



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Central Queensland University (CQUniversity), Psychology Discipline within the School of Human, Health and Social Sciences			
Date of determination	3 December 2015			
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10			
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	<u>Title</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Mode of Delivery</u>	<u>Campus</u>
	Bachelor of Psychological Science	Undergrad. years 1-3	Internal, Distance	Adelaide Rockhampton Bundaberg
	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Hons)	Undergrad. year 4	Internal, Distance	Adelaide Rockhampton Bundaberg
	Bachelor of Science (Psychology)	Undergrad. years 1-3	Internal, Distance	Adelaide Rockhampton Bundaberg
	Master of Clinical Psychology	Postgrad. years 5-6	Internal	Rockhampton

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the Central Queensland University (CQUniversity), Psychology Discipline 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.

CQUniversity has three campuses. Assessors inspected each of the sites in which psychology staff are based: Adelaide, Rockhampton, and Bundaberg, although as noted later the use of electronic media to teach is very advanced, and the idea of a geographic site is hardly relevant. CQU is to be commended for developing and providing a state-of-the-art electronic teaching and learning system.

The Undergraduate and Honours courses are very unusual in being offered primarily in a Distance mode, with on-campus attendance being offered but rarely taken up by students.

Identical teaching is provided via each campus, including appropriate staffing and resource levels, with equal access to units, programs and facilities, and students are

required to meet the same standards of academic performance with identical assessment requirements.

The level and grading mix of academic staff meet the relevant Standard, including student-staff ratios for the Undergraduate, Honours, and Postgraduate programs.

Given that the teaching is primarily via distance education, the Standards for *Teaching Materials and Methods: Managing the Learning Process* are particularly important. CQUniversity has state-of-the-art on-line learning systems which provide excellent functionality for students and for both academic and professional staff. No off-shore teaching is offered.

All the relevant General Accreditation Standards for the Psychology AOU, Multi-Campus Institutions, Degree Nomenclature, Academic Staffing Resources and Teaching Materials and Methods are met.

The Psychology Discipline within the School of Human, Health and Social Sciences (the Psychology AOU) at CQUniversity received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

Undergraduate programs are three years full-time, or the equivalent in part-time study mode. These programs exceed the required percentages of psychology content at each year level. The Undergraduate programs (comprising 19 units) include a relatively high number of electives, although given that students are required to take 16 units over the three years this does not produce a problem in terms of content 'coverage'. The detailed information provided in the Application for Accreditation demonstrated how the Graduate Attributes are addressed. Appropriate and up-to-date readings and reference material to support teaching is provided within the AOU's excellent Moodle system and practical experience is adequately covered.

The number of assessment items for a unit may appear high, but is appropriate given that a distance model is used, with some assignments being both brief and formative in nature. Assessment Standards are met.

The three-year sequence of psychology programs, the Bachelor of Psychological Science, and the Bachelor of Science (Psychology) received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The fourth year of psychology education is offered in the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) by distance mode, although students have the option of coming onto one of the campuses or study centres. It comprises 100% psychology, and the research component is 50% of the year's work. Entry to the program is competitive and requires the completion of an accredited sequence of psychology and meets the entry requirement Standard.

The program content provides for advanced education and training in cognitive and personality assessments, and in evidenced-based approaches to psychological interventions. It also provides for an explanation and understanding of the general background to the science and practice of psychology. The program content also

provides for sufficient grounding in research methods and for professional and research ethics.

Management of the research reports can all be done by electronic communication. The projects involve an individual research question and subsequent report.

The fourth year Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

There is only one professional program offered, the Master of Clinical Psychology. This is a two year full-time, or equivalent part-time, course. All staff involved in the practical placement supervision are registered psychologists with at least two years full time professional experience as a psychologist.

The Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee meets regularly and is properly constituted with student members from each year. Assessors inspected the resources available for the program including the internal clinic “the Wellness Centre”, the test library, the University library, and the computers and accompanying software. The Clinic is small but well set up to undertake interviewing, and testing and assessment and to monitor by CCTV students’ work.

The clinical psychology staff and students will move during 2016 to a new building housing other allied health students, and general medical practice facilities. This will provide much more space than at present, and will have all electronic facilities to undertake training of clinical psychologists. Standards for resources are met.

Assessors inspected work samples and theses, and were satisfied that the core capabilities and attributes were covered in the detail required. Further review of the work samples, log books, assessments and careful discussion with staff indicates that students were not permitted to graduate without having demonstrated competence in all core capabilities and had a sound knowledge in the area of clinical psychology. Standards for Core Capabilities and Attributes are met.

All students undertake an initial placement in the Wellness Centre (the University psychology clinic) which takes place only after they have undertaken a six week preclinical training program. Subsequently students undertake two other placements in a variety of community/hospital/clinic settings. Administrative arrangements such as the amount of supervision: 1 hour of supervision for each 7.5 hours of placement, supervision contracts, mid placement and end placement reviews are all managed in accordance to the Standards.

The Master of Clinical Psychology received the grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

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: Central Queensland University (CQUniversity)

Date of Site Visit: 6 - 9 October 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	✓		



Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study - Master of 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:

Professor John Dunn
Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 3 December 2015