



**APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report**

<b>Higher Education Provider</b>	La Trobe University, School of Psychological Science
<b>Date of Determination</b>	2 December 2013
<b>Standards Version</b>	Version 10 – June 2010
<b>Programs of Study Assessed</b>	<p>Bachelor of Psychological Science (mixed mode at 3 campuses: Melbourne, Bendigo,( Albury)-Wodonga -----</p> <p>Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours -----</p> <p>Master of Clinical Psychology Master of Clinical Neuropsychology Master of Counselling Psychology -----</p> <p>Doctor of Clinical Psychology [research] Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology [coursework] Doctor of Clinical Neuropsychology [research] Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Neuropsychology [coursework] Doctor of Counselling Psychology [research] Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology [coursework] -----</p> <p>Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Psychology Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology</p>

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychological Science (the psychology AOU) at La Trobe University 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.

The psychology programs at La Trobe University have been in existence for many decades. The School operates from three campuses in Melbourne which is its main campus, in Bendigo, and in Albury – Wodonga, with its activities spreading across several buildings on the Melbourne campus.

The School offers one three year bachelors degree, and a fourth year honours degree of the same nomenclature. It also offers three 2 year coursework masters degrees in clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology and counselling psychology, and six professional doctorates in these three areas. A combined PhD/ Master of Clinical Psychology and PhD/ Master of Clinical Neuropsychology are also offered.

The School demonstrates a milieu of research and scholarship, and most staff are research active, both in regard to publication record and grants.

The three-year sequence, honours program, clinical and clinical neuropsychology programs of study are offered by the School of Psychological Science. The counselling psychology programs however are offered by the Department of Counselling and Psychological Health within the School of Public Health and Human Biosciences in a different Faculty. While the psychology AOU within the School of Psychological Sciences has sufficient academic staff and meets the student: staff ratio Standard for the professional streams, this is not the case for the counselling programs taught from the Department of Counselling and Psychological Health. Hence the counselling programs do not satisfy Standard 5.1.2. Standard 2.1.4 is not met, as the School of Psychological Science (AOU) does not demonstrate it has sufficient administrative control of the counselling psychology programs taught outside the School.

La Trobe University is a multi-campus institution, offering the three-year undergraduate sequence at the Bendigo and Albury-Wodonga campuses. All Standards for multi-campus institutions are met.

The main campus in Melbourne meets all aspects of the academic staffing Standards. The relatively low numbers of staff at the two regional campuses are supported by local casual work and the fact that the School has in place a sophisticated teaching system which uses online and other distance methods, including live teleconference presentations, as well as many staff marking and coordination at undergraduate level across campuses. This ensures that students on all campuses have access to the School's expertise and resources. Facilities at all three campuses were inspected, and the accreditation assessors were impressed by their considerable resources.

The psychology AOU has a considerable complement of administrative and technical staff fully dedicated to its activities, and very little sharing at the Faculty level occurs, except at the two regional campuses where the few AOU support staff will now be absorbed into Faculty wide services.

The psychology AOU has access to the full set of lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and computer laboratories which would be expected to be available in a major university. On the main campus, while some teaching rooms are shared, many are dedicated to the School's sole use, and all are closely located to the main psychology building. All teaching rooms used in the undergraduate program are equipped with digital AV presentation and recording capacity. The teaching rooms used for the programs in clinical and clinical neuropsychology, have AV recording facilities. Teaching rooms and staff areas for the counselling psychology program are located in a separate building. Equivalent resources on the other campuses available for the AOU are impressive, but do not consist of postgraduate professional facilities, since no honours or professional degrees are offered directly.

The School of Psychological Science has a well-stocked and organised test library situated as part of the Psychology Clinic in the main psychology building – but with right of access to all psychology staff and (where appropriate) postgraduate students. Test holdings are fully adequate for both postgraduate professional and undergraduate teaching. Other campus staff can access the test library for teaching and research purposes via courier. A separate small collection of a very few tests are held by Counselling Psychology staff for use by these students.

All students are provided with comprehensive course description material, both in hard-copy form and as part of the online learning management system. Content, objectives and assessments are identical for all undergraduate units delivered between the campuses. Assessment is appropriately designed to fully evaluate learning in all units and assessments are identical for the mixed mode in which the three-year undergraduate degree is only offered.

The three-year undergraduate program is offered only as the degree of Bachelor of Psychological Science at the three campuses.

The core psychology graduate attributes as set out in Standard 3.1.7 are fully covered by the course structure in the undergraduate program as compulsory units – and given the significant size of the psychology AOU, there is ample opportunity to take elective units covering a broad range of areas in psychology, all in considerable depth.

Assessment in all undergraduate units is comprehensive and based on multiple and varied assessment methods. The broadly based nature of assessments ensures that both breadth and depth of knowledge is fully evaluated. While the Bachelor of Psychological Science meets all the three-year sequence of psychology Standards, it received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions as the psychology AOU has received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions.

