



## APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

<b>Higher Education Provider</b>	<b>University of Southern Queensland, Department of Psychology</b>
<b>Date of Determination</b>	<b>15 May 2012</b>
<b>Standards Version</b>	<b>June 2010 (Version 10)</b>
<b>Purpose of Assessment</b>	<b>Accreditation assessment of the Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Psychology</b>

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Psychology (PDPP) at the Department of Psychology, University of Queensland. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Assessment Team Report.

The PDPP is a course designed to meet the needs of provisionally registered psychologists taking the Psychology Board of Australia's (PsyBA's) recently introduced "5+1" pathway to general registration. The course has appropriate aims of providing foundational practitioner training as preparation for a final (6<sup>th</sup>) year of supervised practice in the field, as well as preparing candidates for a broadly-based national registration examination. The program is not offered in external mode.

The diploma as proposed requires a minimum duration of one calendar year at a full time load (a two year part-time track is possible), consisting of 6 coursework units and 2 practica. The PDPP program currently student: staff ratio of 10:1.

The program has been well designed to offer evidence-based foundational training for provisional psychologists seeking to pursue the 5+1 pathway and emphasises generalist practitioner skills. A particular strength of the program is the good integration of coursework and practicum elements. The program has internal supervised practica integrated into the curriculum and all psychologists responsible for supervising the placement activity are registered psychologists with at least 2 years full time experience post-qualification.

There is no student representation on the current Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee, and the committee membership does not include four external supervisors/industry partners so Standard 5.1.4 is not satisfied.

The assessors viewed the facilities available to be used for practical activities conducted on campus and concluded that there was an appropriate resource to satisfy the resourcing Standards. The test library facilities are good, being well organised, having a suitable range of holdings, and being appropriately secured. The visiting team was satisfied that there are sufficient numbers of tests to meet the current needs of the PDPP program.

Entry into the course requires an APAC-accredited 4<sup>th</sup> year obtained within the past 10 years and eligibility for provisional registration with the PsyBA as required under APAC Standards. The Department is clear that there will be no articulation between the PDPP and their MPsych(Clinical) program, and this needs to be explicitly stated in the information provided to potential students.

The course has clear and strong linkages between competency assessments and the required APAC capabilities and attributes to ensure that Standard 5.1.12 is met. A wide range of assessment methods is employed, including essays, case studies, tests, and video recorded interviews. Excellent detailed and comprehensive documentation is provided on placement contracts, reviews, and supervisor rating. The Department of Psychology is to provide APAC with documentary evidence to demonstrate satisfaction of Standard 5.1.14, that a student graduating from the program has met each of the core attributes and capabilities listed in standard 5.1.12.

Policies for ensuring the integrity of marking and other assessment processes, for student appeals, and the University's Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy need to be provided to APAC to satisfy Standard 5.1.19.

The program meets the course structure Standards, consisting of 8 units (each 12.5% of the program), comprising 5 core coursework units, two practica, taken on-campus in either full-time or part-time mode, and 1 elective (either 'Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs' or 'Relapse Prevention'). The program is delivered via Saturday workshops throughout the year, except for the elective, which is undertaken in distance mode.

The assessors noted that the program has involved considerable planning and development towards producing a suitable 5<sup>th</sup> year in the 5+1 model. The application for accreditation was extremely well prepared, with clear documentation for which the University is commended.

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 Institution: University of Southern Queensland

Name of AOU: Department of Psychology

Date of Site Visit: 6 March 2012

### Accreditation of the AOU

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

Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Psychology (5 <sup>th</sup> Year)	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	✓		
Course Structure	5.2.4-6	✓		
Coursework	5.2.7	✓		
Practica and Skills Training	5.2.8-18	✓		



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	✓		
Course 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:** 15 May 2012