

Title	Describe the special senses of the human body		
Level	4	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard can describe the structure and function of the human ear, eye, nose, and tongue.
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Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Core Health
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Available grade	Achieved
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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 Definition
Special senses are those senses that have a specialised organ devoted to them. They are vision, hearing and balance, smell, and taste.
- 3 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 human ear.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The structure and functions of the parts of the human ear are described.
Range external ear, middle ear, inner ear, vestibulocochlear nerve.
- 1.2 The functional process of hearing is described.
Range sound waves, tympanic membrane, ossicles, oval window, spiral organ/organ of Corti, vestibulocochlear nerve.

1.3 The role of the ear in maintenance of balance is described.

Range static equilibrium, dynamic equilibrium.

Outcome 2

Describe the structure and function of the human eye.

Performance criteria

2.1 The structure and functions of the parts of the human eye are described.

Range sclera, cornea, choroid, ciliary body, iris, lens, retina, interior of eyeball, optic nerve.

2.2 The function of the accessory structures of the eye is described.

Range eyelashes, eyebrows, eyelids, conjunctiva, lacrimal gland, lacrimal sac.

2.3 The functional process of sight is described.

Range refraction, accommodation, convergence, rods and cones.

Outcome 3

Describe the structure and function of the human nose.

Performance criteria

3.1 The structure and functions of the parts of the human nose are described.

Range superior nasal conchae, roof of nose, mucous membrane, olfactory nerve endings and fibres, olfactory bulb, olfactory tract.

3.2 The functional process of smell is described.

Range inhalation of chemical particles, dissolving of particles, stimulation of nerve cells, perception threshold.

Outcome 4

Describe the structure and function of the human tongue.

Performance criteria

4.1 The structure and function of the parts of the human tongue are described.

Range papillae, taste buds.

4.2 The functional process of taste is described.

Range areas of taste sensation – sweet, sour, bitter, salty, savouriness (umami);
sensations of taste – cool, hot;
stimulation of nerves; gustatory centre.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
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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
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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.