



Central Queensland University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Central Queensland University
Name of the Psychology AOU	College of Psychology, School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Re-accreditation and initial accreditation (5 yearly cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Level 1) Bachelor of Science (Criminology & Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Science (Psychology) (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Level 2) Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3) Master of Clinical Psychology (packaged Level 3 and 4)
Campus	Adelaide, Bundaberg, Cairns, Online, Rockhampton, Townsville
Date of virtual site visit	14 - 16 July 2020
Date of APAC Board Determination	19 October 2020
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025



Background and overview

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) last reviewed Central Queensland University's (CQU) suite of undergraduate Level 1, Fourth year Level 2 and postgraduate packaged Level 3 and 4 psychology programs for the purpose of re-accreditation in 2015. At the time of the 2015 review, CQU's range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs offered on campus and online were accredited without conditions for a period of five years.

Since the previous review, CQU has undertaken an institutional realignment and from November 2016, the Department of Psychology and Public Health was formed. An amalgamation of the former School of Human, Health and Social Sciences with the School of Medical and Applied Sciences established the School of Health Medical and Applied Sciences, a School focused on Health. The new structure also brought together two of CQU's areas of strength, Research and Learning and Teaching.

A number of changes to program offerings were made in 2018, this included the accreditation of a dual qualification in undergraduate Psychology and Criminology, a double degree in Psychology and Law, and the expansion to two additional new campuses in Cairns and Townsville. The Department also introduced campus-based tutors for undergraduate programs to provide face to face support to students where a unit is host taught from a different campus, while the Honours program became an online offering. A revision to the second year of the Master of Clinical Psychology program allowed for flexibility in the location of external placements. The Department implemented an online Level 3 Master of Professional Psychology (MPP) program for the first time in 2019, created alternative postgraduate study pathways by offering non-accredited programs and undertook a Discipline and School led process of Indigenising the curriculum.

The Assessment Team considered the Department of Psychology and Public Health, School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences' 742 page self-review, including attached appendices, against the Accreditation Standards. Following the Assessment Team teleconference held on 10 June 2020, subsequent information was requested and received from CQU, including:

- assessment samples for the Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical programs
- Annual Enhancement Unit Reports (AEUR) and Annual Course Enhancement Reviews (ACER) for the Level 1, Level 2 and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical programs
- summary of the benchmarking activities specifically completed with other institutions
- mapping of programs against the APAC graduate competencies
- additional samples of student placement logbooks
- progression data including withdrawals and failures
- register of placement supervisors
- information and data regarding psychology student appeals, grievances and complaints



Prior to the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was provided with a pre-recorded guided tour of the range of available facilities, including:

- teaching, research and treatment centre at the CQU Psychology Wellness Centre located at the CQU Rockhampton campus, the Capricornia College student accommodation and on campus library facilities
- Adelaide Appleton Institute, teaching spaces, computer laboratory, library, Sleep Research and Rail Simulation facilities based at the Adelaide campus
- library facilities, student centre, relaxation room, huddle spaces at the Townsville campus
- Observation Lab, Virtual Reality Lab, Control Room, teaching and collaborative spaces, library facilities, computer laboratory as well as the kitchen space located at the Cairns campus
- resources available in the Professional Psychology Assessment Cupboard located at the Rockhampton campus

The APAC Assessment Team conducted a virtual site visit on 14 - 16 July 2020. During the virtual site visit the Assessment Team interviewed a range of individuals via Zoom teleconference, including:

- Head of Department
- Dean, School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences
- Deputy Dean Learning and Teaching
- Deputy Dean Research
- Undergraduate, Honours, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical Head of Course
- Undergraduate, Honours, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical Unit Coordinators
- Undergraduate, Honours, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical permanent and casual teaching staff
- Undergraduate, Honours, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical students
- Undergraduate Discipline Lead
- Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical graduates
- Honours, Level 3 MPP and packaged Level 3 and 4 Clinical Research Project Coordinator and supervisors
- Clinical Placements Coordinator
- Psychology Wellness Centre Director
- Placement supervisors



- Professional staff
- Psychology and Public Health Course Committee Members

During the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was provided with a live presentation of the Learning Management System (LMS) demonstrating the layout, content, and user interface of the Moodle website.

The findings in this report are based on the Assessment Team's evaluation of the material outlined above and interview evidence at the time of the virtual site visit.



Key findings

The College has a strong emphasis on supporting and developing students in regional, rural and remote communities and responding to the needs of the communities through the provision of unique higher education pathways. CQU's suite of psychology programs are designed and aimed to provide a pathway towards a career as a registered psychologist or work in people-orientated careers requiring a sound understanding of human behaviour. At the undergraduate level, the curriculum for each of the psychology programs aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the scientific discipline of psychology and its applications, and at the Masters level a problem-based and evidence-based teaching and learning framework and student-centric approach is utilised.

