



Australian Catholic University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Australian Catholic University
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Behavioural and Health Sciences - Discipline of Psychology
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	5 year cycle accreditation site visit
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Arts (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Commerce (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Level 2) Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Level 2) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3) Master of Psychology (Clinical) (packaged Level 3 and 4) Master of Psychology (Clinical)/Doctor of Philosophy (packaged Level 3 and 4) Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental) (packaged Level 3 and 4) Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy (packaged Level 3 and 4)
Campuses	Melbourne and Strathfield
Date of site visit	23 - 26 September 2019
APAC board determination date	17 December 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024



Background and overview

The Australia Catholic University's (ACU) psychology programs were last reviewed by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council in 2014 at which time the programs offered across Melbourne, Strathfield and Brisbane campuses were accredited for a period of five years. A decision was made to discontinue all of the psychology programs at the Brisbane campus in 2018 and all are currently being taught out. This report pertains to the psychology programs offered on the Melbourne and Strathfield campuses only.

Since the previous accreditation, the former School of Psychology has been merged with a number of other schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences to form the School of Behavioural and Health Sciences. The former head of the School of Psychology is now the Head of the Psychology Discipline within the new School. Both of the current Deputy Heads of School are from the Psychology discipline and line manage the psychology staff. There has been a comprehensive review of the Masters programs which has led to the decision to discontinue all of the current units in the Master of Professional Psychology, embed six of the eight units within the Master of Clinical Psychology from 2020 and create a new Research Capstone Experience unit. This means that although there are some criteria that are not met by the current Master of Professional Psychology, it is recognised that planning has already been undertaken to ensure that those criteria are met from 2020.

An APAC Assessment Team conducted a site visit on 23-25 September to the Melbourne campus, and 26 September to the Strathfield campus. The Assessment Team reviewed ACU's application against the Accreditations Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the team's teleconference of 3 September 2019.

During the visit the Assessment Team conducted interviews with a range of stakeholders, including:

- Head of the AOU
- Head of School, and Deputy Head of School (Strathfield campus)
- National Undergraduate coordinator and teaching staff at both campuses
- 4th year coordinator and teaching staff at both campuses
- Master of Professional Psychology coordinator, teaching staff and fieldwork supervisors
- Master of Clinical Psychology coordinator, teaching staff, and fieldwork supervisors at both campuses
- Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology coordinator, teaching staff and fieldwork supervisors
- Undergraduate, fourth year, and Master of Professional Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Educational and Developmental Psychology students

The Assessment Team toured the teaching facilities located at ACU and inspected the test library and psychology clinic at both Melbourne and Strathfield campuses.

Following the site visit the Assessment Team was provided with additional information including:

- Unit units for the current Master of Professional Psychology and mapping of Level 3 and Level 4 graduate competencies in the current versions of the programs.



Key findings

Evidence provided and discussions with stakeholders at the site visit supported that the psychology programs at ACU are highly regarded for the quality of the teaching and learning, and the support provided to students by staff due to the size of the cohort and the staff's commitment to delivering excellent experiences to students. The programs are clearly based on a scientist-practitioner model and include appropriate reference to ethical codes, in addition to being grounded in the unique context of the Catholic ethos of the university. There appears to be a good focus on working with diversity, although not as specific a focus on cultural competency with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as required to be evidenced. The Discipline of Psychology is well resourced in terms of staff and physical resources, including teaching and learning spaces, online resources, psychology test library resources, and a clinic on each campus to support practical training for students. The academic governance processes for the review and renewal of the curriculum and mechanisms for seeking and incorporating feedback from a variety of stakeholders impressed as being particularly strong. There are also well-developed processes in place for ensuring the consistency of teaching, learning and assessment across campuses. There are some tensions between the needs of the Level 3 and packaged Level 3 and 4 programs in Clinical and Educational and Developmental Psychology programs which impact the focus of some aspects of the programs, however overall these appear to be managed well to ensure that students are achieving the relevant graduate competencies.



APAC Board determination

That the following programs at the Australian Catholic University are accredited with conditions from **17 December 2019** until **31 December 2024**:

- **Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws (Honours)** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)

That the following programs at the Australian Catholic University are re-accredited until **31 December 2024**:

- **Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Laws** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Arts** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Commerce** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science/Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Graduate Diploma in Psychology** (Level 2) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Melbourne)
- **Master of Psychology (Clinical)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Master of Psychology (Clinical)/Doctor of Philosophy** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)
- **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)

Subject to the following conditions:

For the Level 1, Level 2 and packaged Level 1 and 2 programs:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must provide evidence of external benchmarking of the program and assessments by **31 December 2020**.

For the **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Melbourne) program:

By **31 December 2020**:



1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2, and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1, is met, the School must provide evidence of how students are deemed to have met graduate competency 3.17.
2. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study criteria 3.2 and 3.9, and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the School must provide evidence of how the application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice is included as a required learning outcome and explicitly assessed.

For the following programs:

- **Master of Psychology (Clinical)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Master of Psychology (Clinical)/Doctor of Philosophy** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne, Strathfield)
- **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)
- **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)

By **31 December 2020**:

1. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study criteria 3.2 and 3.8, and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School must provide evidence of how cultural responsiveness, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, is clearly articulated as a required learning outcome and explicitly assessed.
2. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study criteria 3.2 and 3.9, and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School must provide evidence of how the application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice is included as a required learning outcome and explicitly assessed.

For the following programs:

- **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)
 - **Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Melbourne)
1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2, and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1, is met, the School must provide evidence of how students are deemed to have met graduate competency 4.5.2 (ii-v) by **31 December 2020**.



Table 1: Summary of findings regarding each criterion for each Standard

Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured					
	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 (Clinical)	Level 3 and 4 (Ed & Dev)
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective					
	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 (Clinical)	Level 3 and 4 (Ed & Dev)
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 3: Program of study	Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies					
	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 (Clinical)	Level 3 and 4 (Ed & Dev)
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support					
	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 (Clinical)	Level 3 and 4 (Ed & Dev)
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid					
	Level 1	Level 1 and 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 (Clinical)	Level 3 and 4 (Ed & Dev)
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met