



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Australian College of Applied Psychology, School of Psychological Sciences
Date of determination	18 September 2015
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	Bachelor of Psychological Science Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Level 8 AQF) Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science (Level 8, AQF, 3-year sequence bridging) Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology (5 th year) Masters in Psychology (Clinical) (5 th & 6 th year)

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychological Sciences at the Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP) and its programs of study. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Assessment Team Report.

ACAP is a College of the Navitas Professional Institute (NPI), a multi-national education and training company operating in Australia, Canada and the UK. The Psychology AOU (Academic Organisational Unit) is currently one of four academic schools within ACAP, the others being the School of Counselling, Social Work and Vocational Education and Training. The ACAP School of Psychological Sciences is located across two campuses in two different states one in Melbourne and the other in Sydney.

Assessors inspected the computer laboratory, teaching facilities such as lecture and tutorial rooms, clinic and counselling rooms and was able to see and discuss the plans for further development of the School's facilities in Sydney as they prepare for a relocation of premises to Elizabeth St, Sydney, in June 2016. In addition, assessors inspected the Library facilities on the Melbourne campus.

There is an identifiable core of 13.4 FTE permanent staff at the Sydney campus, all of whom are psychologists. There are also currently 10 sessional staff employed at Level A, in the School. The Head of School is a Level E, and the School of Psychological Science meets Standard 2.1.2 regarding name of School in its title.

The Psychology AOU has a philosophy and planned strategies to develop a strong research milieu.

The School does not, at present, have any higher degree students by research. The School intends for the research milieu to be improved further during this next accreditation cycle. Therefore, Standard 2.1.3 (research milieu) is met, but research activity and productivity requires continued monitoring and support.

The staff comply with all the relevant Codes of Conduct that apply and assessment grades with those in the AVCC Grades, and a minimum grade of 50% has been set for students to progress. There are internal review processes for quality of teaching.

Standards for the AOU are all met.

ACAP offers the undergraduate courses above across the two campuses and have appropriate staffing and resources on each campus. Students on the Melbourne campus have an equivalent level of access to all units, courses and resources. There is shared teaching across the campuses and/or units currently offered only at the Sydney campus, as these courses can be completed online by students on both campuses. Students on both campuses receive an equivalent standard of teaching, and are required to meet equivalent standards of academic performance. While the location of the campuses are not geographically close, ACAP staff travel between Sydney and Melbourne to teach and students have direct access to courses and resources at both locations. No postgraduate students are currently enrolled at the Melbourne campus. Standards for Multi-campus institutions are met.

The AOU was established within ACAP in 2009, on the Sydney Campus. In 2013 psychology commenced on the Melbourne campus. The Head of School and the majority of administrative staff are based in Sydney. The Deputy Head of School and one permanent administrative staff member are based in Melbourne. While there are not 8 FTE on the Melbourne campus, teaching is supplemented through distance education methods. The overall student staff ratio is 22:1 and staff participate in both teaching and research supervision. Academic staffing Standards are met.

The School currently occupies two levels (level 5 and all of Level 6) of the building on York St in Sydney, and Level 10 in Lonsdale St, Melbourne. On each campus there is sufficient access to computers containing the psychological software and hardware needed for the programs offered. On the Sydney campus, sufficient counselling rooms with video recording facilities are also available for training and research purposes. Audio-visual recording facilities exist in training rooms and lecture theatres and, although laboratory spaces may not be dedicated, psychology staff and students have access to laboratory space and these are equipped with software needed by the School's programs. All computers that are accessible by students have the full suite of necessary software, email and internet facilities. There is an adequately equipped secure test library on both campuses with appropriate staff and budget available to acquire further tests and materials in the future.

The ACAP library is adequately equipped. There appears to be good administrative, technical and computing support and the library has a substantial budget allocation for new acquisitions. The resources required under Section 2.5 of the Standards are all provided to an adequate standard.

All undergraduate (three year sequence) units are offered on-campus and on-line. Units are presented as three hour lectures and one hour tutorial in a 10 week teaching trimester. All

programs are resourced to the same extent and students can select the learning opportunity that best suits their needs. Unit outlines are provided outlining the content, assessments, textbook details and learning objectives. Materials are updated regularly and all lectures are recorded and uploaded to Echo6. Laboratory training is offered in the undergraduate courses.

All assessments are the same, regardless of the mode of delivery of the unit and are graded and returned in a timely manner. Student evaluations and cross checks are conducted across campuses to ensure comparability of marking standards. Standards for teaching materials and methods: managing the learning process are met.

The School of Psychological Sciences (AOU) received a grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

There are currently two accredited undergraduate courses: The Bachelor of Psychological Science and the Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science (AQF Level 8).

The Bachelor of Psychological Science is a three - year equivalent undergraduate program (Standard 3.1), with content of psychology covered noted as 37.5% for first year, 62.5% for second year, with 2 psychology electives available. In third year, there is 62.5% core psychology, with an additional six 3rd year psychology electives being available. The degree plan indicates that all of the required core areas of psychology are covered in the program. This degree can be completed in accelerated mode across six trimesters over a period of two calendar years. Standards for the undergraduate 3-year sequence are met.

