



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	University of Canberra, Centre for Applied Psychology																																
Date of Determination	25 August 2014																																
Standards Version	June 2010 (Version 10)																																
Purpose of Assessment	<p>Accreditation assessment of the AOU and the following programs:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Qualification Title</th> <th>Campus</th> <th>Mode</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Science in Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Management/Bachelor of Science in Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Science in Psychology/ Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Bachelor of Laws</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Politics and International Relations/Bachelor of Science in Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours)</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Master of Clinical Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>On campus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology</td> <td>Belconnen/Canberra</td> <td>on campus</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Qualification Title	Campus	Mode	Bachelor of Science in Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Management/Bachelor of Science in Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Science in Psychology/ Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Bachelor of Laws	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Politics and International Relations/Bachelor of Science in Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours)	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Master of Clinical Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	On campus	Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology	Belconnen/Canberra	on campus
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This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the Centre for Applied Psychology at the University of Canberra 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.

Since the previous cycle accreditation assessment in 2009 a number of changes have occurred. Most notable of these are a number of staff changes including a new Discipline Head, and the development of the psychology clinic within a new building (The University of Canberra Health Hub) which also houses training facilities for other allied health disciplines.

The Discipline Head has significant academic, financial and administrative control, and the AOU meets all the Standards for the Psychology AOU.

All of the degrees for which accreditation were sought conform with the relevant Standards relating to degree nomenclature.

The AOU is appropriately resourced with, support staff, lecture, tutorial, and laboratory facilities, the library, and the test library, and the new psychology clinic. Resource Standards are met.

Review of course materials, possibilities for laboratory training, access to staff, and assessment methods indicate that all relevant Standards for teaching materials and methods are met.

The AOU at the Centre for Applied Psychology received a grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

The core undergraduate sequence in all the degrees for which accreditation was sought comprises 13 units, 3 in the first year (37.5%), 4 in the second year (50%), and 6 in the third year (75%) making 54.2% psychology across a three year degree. Together this sequence meets the requirements for an undergraduate sequence. It provides scientific training, laboratory work, and covers the core content areas and graduate attributes. A range of assessments including essays, laboratory reports, in-class tests, presentations and examinations is used. Inspection of assessed work indicated that it was of an appropriate standard.

The three year sequence undergraduate programs of study received a grade of Accreditation Without Conditions.

There is only one 4th Year degree: the Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours). It meets the rationale, entry requirements, and course length Standards and comprises 100% psychology. The course content comprises a 50% thesis, 25% research methods and ethics, and 12.5% psychological measurement, and a 12.5% unit which for 2014 was in counselling, and met the requirement in Standard 4.1.4 dot point 3 (knowledge of the theoretical and empirical bases underpinning evidence based approaches to psychological interventions). However in the documentation and handbook 'Counselling Psychology' is listed as one of three options. In order to meet the full requirements of Standard 4.1.4 it will be necessary to make this unit or some similar unit a compulsory part of the 4th year. Standard 4.1.4 is therefore not met.

Prior to undertaking their research 4th year students were given appropriate grounding in research methods and professional and research ethics. The research project comprises 50% of the years' work, is an individual piece of work which can be written up as either a traditional thesis or as two pieces of work: a literature review and empirical article. It meets the format, length, and assessment Standards. In examination of the thesis there are two examiners: one internal and one external. In addition up to 50% of honours theses are externally audited each year. Review of theses indicated that these were of an appropriate standard.

The 4th year program received a grade of Accreditation With Conditions.

The University of Canberra offers a Master of Clinical Psychology and a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology at the postgraduate level. Both of these programs include the identical fifth and 6th year component of the Masters of Clinical Psychology.

The professional program meets the staffing requirements and student to staff ratios set out in Standard 5.1.2. All staff members listed as responsible for practical placement supervision associated with the Clinical program are registered psychologists and the majority have an endorsement in Clinical Psychology, and one is an endorsed forensic psychologist. Staffing Standards are met.

There is an appropriately constituted Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee which meets twice a year.

The clinic has recently been moved to the Health Hub and although it is an excellent facility which promotes interdisciplinarity amongst several allied health professions (e.g., dietetics, physiotherapy), the psychology Clinic Director does not have dedicated office space in the new clinic but instead shares a room with other health professionals. At the time of the accreditation assessment visit, the video-recording equipment had not been installed and there was not a one-way viewing studio. It was mentioned that many of the supervisors sit in and observe sessions with their students at the beginning of their training in the clinic, which is commendable; however, a swift solution to the continuous and regular recording of students with their clients is necessary for supervision purposes. Standard 5.1.5 has not been met.

