

Title	Describe the human digestive system		
Level	4	Credits	2

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard can describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the structure and function of the digestive system; • the process of digestion; and • absorption and metabolism of substances in the human body.
----------------	--

Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Core Health
-----------------------	--

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Guidance Information

- 1 Assessment note
Evidence generated for assessment against this standard must reflect descriptions and principles in, *Essentials of human anatomy and physiology*, or another current medical text that describes human anatomy.
- 2 Reference
Marieb, E.N. (2017). *Essentials of human anatomy and physiology, Global Edition* (12th ed.). Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson Education Limited.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the structure and function of the digestive system.

Range mouth, pharynx, oesophagus, stomach, duodenum, small intestine, large intestine, pancreas, liver, gall bladder, rectum, anus, sphincters.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The structure of the components of the digestive system is described.
- 1.2 The functions of the components of the digestive system are described.

Range ingestion; digestion – mechanical and chemical; absorption; elimination.

Outcome 2

Describe the process of digestion.

Performance criteria

2.1 The mechanical movement of food through the gastrointestinal tract is described.

Range mastication, deglutition, churning of chyme, peristalsis, sphincter control.

2.2 The conversion of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats into digestive end products is described.

Range glucose, amino acids, fatty acids, glycerol.

Outcome 3

Describe absorption and metabolism of substances in the human body.

Performance criteria

3.1 The sites of absorption of substances are identified.

Range substances – water, glucose, fatty acids, amino acids, alcohol, drugs, vitamins, minerals.

3.2 The metabolism of absorbed substances by uptake, storage, and use is described.

Range glucose, fatty acids, amino acids; substances stored in the liver (glycogen, vitamins).

Planned review date	31 December 2026
----------------------------	------------------

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	23 October 1998	31 December 2012
Review	2	26 May 2004	31 December 2012
Review	3	20 March 2008	31 December 2012
Review	4	20 September 2012	31 December 2023
Rollover and Revision	5	26 September 2019	31 December 2023
Review	6	30 September 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.