The Bachelor of Psychological Science and Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science (AQF Level 8) received a grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The AOU offers two fourth year programs: a Graduate Diploma of Psychology and a Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours. The two degrees are broadly similar with the differences being that the Diploma has a slightly more applied emphasis and the opportunity to engage in group supervision of a research program. Honours students complete an individual project with individual supervision. The application and assessment of the course reveals that all aspects of the Standards which apply to the fourth year are met including entry standards, length, research methods and professional and research ethics, the research project, and assessment. are met.

The Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) and Graduate Diploma of Psychology a received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

There are currently two accredited postgraduate courses: Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology and Master of Psychology (Clinical). These postgraduate programs are taught on the Sydney campus. The first cohort of students were enrolled in these programs in January 2012, and students have been graduating from the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology since 2012 and the Master of Psychology (Clinical) since 2013.

All staff involved with the postgraduate programs are psychologists and those involved with the Master of Psychology (Clinical) are endorsed by the Psychology Board of Australia in an area of practice endorsement – clinical psychology.

At the School in Sydney the physical resources are satisfactory, including a well-equipped psychology clinic. There is currently no receptionist in the clinic, but there is access to administrative assistance from the Navitas central pool of administration. There is a small dedicated space for the postgraduate students in both the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology and Master of Psychology (Clinical). However, as the School will be relocating to new premises in Elizabeth St in 2016, it will be necessary to ensure that there is adequate space for the students, and clients as well as appropriate soundproofing in the new building for the psychology clinic.

The assessment team noted that there was one Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee, however there were no industry representative on this committee. The Standards require at least four representatives from agencies providing practical placements and future employers, student representatives from each year of the courses offered, and staff responsible for the courses. Standard 5.1.4 is not met.

The students in the Graduate Diploma and the Masters in Psychology (Clinical) share the same course work units, i.e., the students attend the same lectures in the 5th year coursework units. However, students are separated into different tutorial groups as per the different programs. Students in the Graduate Diploma of Professional psychology are offered the opportunity to articulate into the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program on completion of the fifth year and the School has a process to monitor and assess the students involved in this process.

The team met Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. All students reported being very satisfied with the 5th year of the program, had all met their clinical hours (with both individual clients and through facilitating groups) and the assessors viewed the log books and portfolios, which were all satisfactory. Whilst there is direct observation of students' clinical work, there are currently no OSCE's being conducted in the 5th year of the training in either program. The credit arrangements are appropriate with regard to coursework and research.

Assessors noted that the School has documented clearly how the assessment of the core capabilities is made, and have designed appropriate logbooks and templates for recording supervised practice in the placements. Every student undertakes two placements in the internal ACAP clinic and two external placements. The School has developed a full list of suitable placements in the field for the external clinical placements. The team met with four external supervisors who spoke very highly of the preparation of the ACAP students for external placement, and who were all very committed and keen to continue working with the School. The School has also documented satisfactorily an appropriate process for managing students who may not be succeeding in their professional practice.

The Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology and Master of Psychology (Clinical) received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions as Standard 5.1.4 (Advisor/liaison and quality review committee) is not properly constituted.

The accreditation outcomes are summarised in the attached Accreditation Summary Checklist.



APAC Accreditation Summary Checklist

for use with APAC Standards June 2010 Version 10

Name of Higher Education Provider: Australian College of Applied Psychology

Date of Site Visit: 18, 21, 22 May 2015

Accreditation of the AOU

Rules	Rule Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Section 5 – Accreditation Status	5.1-5.6	✓		

General Accreditation Standards	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
The Psychology AOU	2.1.1-10	✓		
Multi-Campus Institutions	2.2.1-2	✓		
Degree Nomenclature	2.3.1-13	✓		
Academic Staffing	2.4.1-11	✓		
Resources	2.5.1-12	✓		
Teaching and Materials: Managing the Learning Process	2.6.1-14	✓		
Special Arrangements for Offshore Teaching	2.6.15			✓

Undergraduate 3-Year Sequence Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Length	3.1.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5	✓		
Program of Study Content	3.1.6-10	✓		
Assessment	3.1.11-16	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

Undergraduate Fourth Year Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	4.1.1	✓		
Length	4.1.2	✓		
Program of Study Structure	4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content	4.1.4-7	✓		
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8	✓		
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	4.1.16-22	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	4.1.23-25	✓		



Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology (5th Year) Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4		✓	
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Studies	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17	✓		
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.2.1-2	✓		
Length	5.2.3	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.2.4-6	✓		
Coursework	5.2.7	✓		
Practica and Skills Training	5.2.8-18	✓		

Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study – Clinical Psychology	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4		✓	
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17	✓		



Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30	✓		

Authorised:

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Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 18 September 2015