

University of Technology Sydney - APAC Accreditation assessment summary report

Higher education provider	University of Technology Sydney
Name of the Psychology AOU	Discipline of Clinical Psychology
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Initial accreditation (out of cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychology/Bachelor of Criminology (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Level 2)
Campus	City campus
Date of assessment	May 2023
Date of APAC Determination	30 October 2023
Accreditation start date	1 June 2023
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) initial accreditation assessment following a submission by the University of Technology Sydney's (UTS) Discipline of Clinical Psychology (Discipline) for the accreditation of the Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1), Bachelor of Psychology/Bachelor of Criminology (Level 1), Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (packaged Level 1 and 2) and Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Level 2) programs.

Other undergraduate programs offered by UTS's Discipline of Clinical Psychology are the UTS Online Level 1 Graduate Diploma in Psychology (bridging) and Level 2 Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Advanced) delivered in partnership with Keypath Education. Both programs are accredited until 31 December 2024.

Conditions imposed at the time of accreditation related to *Foundational Competency 1.5*, specifically the teaching and assessment of interpersonal skills and teamwork (criteria 3.5 and 3.6), staffing (criteria 1.7, 3.3 and 5.5), teaching support to assist the student cohort in acquiring *Level 2 Pre-Professional Competencies* for the Level 2 program (criterion 3.4), benchmarking (criterion 2.2), and assessment (criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4).

The proposed Level 1, packaged Level 1 and 2 and Level 2 programs are the first undergraduate programs offered on city campus by the Discipline commenced in Feb 2023.

Key findings

The Level 1 programs comprise of ten psychology core units (60 credit points) and four compulsory sub-major psychology units (24 credit points). The undergraduate program aimed to equip graduates with broad and coherent knowledge and skills in the scientific discipline of psychology with synchronous and asynchronous activities (e.g., face-to-face lectures and tutorials, online discussions, and activities). The program is well-designed with some innovative assessment tasks. More importantly, there was clear integration of contemporary content, including cultural responsiveness in the curriculum and assessments.

The Level 2 component of the packaged Level 1 and 2, and Level 2 programs consists of six psychology units, with a double-weighted research project unit (48 credit points) and has a focus on developing practice-ready health professionals aligned with the UTS Faculty of Health's vision.

The academic governance, curriculum design, student support and assessment plans are mostly satisfactory. The proposed programs meet most of the Accreditation Standards, except for those that are related to the appointment of new staff and assessments that are yet to be implemented.

The strengths of the programs include their contemporary teaching pedagogy, with an emphasis on practice-oriented and research-based learning. The effort to integrate indigenous content in the curriculum is apparent and the Discipline should be commended for this. Some of the assessment tasks seem to be unconventional but innovative and will provide students with a new experience. The inclusion of diverse stakeholders and advisors both internal and external to the university adds to the contemporary and practice-oriented focus of the curriculum.

APAC determination

That the following programs at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are accredited from **1 June 2023** until **31 December 2024**:

- **Bachelor of Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: City campus)
- **Bachelor of Psychology/Bachelor of Criminology** (Level 1) (Campus: City campus)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (packaged Level 1 and 2) (Campus: City campus)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: City campus)

Subject to the following conditions:

By **31 December 2023**:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.7, Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.3, 3.4 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.5 are met, the Discipline is required to provide evidence demonstrating the newly appointed staff are appropriately qualified for teaching, supervision, and assessment duties for all programs.
2. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 is met, the Discipline is to demonstrate appropriate mechanisms are in place to support casual staff for quality teaching delivery and assessment duties.
3. To ensure Standard 4 Student experience, criterion 4.3 is met, the Discipline needs to demonstrate that the accreditation status is prominently and accurately represented on the UTS website.
4. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 are met, the Discipline is to provide evidence demonstrating that the learning outcomes in each program are appropriately assessed (related to Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2). This includes evidence that details:
 - i. criterion-based assessment tasks,
 - ii. moderation practices in use, and
 - iii. a range of de-identified student assessments.

By **31 December 2024**:

5. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the Discipline is to provide evidence of benchmarking activities being conducted.

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

	Level 1	Level 1 & 2	Level 2
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured		
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	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	Standard is substantially met	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	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		
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid		
	Standard is not met	Standard is not met	Standard is not met

Commendations

A commendation refers to a particularly significant achievement by the education provider regarding the programs.

The Discipline of Clinical Psychology at University of Technology Sydney is commended for:

1. the integration of cultural responsiveness into the program and unit learning outcomes seems thoughtful and contemporary.
2. the composition of the Industry Advisory Board is broad and inclusive, showing genuine effort in seeking external input from key stakeholders.
3. comprehensive submission for initial assessment with most of the required evidence.