



Southern Cross University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Southern Cross University
Name of the Psychology AOU	Discipline of Psychology within the School of Health and Human Sciences
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 Exercise Science and Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours (Level 2)
Campuses	Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast, Online
Date of site visit	11 - 13 September 2019
Date of APAC Board determination	25 November 2019
Accreditation start date	25 November 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024

Background and overview

An accreditation assessment site visit was undertaken on the 11- 13 September as part of the regular five-yearly cycle of visits to Southern Cross University. The visit consisted of three days, the first at the Coffs Harbour campus and the next day and a half at the Gold Coast Campus. The visit included meetings with staff, and students, and to inspect other facilities. The psychology programs offered by the Discipline of Psychology, which is situated within the School of Health and Human Sciences is headed by Professor Peter Hassmen, who reports to the Dean of the School. The discipline offers a range of undergraduate programs that include a major in psychology and these are offered on both campuses.

The Assessment Team reviewed Southern Cross University's application for accreditation against the Accreditations Standards, using evidence obtained from the application, its appendices, SCU's website, additional information provided by the applicant, and information obtained during the course of the visit.

During the visit the Assessment Team met with:

- Professor Peter Hassmen, Professor of Psychology and Science Group Lead
- Professor Iain Graham, Dean and Head of School of Health and Human Sciences
- The program coordinators and staff teaching in the various programs
- Twenty-Three undergraduate students
- Twenty Honours students
- Five members of the Administrative staff.

The Assessment Team toured the psychology related facilities located at Southern Cross University campuses (Coffs Harbour and Gold Coast).



Key findings

This assessment found SCU staff provide excellent support to their students. The new Gold coast campus is well located and as this campus expands in student numbers there will need to be consideration given to moderation and consistency between the experience for the students with that of the Coffs Harbour campus. A further challenge of the Gold coast campus is mentoring and support for Gold Coast staff. With regard to the SCU programs inclusion of all aspects of program learning outcomes, graduate competencies (at Level 2) and assessments need to be evidenced. Specifically, the inclusion of cultural responsiveness in learning outcomes and assessment needs addressing. Further work needs to be carried out on processes to include external input and benchmarking are undertaken and evidenced.

APAC Board determination

That the following programs at Southern Cross University are re-accredited until **31 December 2024**.

- **Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast, Online)
- **Bachelor of Exercise Science and Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours** (Level 2) (Campus: Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast)

Subject to the following conditions:

By 1 June 2020:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.2 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that the education provider holds students and staff to high levels of ethical and professional conduct including in relation to applicable code(s) of conduct for the psychology profession.
2. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that quality improvement processes use student evaluations of the programs and internal and external academic and professional peer review, including external benchmarking where programs and assessments may be compared to those offered by other providers.
3. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.3 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that there is relevant external and internal input into the design and management of the programs, including from representatives of the psychology profession, academic staff, professional psychology staff, prospective employers and students.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that program learning outcomes incorporate all graduate competencies for the relevant level(s) and form a coherent body of learning.
5. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.5 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that all programs have the learning and assessment resources to sustain the quality of education that is required to ensure the achievement of the program learning outcomes across all delivery sites and modalities.
6. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.8 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that cultural responsiveness, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, is appropriately integrated within the program and clearly articulated as a required learning outcome.
7. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that the scope of assessment covers all program learning outcomes which include all graduate competencies for the relevant levels.



-
8. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.4 is met, the School must provide evidence to APAC that program management, coordination, and moderation procedures ensure consistent and appropriate assessment and feedback to students.
-



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

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

Commendations

Southern Cross University is commended for the support given to students at both formal and informal levels. This was a consistent comment made by stakeholders.