



University of Southern Queensland - APAC Accreditation Summary Report

Higher education provider	University of Southern Queensland
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology and Counselling
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Out of cycle application of a new program
Programs and level of study assessed	Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced entry) (Level 4)
Campus	Ipswich, Toowoomba
Date of assessment	November 2019
Date of APAC Board Determination	31 March 2020
Accreditation start date	1 January 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024



Background and overview

The University of Southern Queensland's (USQ) psychology programs were last reviewed by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council in June 2019 at which time the programs offered across the Toowoomba, Ipswich, and Online were accredited for a period of five years.

This report relates to an on-paper assessment of the Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced entry) program, that is the equivalent to the 6th year (Level 4) in the currently accredited Master of Clinical Psychology program (packaged Level 3 and 4 Program). The following assessment of the program against the criteria is based on the documentation provided in the application, considered in the context of the existing accredited program. It is noted that some conditions are inevitable as evidence will not be available until students have commenced the program and completed program requirements.



Key findings

The Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry) is a one-year full time equivalent, Level 4 program designed for applicants who have either completed psychology Masters (coursework) degree or held General Registration as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia for a minimum of 12 months. The introduction of the program to the suite of postgraduate programs offered by USQ is commendable to offer a range of training opportunities to psychology graduates and psychologists to meet diverse training and professional development needs. It is evident that considerable planning has gone into the selection process for the course with the aim of ensuring that students are suitable for and committed to the training. The documentation related to the development and assessment of student competencies is very comprehensive and shows evidence of strong alignment to the APAC Accreditation criteria and the Level 4 graduate competencies. It is currently not clear as to how the proposed quantity of placement hours is sufficient to ensure that graduates achieve all of the competencies as it is less than the indicative number of hours. The proposed number of students in the new program is not clear in the application, or through the documentation to the USQ Academic Program Committee. It is therefore not clear how it will be ensured that staffing levels will be appropriate.



APAC Board Determination

That the University of Southern Queensland's **Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry)** (Level 4) (Campus: Ipswich, Toowoomba) program is accredited from **1 January 2020** until **31 December 2024**, subject to the following conditions:

By **17 April 2020**:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.9, and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.7, are met, the school must provide justification for the proposed number of hours of placement to be completed.
2. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.4 is met, the school must provide evidence that there are sufficient staff to support students to acquire the relevant graduate competencies.
3. To ensure that Standard 4 The student experience, criterion 4.6 is met, the school must provide evidence of how equity and diversity principles are observed and promoted in the student experience in the program.

By **31 December 2020**:

4. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criteria 1.8, and 1.10 are met, the school must provide evidence from student logbooks to show that supervision hours are sufficient to enable students to practice safely.
5. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.9, and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.7, are met, the school must provide evidence from student logbooks to show that placement hours are sufficient to enable students demonstrate the graduate competencies.



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

Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Level 4 Standard is substantially met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	Level 4 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 4 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 4 Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Level 4 Standard is met