
- 2 Referring to scientific literature according to domain-specific (APA) guidelines
- 3 Summarize and communicate about scientific articles and media reports about science in an accessible manner
- 4 Critically evaluate scientific articles and media reports about science

5 Efficient and structured written communication about scientific theories, results, and problems.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Combination of lectures, response lectures, seminars, and guided self-study. This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Academic Skills

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

- American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>
- Chambers, C. (2017). *The seven deadly sins of psychology: A manifesto for reforming the culture of scientific practice*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691158907/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-psychology>
- Silvia, P. J. (2015). *Write it up! Practical strategies for writing and publishing journal articles*. American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/14470-000>
- Universiteit Gent (2017). *Schrijfwijzer*. <https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/taaladvies/schrijven/herwerk-en-evalueer/schrijfwijzer.pdf>

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through Ufora.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The skillstest is a document written by the student that consists of a report about the manner in which articles about a specific theme were retrieved, a summary and critical discussion of articles, and a reference list in which articles are referred to in line with APA guidelines. Participation refers to taking part in the practice assignments, group discussions, and providing peer feedback.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final score depends on the skills test and obligatory participation in exercises (practice assignments, group discussions, providing peer feedback). The score for

the skills test is determined on the basis of the degree to which the student displays the following five skills: searching for scientific articles (20%), referring to scientific articles according to APA guidelines (10%), writing a summary of (25%) and critical reflection about (25%) scientific articles and media reports about science, writing skills (20%). Each skill is scored on a scale from level zero to level four.

The final score corresponds to the score on the skills test except in the following situations:

- If the student does not participate in one or more of the exercises, the final score is reduced to (9/20) if the score on the skills test is higher than (9/20). Hence, the student will fail.
- If the student obtains a score of level zero for one or more skills, then the final score is reduced to (9/20) if the score on the skills test is higher than (9/20). Hence, the student will fail.

When failing for the first exam period, a new skills test is submitted for the second exam period. The score for the skills test cannot be transferred to the second exam period.