

Central Queensland University - APAC Accreditation assessment summary report

Higher education provider	Central Queensland University
Name of the Psychology AOU	College of Psychology, School of Health, Medical & Applied Sciences
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Initial accreditation (out of cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry) (Level 4)
Campus	Rockhampton
Date of assessment	September 2022
Date of APAC Board Determination	28 August 2023
Accreditation start date	1 June 2022
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025

Background and overview

Central Queensland University's (CQU) College of Psychology (College) has two accredited postgraduate psychology programs; a Level 3 Master of Professional Psychology program, and a packaged Level 3 and 4 Master of Clinical Psychology (MCP) program. Both programs are currently accredited without conditions.

The addition of the proposed Level 4 Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry) (MCP-AE) program will enable prospective students to undertake a stand-alone, one-year full time equivalent program of study that will provide students with the ability to become endorsed clinical psychologists, following their subsequent completion of the Registrar program. The proposed program is based on the existing units within the Level 4 component of the currently accredited packaged Level 3 and 4 MCP program and includes 750 hours of psychological practice completed over one internal and two external placements. It is offered for face-to-face students at the Rockhampton campus. Students may access the program if they have been generally registered psychologists for a minimum of 12 months or have previously completed a Level 3 program (including those still provisionally registered).

Key findings

The proposed Level 4 MCP-AE program appears to meet the majority of the *2019 Accreditation Standards*. In most cases, the Standards that are not met relate to processes that are not expected to be in place until the program is operational, and students are undertaking placements.

Several additional areas appearing to require further attention are:

- processes to ensure that:
 - all successful applicants admitted into the program have met all *Level 3 Professional Competencies*, particularly where they haven't undertaken an accredited Level 3 psychology program (e.g., 4+2 trainee pathway candidates),
 - the skills teaching provided is appropriate for a mixed cohort of generally registered and provisionally registered psychologists,
 - informed consent is sought before offering a psychological service by students undertaking external placements,
 - no more 50% of all supervision provided to students uses a group supervision format, and
- confirmation that there is sufficient teaching and assessment of cultural responsiveness in the units used for the Stand-alone Level 4 program.

APAC Board determination

That Central Queensland University's **Master of Clinical Psychology (Advanced Entry)** (Level 4) (Campus: Rockhampton) program is accredited from **1 June 2022** until **31 December 2025** subject to the following conditions:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criteria 1.8, 1.9, 1.10 and Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.6 and 3.7 are met, the College is to provide:
 - i. evidence that appropriate methods are employed to develop the skills of a combined cohort of provisionally and generally registered students to ensure sufficient quality and quantity of practice education to enable practice across a range of settings **by 30 September 2023** (criteria 3.6 and 3.7).
 - ii. a range of de-identified samples of completed student placement logbooks to demonstrate that placement duration and supervision are sufficient, suitably qualified staff provide supervision, and students have sufficient professional practice education **by 30 June 2024** (criteria 1.8, 1.9, 1.10 and 3.7).

By 30 September 2023:

2. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.5 is met, the College is to provide a report outlining the processes that will be used to ensure that external providers have a system in place to ensure that informed consent is sought from all clients receiving a psychological service.
3. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criteria 2.2 and 2.3 are met, the College is to provide an update and evidence outlining processes that have been adopted to ensure appropriate quality assurance and consultation processes.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.8 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the College is to provide evidence demonstrating that cultural responsiveness, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, is taught, clearly articulated, and appropriately assessed as a required learning outcome.
5. To ensure Standard 4 The student experience, criterion 4.2 is met, the College is to provide evidence demonstrating how it ensures students have evidence of attainment of all the *Level 3 Professional Competencies* prior to gaining admission to the program.

By 31 March 2024:

6. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.4 is met, the College is to provide an updated student to staff ratio demonstrating that there is a sufficient number of staff to support the student cohort in acquiring the graduate competencies.
7. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.5 is met, the College is to provide evidence demonstrating that all staff assessing student competencies are appropriately qualified.

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

Level 4 Clinical	
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Standard is substantially met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	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
	Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
	Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Standard is substantially met