About the online Bridging Course in Physiology and Anatomy

What is the aim of the course?

The aim of the online Bridging Course in Physiology and Anatomy is to enable the student to become an independent learner in the disciplines of physiology and anatomy, by development of an understanding of the functions and structure of the human body. This aim serves either as an end in itself, or as a foundation for further studies in the health sciences. For most students, this course will bridge the gap between studies in the health sciences, and previous studies that did not include Physiology and Anatomy.


Course Fee: $490

After payment is made, a username and password will be requested from ICT. Students will be advised of their username and password via email just prior to the course commencement date.

After the course has officially opened please allow for 2 working days for this process. If you are an existing La Trobe student, please provide your La Trobe email address.

Estimated maximum time to complete the course: 90 hours

These hours include the time required to access the materials for learning and teaching, private study, quizzes for feedback, and the tests and final examination for assessment. This means that a student may need to devote up to 5 to 6 hours per day for 5 days a week to participate in the course. However, students may participate in the course at any times that suit them, provided that they complete all of the assessments before the course closes. We observe that most students are able to complete the course over three weeks.

Enrolment Dates:

Open: Tuesday 22 April 2020  - This is when the online payment link opens
Close: Sunday 17 May 2020  - This is when the online payment link closes

Bridging Course Dates:

Open: Monday 4 May 2020
Close: Sunday 14 June 2020

The Bridging Course will be offered again in December 2020; dates will be advised at a later date on the website.

Who should enrol in the Bridging Course in Physiology and Anatomy?

Successful completion of this course is a requirement for several student groups: graduates whose previous studies did not include physiology and anatomy and who are offered a place at La Trobe University in:

- Master of Health Information Management or
- Master of Occupational Therapy Practice or
- Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) program
- Master of Orthoptics
- Students enrolled in Bachelor of Psychological Sciences/Master of Occupational Therapy Practice prior to commencing the Master of Occupational Therapy studies
A number of Universities other than La Trobe accept the Bridging Course in Physiology and Anatomy as a prerequisite for studies in certain courses in the Health Sciences, such as Master of OT Practice, Pharmacy, Speech Pathology. Please check that the Bridging Course is accepted by the University of your choice before enrolling!

Any student returning to study in the Health Sciences may find that this course is good preparation for returning to formal studies.

Any person who is interested in learning about human physiology and anatomy is also welcome to enrol and participate in this online course. You do not have to be enrolling in further studies at La Trobe University, or elsewhere.

Note: The Physiology and Anatomy bridging course is NOT a pathway into the Master of Physiotherapy Practice

How is the course run?
The course is entirely online. Course materials are posted on the Learning Management System (LMS) for students to work through at their own pace, with materials arranged by topic. Once a topic has been completed it remains available for revision. Formative (practice) tests are used for self-assessment, feedback and preparation for the course assessments. Students will be able to communicate with each other and the course coordinator by means of discussion that takes place in the online Forums.

Refund policy
An application for a refund will only be considered as per the University’s policy for supporting documentation. There will be an administrative fee of $75. Refunds are not available once the course has commenced (as per the course dates listed above).

How is the course assessed?
There are 5 tests, each contributing 10 marks, and the final examination that contributes 50 marks. The tests and examination use Multiple Choice Questions. Students are also required to contribute to the online Forum: this contributes 12 marks. The final mark for the course is calculated as a percentage of the total 112 marks.

Intended Learning Outcomes for this course:
The key learning outcome for this course is to enable the student to become an independent learner in the disciplines of human physiology and anatomy developing key concepts in these disciplines, and the capacity to access and retrieve relevant information, and to learn, interpret and apply this information.
The successful student will be able to:
▪ Learn independently about information and concepts in the disciplines of human physiology and anatomy.
▪ Describe the roles of the organ systems, and explain how these contribute to the maintenance of homeostasis, and to describe physiological responses for survival.
▪ Describe the relationship between structure and function of cells, tissues and organs.
▪ Appreciate that there are individual physiological and anatomical differences between persons, including differences due to a person’s sex, and stage in the lifespan.
▪ Interpret, critique and apply data that describe normal physiological functioning.
▪ Predict consequences of certain diseases or injury on normal function.
▪ Communicate in an informed way about normal physiology and aspects of anatomy with colleagues and clients.
In addition to content related skills, the student will refine other skills, including:
- Interpret and follow instructions about course requirements and expectations
- Mastery of concepts and development of core information in disciplines not previously studied
- Time management computing skills
- Access and retrieval of information
- Communication with peers.

Computer requirements and assistance
The Bridging Physiology and Anatomy course is presented using a Learning Management System (LMS). Information about the LMS, and IT support that is available to help you to access the LMS, is available at: www.latrobe.edu.au/students/it/teaching/lms

Further information is available at: https://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/physiology-and-anatomy/short-courses

If you have any further questions please contact:

School of Life Sciences
Administration Office
E: lifesciencesadmin@latrobe.edu.au