

Cairnmillar Institute - APAC Accreditation assessment summary report

Higher education provider	Cairnmillar Institute
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Initial accreditation (out of cycle)
Programs and level of study assessed	Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling (Level 1)
Campus	Hawthorn East
Date of assessment	December 2021
Date of APAC Board Determination	15 August 2022
Accreditation start date	1 January 2022
Accreditation end date	31 December 2026

Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) initial accreditation assessment following a submission by the Cairnmillar Institute (CMI) for the accreditation of the Level 1 Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling to be delivered at the Hawthorn East campus. This assessment is in the form of an on-paper assessment based on the *Submission for accreditation*, considered within the context of information from the recent re-accreditation review for the suite of psychology programs at CMI, as well as the information provided in the rejoinder to the draft report.

Key findings

The proposed program comprises 16 psychology units that form part of the accredited sequence and eight counselling units. All of the program's units are equally weighted and there is a balance of psychology and counselling training across the three years of the program. The constructive alignment indicates that the units appear to have the potential to address all *Level 1 Foundational Competencies* and will enable students to apply for entry into a Level 2 Honours or Graduate Diploma program.

Based on the programs' proposed policies and procedures and the School's responses to the Standards, the program is expected to meet the *Accreditation Standards*. However, as some evidence is not yet available for review, further information and evidence are required before several criteria can be considered as met.

APAC Board determination

That the Cairnmillar Institute's **Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling** (Level 1) (Campus: Hawthorn East) program is accredited from **1 January 2022** until **31 December 2026** subject to the following conditions:

By **30 September 2022**:

1. To ensure Standard 3 Program of study, criterion 3.8 and Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1 and 5.2 are met, the School is to provide evidence demonstrating that the following competencies are adequately taught, clearly articulated as a required learning outcome and appropriately assessed using criterion-based assessments:
 - i. *Foundational Competency 1.5* (criteria 5.1 and 5.2), and
 - ii. cultural responsiveness, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (criteria 3.8, 5.1 and 5.2).

By **31 January 2023**:

2. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School is provide evidence demonstrating how student evaluations of the programs and internal and external academic and professional peer review, including external benchmarking exercises where programs and assessments have been used in quality improvement of the program.

As a monitoring requirement, the School is to provide

1. an update on the student to staff ratio demonstrating sufficient staffing to support the cohort as part of the 2023 annual report, and
2. a range of samples of de-identified completed student assessments from a variety of units across the program as part of the 2023 and 2024 annual reports.

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

Level 1	
Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Standard is met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	Standard is substantially 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
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
	Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Standard is substantially met

Quality improvement suggestions

A quality improvement suggestion refers to an action or a course of actions that should be considered by the education provider to improve the delivery and/or outcomes of the program.

The suggestions are as follows. It is recommended that the School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy at the Cairnmillar Institute considers assessment tools and modes that might provide greater opportunity for authentically assessing the *Level 1 Foundational Competencies*.

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 commendation following the evaluation of the program.

The School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy at the Cairnmillar Institute is commended for developing a program that combines psychological science with practical skills in counselling to support graduate employability.