The honours program is offered in the fourth year Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours in the internal mode and only at the Melbourne campus. It seeks to provide students with a thorough grounding in the scientist practitioner approach to psychology. The honours program addresses the core psychology graduate attributes through seminars, colloquia, on line instruction, assignments and an empirical thesis. Seminars address theoretical and conceptual underpinning of the discipline with a particular focus on the evidence base for commonly used assessment tools and therapeutic intervention. Research colloquia seek to demonstrate links between research and practice. Students have the opportunity to pursue topics in depth in their empirical research and in a major essay. The fourth year program has a strong applied emphasis. Students are exposed to a range of topics focusing on assessment, the therapeutic relationship and evidence based interventions.

Students are well prepared to undertake their honours research through units taught in the undergraduate degree and in the honours unit on Psychological Research Methods. The third year in the undergraduate sequence requires students to complete a group research project which exposes them to theoretical and practical issues associated with research. Students complete an individual research project worth 50% of the year and are involved with all stages of the project.

The School of Psychological Science is to be commended for its development and delivery of a comprehensive on line unit addressing professional issues. While the Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours meets all the undergraduate fourth year psychology Standards, it received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions as the psychology AOU has received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions.

The School of Psychological Science offers professional masters degrees in the Master of Clinical Psychology, PhD/Master of Clinical Psychology, Master of Clinical Neuropsychology and PhD/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology.

For the Master of Clinical Psychology and Master of Clinical Neuropsychology, the three components of the program consist of Coursework (40%), research (30%) and practical placement (30%) and students are required to achieve a satisfactory score in each component to successfully complete the degree. In addition, there are clear links between the three separate components of the program.

The assessors inspected several masters theses and all were of relevance to clinical psychology or clinical neuropsychology and were of the appropriate standard. The research project is an independent body of work, presented as a thesis in the form of a critical literature review and research report of a maximum of 15,000 words in length.

There is no pathway for a Master of Clinical Psychology student to transfer to either the Doctor of Clinical Psychology (coursework) or the Doctor of Clinical Psychology (Research) degrees. The equivalent applies to a Master of Clinical Neuropsychology student.

The Master of Counselling Psychology is controlled, staffed, administered and resourced, as are the doctoral programs in counselling psychology, from outside the psychology AOU.

The Master of Counselling Psychology is an exceptionally well designed, organised, taught and managed degree pedagogically, largely due to the dedication and experience of its staff. Its students expressed high praise for these aspects. Research, practical placement and placement logbook Standards are all met. However, the student: staff ratio for the counselling stream is unacceptably high and Standard 5.1.2 is not met.

Master of Counselling Psychology students are able to articulate into the Doctor of Psychology Counselling Psychology at the end of year 1 of the masters program.

The 3 year degrees of Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Neuropsychology and Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology are the three established professional doctorate degrees which the AOU wishes to retain and reaccredit for the time being, pending new Standards/Regulations. However, there are from this year no new students being admitted. Instead the psychology AOU has devised three new degrees of 3 ½ years: Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Clinical Neuropsychology and Doctor of Counselling Psychology, which are recognised as HDR degrees.

In addition to meeting the Standards applicable to the masters programs of study the doctoral programs consist of advanced coursework, research and practical placement components and thus meet the course structure Standards for professional doctorates.

With regard to the practical placements for both masters and doctoral programs in the three streams, all students receive training in counselling skills, interviewing, assessment, ethics and report writing before they commence their first placement in the Psychology Clinic, or first external placement in Counselling Psychology. All the supervision requirements are consistent with the Standards and the assessors were able to sight logbooks, placement contracts, supervision notes, interim and end of placement reviews for both masters and doctoral students in the three professional psychology streams.

For each of the three professional streams lists of external fieldwork supervisor CVs and qualifications were provided to the assessors, however, there were several anomalies with the paperwork and Standards 5.3.21 and 5.3.23 have not been met for the clinical, clinical neuropsychology and counselling programs.

The assessors were not satisfied Standard 5.1.4 was met for the clinical and clinical neuropsychology programs and have requested the psychology AOU forward minutes of the combined meeting of the Advisory/Liaison Committee for the clinical and clinical neuropsychology programs to demonstrate discussion of both programs is evident.

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 the Higher Education Provider: School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University

Date of Site Visit: 12-15 August 2013

### 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 Programs 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 Programs 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	✓		



<b>Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study – Clinical Psychology Stream</b>	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		✓	

<b>Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study – Clinical Neuropsychology Stream</b>	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		✓	

<b>Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study - Counselling Psychology Stream</b>	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		✓	

<b>Professional Doctorate Programs of Study – Clinical Psychology Stream</b>	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	5.1.9-12	✓		



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	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

<b>Professional Doctorate Programs of Study – Clinical Neuropsychology Stream</b>	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	5.1.9-12	✓		
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	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5	✓		





Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	
<b>Professional Doctorate Programs of Study – Counselling Psychology Stream</b>				
	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	5.1.9-12	✓		
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	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

**Authorised:**

Professor Trevor Waring AM FAPS  
**Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council**

Date: 2 December 2013