



Victoria University - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	Victoria University
Name of the Psychology AOU	Psychology Discipline, College of Health and Biomedicine
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	5 year cycle accreditation site visit
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Arts (Level 1) Bachelor of Criminal Justice and Psychological Studies (Level 1) Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Level 1) Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Level 1) Bachelor of Psychological Studies/Bachelor of Business (Level 1) Bachelor of Sport Science (Human Movement)/Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Level 1) Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Level 1 and 2) Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Honours) (Level 2) Master of Professional Psychology (Level 3) Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) (Level 3 and 4) Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) (Level 3 and 4)
Campus	Footscray Park (all programs)
Date of site visit	3 - 5 July 2019
Date of APAC Board determination	30 September 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024



Background and overview

As a part of the regular five- yearly cycle of visits conducted by APAC, an accreditation assessment site visit was undertaken between 3 and 5 July 2019 at Victoria University. The Discipline of Psychology within the College of Health and Biomedicine offers psychology programs on one campus in Footscray Park.

The Assessment Team reviewed Victoria University's application for accreditation against the Accreditations Standards, using evidence obtained from the application, its appendices, VU's website, additional information provided by the applicant, and information obtained during the course of the visit.

During the visit the Assessment Team met with:

- Professor Jenny Sharples, Head of Psychology
- Professor Karen Dodd, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean, College of Health and Biomedicine
- The program coordinators and staff teaching in the various programs
- Nine undergraduate students,
- Four Honours students,
- Three Master of Professional Psychology students and three field supervisors
- Five Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) students and one field supervisor
- Four Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) students and two field supervisors
- Two members of the Administrative staff.

The Assessment Team toured the psychology related facilities located at Victoria University and inspected the test library and psychology clinic at MetroWest, Nicholson Street.



Key findings

The psychology programs offered by Victoria University appear to meet most of the 2019 Accreditation Standards. Innovative teaching approaches are used, the staff appear to be enthusiastic teachers and there is a strong awareness of cultural diversity. In many instances where a criterion is not met, a major contributing factor is that the relevant criterion differs markedly from the requirements in the old Standards.



APAC Board determination

That the following programs at Victoria University are re- accredited until **31 December 2024**:

- **Bachelor of Arts** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Criminal Justice and Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies/Bachelor of Business** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Sport Science (Human Movement)/Bachelor of Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology)** (Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology)** (Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Footscray Park)

Subject to the following conditions:

For the following programs:

- **Bachelor of Arts** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Criminal Justice and Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies/Bachelor of Business** (Level 1) (Campus: Footscray Park)



- **Bachelor of Sport Science (Human Movement)/Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Level 1)** (Campus: Footscray Park)

By **31 December 2019**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.3 are met, the School must provide evidence to APAC of appropriate administration support for staff.

For the following programs:

- **Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)** (Level 1 and 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)
- **Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Honours)** (Level 2) (Campus: Footscray Park)

By **31 December 2019**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.3 are met, the School must provide evidence to APAC of appropriate administration support for staff.

By **30 June 2020**:

2. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC that graduate competency 2.4 regarding psychological intervention strategies is embedded within Level 2 programs and appropriately assessed.
3. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.2 and 3.7 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC that coverage of graduate competency 2.2 regarding appropriate interpersonal communication and interview skills is included in the program and appropriately assessed.

By **31 December 2020**:

4. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of external benchmarking.

For the **Master of Professional Psychology** (Level 3) (Campus: Footscray Park) program:

By **31 December 2019**:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.4 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC ensuring that organisations providing direct client activities for students have robust quality and safety.



2. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.5 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC that where students provide psychological services to clients and organisations, clients' informed consent is obtained prior to provision of the service.
3. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance and Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 2.5 and 3.3 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of appropriate administration support for staff.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.8 and 3.9 are met, the School must provide a report to APAC clearly articulating them as learning outcomes in the Level 3 program and that they are then appropriately assessed as required by criteria 5.1 and 5.2.

By **31 December 2020**:

5. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of external benchmarking.
6. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.2 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC that graduate competency 3.17 regarding investigating a substantive individual research question is embedded in the Level 3 program and appropriately assessed.

For the **Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology)** (Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Footscray Park) program:

By **31 December 2019**:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.4 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC ensuring that organisations providing direct client activities for students have robust quality and safety.
2. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.5 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC that where students provide psychological services to clients and organisations, clients' informed consent is obtained prior to provision of the service.
3. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.3 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of appropriate administration support for staff.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.8 is met the School must provide a report to APAC clearly articulating it to be a learning outcome in the Clinical Psychology program and that it is then appropriately assessed as required by Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2.

By **31 December 2020**:

5. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of external benchmarking.



For the **Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology)** (Level 3 and 4) (Campus: Footscray Park) program:

By **31 December 2019**:

1. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.4 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC ensuring that organisations providing direct client activities for students have robust quality and safety.
2. To ensure Standard 1 Public safety, criterion 1.5 is met, the School submit evidence to APAC that where students provide psychological services to clients and organisations, clients' informed consent is obtained prior to provision of the service.
3. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.5 and Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.3 are met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of appropriate administration support for staff.
4. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.9 is met, the School must provide a report to APAC clearly articulating it to be a learning outcome in the Community Program and that it is then appropriately assessed as required by Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2.

By **31 December 2020**:

5. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School must submit evidence to APAC of external benchmarking.



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

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



Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3 and 4 Clinical	Level 3 and 4 Community
	Standard is met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is substantially met	Standard is met



Commendations

The Assessment Team have made the subsequent commendations following the evaluation of the Victoria University psychology programs.

Victoria University is commended for:

- The innovative approach of the Block mode of teaching.
- The commitment and student-centred approach of the psychology teaching staff.
- The ongoing support provided to the Community Psychology program, which is the only one in Australia.
- The excellent Psychology Clinic which runs innovative group therapy sessions and provides opportunity for students to work with a very diverse range of clients.