At the time of the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team learned that the five departments within the School will soon become four colleges and unlike the current structure, Psychology will sit separate to Public Health. Committee structures are changing due to this restructure and will transition to a college-based model. Associate Professor Burke has since been announced as the Head of College, and the Department is now the College of Psychology. Further planned changes involve a curriculum refresh, including: the provision of professional practice experience and work integrated learning to all undergraduate programs; intentional redesign of the Honours program to provide better preparation for entry into the Masters programs; and, the development of more practical and applied psychology postgraduate pathways to support workforce and regional community needs.

The Assessment Team gathered evidence that indicates the quality and flexibility in online learning and teaching experience has placed CQU well to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The facilities and resources available to students were found to be fit for purpose. The Assessment Team is satisfied that the discipline will continue to receive financial support and the staffing profile within the College will remain adequate and well positioned to deliver a broad range of educational experiences to students.

Throughout the virtual site visit, the Assessment Team was impressed with the supportive and collegial relationships of the teaching and professional staff. During the interview sessions, all staff displayed CQU's ethos of engagement, a 'can do' attitude, leadership and inclusiveness. The College has demonstrated an openness to gathering and acting on feedback from students, with examples of how the program has been improved as a result of this feedback. Well-formed committee structures and mechanisms exist within the College to ensure external input is incorporated into the design and management of the programs. However, there are opportunities to further strengthen the dialogue and involvement of industry and placement partners in the consultative committees.

The Assessment Team identified a small number of opportunities for further quality improvement. This includes the articulation of the educational pedagogy that underpins and supports the overall integration and cohesiveness of all programs. There are also opportunities for the College to further strengthen the Level 3 MPP program by providing students with greater exposure in inter-professional practice education, both in content and assessment. In addition, there may be opportunities to broaden the range of research methodologies that are available for students completing the MPP research project. Evidence gathered indicates that plans are in place for benchmarking and programs would benefit further from systematic and ongoing external benchmarking.



APAC Board determination

That Central Queensland University's **Master of Clinical Psychology** (packaged Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Rockhampton) program is re-accredited without conditions until **31 December 2025**.

That Central Queensland University's **Bachelor of Science (Criminology & Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Online) program is accredited with conditions from **19 October 2020** until **31 December 2025**.

That the following programs at Central Queensland University are re-accredited until **31 December 2025**:

- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Science (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Online)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science** (Level 1) (Campus: Adelaide, Bundaberg, Cairns, Online, Rockhampton, Townsville)
- **Bachelor of Science (Criminology & Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville)
- **Bachelor of Science (Psychology)** (Level 1) (Campus: Adelaide, Bundaberg, Cairns, Online, Rockhampton, Townsville)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Online)
- **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Online)

Subject to the following conditions:

For the Level 1 and Level 2 programs:

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.1 is met, the College is to provide evidence that a coherent pedagogical approach informs the design and delivery across all programs.

For the Level 3 MPP program:

By **31 December 2021**:

1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.9 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the College is to provide evidence that the application of the principles of inter-professional learning and practice are appropriately integrated within the program, clearly articulated as a learning outcome and assessed.

For the Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 MPP programs:

By **31 December 2021**:



1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 and Standard 5 Assessment, criterion 5.1 are met, the College is to provide evidence that all program learning outcomes and relevant graduate competencies (in particular, *Foundational Competency 1.1*, *Pre-Professional Competency 2.2* and *Professional Competency 3.11 and 3.17*) are integrated across the respective programs, taught and appropriately assessed.

As a monitoring requirement for all programs, APAC requests an update on the progress and outcomes of the external benchmarking exercise to be provided as part of the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 annual reports.

Table 1: Summary of findings regarding each criterion for each Standard

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 Clinical
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured			
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective			
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 3: Program of study	Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies			
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support			
	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met	Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid			
	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met



Commendations

A commendation refers to a particularly significant achievement by the education provider with regard to the program.

The Assessment Team have made the subsequent commendations following the evaluation of the program.

The College of Psychology, School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences at Central Queensland University is commended for the:

1. well-formed committee and governance structures
2. values of engagement, a 'can do' attitude, openness, leadership, inclusiveness, and collegiality displayed amongst the academic teaching team and professional staff
3. openness and availability of staff and supervisors and the level of support provided to students
4. commitment to providing access to education to regional, rural, and remote communities and the provision of unique higher education pathways, including those enabled by the Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies program and the online Master of Professional Psychology