Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)

Accreditation Assessment Summary Report Curtin University

Last updated: 21 October 2026

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Curtin University – 2023 to 2027 Cycle

Higher education provider	Curtin University (Curtin)
Academic organisational unit (AOU)	Discipline of Psychology, Curtin School of Population Health
Campus	Bentley
Assessment type	Out of cycle initial assessment
Accreditation period	12 October 2026 to 31 December 2027
Accreditation Standards	Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs (effective 1 December 2025)

Assessment timeline

Dates	Assessment activities
09/07/2026	Provider submits accreditation documentation
10/08/2026	APAC assessment team meeting 1
17/08/2026	Provider submits further information
26/08/2026	APAC assessment team meeting 2
07/09/2026	Provider receives draft assessment report
14/09/2026	Accreditation Assessment Committee (AAC) reviews draft assessment report
25/09/2026	Provider submits rejoinder to draft assessment report
12/10/2026	AAC determines assessment outcomes

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) initial on-paper accreditation assessment of Curtin University's (Curtin) Level 3-4 Master of Psychology (Clinical) program proposed for the Bentley campus based on the *Accreditation submission*.

The program has been designed to meet the requirements of a pathway to general registration as a psychologist and eligibility to enter a registrar program to achieve an Area of Practice Endorsement (AoPE) in Clinical Psychology. Curtin University has offered the Master of Psychology (Professional) (Level 3) program since 2015 and the Master of Clinical Psychology (Level 4) program since 2021. The introduction of the combined Level 3-4 program is the result of packaging of the existing Level 3 and Level 4 standalone programs.

Accreditation status

Accredited

The following programs are newly accredited from **12 October 2026** until **31 December 2027:**

Program title	Campus	Level	Sequence	Program status
Master of Psychology (Clinical)	Bentley	Level 3-4	5th-6th year	Accredited with conditions

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Summary of findings

Standard 1: Public safety is assured
Level 3-4 Clinical
✓
Standard 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
Level 3-4 Clinical
Standard is substantially met
Standard 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies
Level 3-4 Clinical
Standard is substantially met
Standard 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
Level 3-4 Clinical
✓
Standard 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
Level 3-4 Clinical
✓
Standard 6: Cultural Safety
Level 3-4 Clinical
✓

Conditions

Further evidence is required to demonstrate the Accreditation Standards are met.

Program	Criteria	Condition	Rationale	Due dates
Level 3-4	2.1, 3.6	Evidence to demonstrate program structure has been reviewed to ensure student experience and workload enable students to achieve the program learning outcomes.	The Assessment Team noted a systematic review within the 300-hour Level 3 placement and a research coursework unit and two dissertation units at Level 4, in addition to the accreditation requirements, which include 750 hours of placement. The Assessment Team found evidence that the student workload exceeds Curtin University's Course Quality Assurance Manual recommended student workload. The team also noted feedback from students in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) Handbook 2026 identified the volume of learning as a concern and may impede students' ability to succeed in the program.	31/03/2027
Level 3-4	2.2	Evidence that all decisions affecting the quality of the program are made in consultation with the Head of the AOU.	To ensure the relevance and quality of Psychology programs, the Head of the AOU must have influence over all relevant academic, financial and administrative matters. Information provided by Curtin indicates that there are occasions when decisions affecting the program may be made without adequate consultation or involvement of the Psychology Discipline Leads.	31/03/2027
Level 3-4	3.2	Evidence to demonstrate a coherent body of learning across the two-year program, including a description of scaffolded learning and that all graduate competencies are incorporated in program learning outcomes.	The Assessment Team did not find sufficient evidence that Professional Competencies 3.17 (psychosocial risk and self-care), 3.18 (digital technologies), 4.2.1 ii (models of health and psychological disorders), and 4.2.2 ii (advanced clinical psychology assessment using tools including psychometric tests) are incorporated in the program learning outcomes.	31/03/2027

Program	Criteria	Condition	Rationale	Due dates
Level 3-4	3.5	Evidence to demonstrate that Curtin has the resources to support Professional Competency 3.18, the ethical and competent use of digital technologies in psychology, for example in relation to the use of digital psychometric tests.	The test library holdings do not show the inclusion of digital platforms for the administration of key psychometric tests. Evidence is required to demonstrate that students can apply Professional Competency 3.18 within the program.	31/03/2027

Monitoring

Monitoring is required to ensure the Accreditation Standards continue to be met.

Program	Criteria	Monitoring	Rationale	Due dates
Level 3-4	3.7	Evidence that students are exposed to a variety of professional practice settings, specifically, a demonstration of how Curtin tracks the diversity of placements for each student.	The submission documentation outlined a range of professional practice settings available for students in this program and states that students will receive a breadth of practical experience across client groups, service settings and modes of intervention. Further evidence was provided to describe the procedures in place to manage student's placement opportunities and how these are allocated. While this information demonstrated a good plan for ensuring students experience diverse placement opportunities, further evidence is required to demonstrate the application of these described procedures. Evidence to be provided with the re-accreditation assessment to be undertaken in 2027.	31/12/2027

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Key findings

The proposed Level 3-4 Master of Psychology (Clinical) program comprises 15 units that consist of coursework, practical placements and research. The curriculum covers *APAC Level 3 Professional Competencies* and *Level 4 Professional Competencies for endorsed areas of practice*.

Based on the proposed plans, policies, procedures and the School's responses to the Standards as detailed in the submission, the program meets the requirements for accreditation; however, further information and evidence is required to assist APAC in ensuring that the program continues to meet the *Accreditation Standards*.

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Recommendations

The assessment team offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement.

- Consider including a statement in the Handbook to emphasise that safety of the public is the paramount principle of the National Law and a guiding principle of the program.

Commendations

The assessment team is impressed by initiatives to support student learning through assessment and to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have a right to work, learn, engage and receive services in culturally safe environments.

The assessment team commends Curtin on the following.

- The Critical Refection and Feedback Tool (CRaFT) used to encourage students to engage with their feedback, understand the feedback in the context of an assessment task, and to consider actions that could be applied to future assessment.
- The substantial work done to address Domain 6 of the 2025 APAC Accreditation Standards as evident in the mature and well-developed response to each of the relevant criteria.

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