The test library holds a wide number of tests and is appropriately supervised. Although both staff and students reported no hardship with regard to the minimum number of cognitive tests available for use by the students the assessors were of the view that this was not sufficient for a clinical program. Standard 5.1.6 has not been met.

The institutional library offers psychology students access to electronic data bases and also computer access and study rooms. In addition, there are other appropriate laboratory facilities on campus for completing the research component.

The forms of assessment used in the professional programs are varied (e.g., oral exam, practice journal, written assignments, case reports) and many have an applied focus appropriate to professional training. Documented evidence was presented with regard to assessment procedures used to assess the core capabilities and the passing grade for students was set at 50%. However, the accreditation assessors noted that progress notes in case files managed by the clinic students did not bear the supervisor's signature, thus highlighting the need for attention to the record keeping capabilities of students as per Standard 5.1.12 (b). Standard 5.1.12 is therefore not met.

The standard of assessment was appropriate and students were particularly complimentary with regard to the extensive and useful feedback that they received on all of their assignments. The assessors sighted comprehensive documented evidence of the assessment of the coursework to ensure sound knowledge of all taught aspects of clinical practice as well as learn about the oral examination process undertaken by all students at the end of the first year of the program.

On site, the inspection of logbooks demonstrated inclusion of appropriate information such as date of session, nature (individual/group), issue(s) covered, and planned action, etc. Although the majority of the logbooks that were sighted had been signed by both supervisor and the students, there were exceptions, therefore Standard 5.1.17 is not met.

The Master of Clinical Psychology is a two year FTE course with 48 credit points. It is not offered in accelerated mode. The Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology course is 4.5 years in duration (FTE) or 9 semesters, and can be completed in a minimum of 4 years of full-time study or part-time equivalent.

The Masters program consists of a combination of coursework (50%), research (25%) and practical placements (25%) and all the teaching is undertaken by psychologists. The Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology has the same course structure for the coursework and a placement component of the Masters program and, in addition, has 4 semesters or 2 years of research, plus 4 separate *Doctoral Thesis in Clinical Psychology* units in the program. Students are required to pass all components of these programs to obtain their respective degrees.

In both the Master of Clinical Psychology and the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology, in addition to the specialist content, and the attention to the core capabilities outlined in Standard 5.1.12, the content specified in Standard 5.3.9 is appropriately covered. The National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce, the management of people and practice management issues and record keeping are covered in the unit on the professional psychological practice. In addition, these topics are also covered in an orientation program prior to placement.

The coursework, practical placements and research components are spread across the two or four and half years in an appropriate manner. A professional workshop model is used throughout the coursework and this is integrated with the research and placement components of the program with an emphasis on theory and evidence-based practice.

The research training that the students receive in the Master of Clinical Psychology is appropriate and the research project must be relevant to the focus of the program. The thesis takes the form of a literature review and a suitably presented article for submission to the peer review process. Numerous publications have flowed from the student projects. Students who wish to upgrade their enrolment into the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology program must follow the University's admission requirements for the PhD degree.

Students complete a total of four placements, two internal and two external placements. Students do complete the requisite number of hours of placement, face-to-face work and supervision. There is a variety of placement opportunities available for students and their practica experiences were reported as being very positive and often lead to employment. Inspection of the field supervisors CVs indicated that they are appropriately qualified to provide supervision. The external supervisors with whom the accreditation assessors met spoke highly of the students and seemed particularly appreciative of the recognition that the University gives through various CPD sessions and access to the institution's library resources.

An appropriately qualified staff member is responsible for the placements and appropriate procedures are in place for monitoring the student's performance. Supervisory contracts are drawn up and require to be signed at the beginning of each placement. However, on-site inspection of these documents revealed that particular attention needs to be paid to the supervisory contracts with regard to ensuring both the supervisor and student have signed these contracts. Standard 5.3.27 has not been met.

The Master of Clinical Psychology and the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology received a grade of Accreditation With 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: University of Canberra, Centre for Applied Psychology

Date of Site Visit: 19-20 May 2014

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 and Doctor of Philosophy in 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: 25 August 2014