



Australian Psychology
Accreditation Council

APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Southern Cross University, School of Health and Human Science
Date of determination	8 December 2014
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	Undergraduate three year programs Bachelor of Psychological Science (internal and external) Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours (internal)

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Health and Human Science at Southern Cross University 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.

Psychology is part of the multi-professional School of Health and Human Science. The Head of the School, who is not a psychologist, explained that a new School structure had recently been approved by SCU, which involved the removal of disciplinary/professional 'Leads' in favour of multidisciplinary 'Groups' with a Group Lead. Psychology is now within the Science Group, although the Lead is not a psychology staff member.

Psychology still appears to have an identifiable core of staff with psychology qualifications and backgrounds but it is without a recognised Head. There is one staff member with an appointment at Level E, but effectively he has not been present for part of 2013 and all of 2014, though he was given a nominal 0.2 fraction appointment. Psychology staff reported that the Professor of Psychology was not in Australia. There has been no Acting Lead for Psychology during this time. The Head of the School assured APAC that the Level E is expected back to SCU early in 2015, but he will not be a Lead for Psychology, since this position has now been disestablished. Further, the Head of the School made it known that all full Professors in the School are no longer to be full-time in their previous disciplinary/professional units, but are expected to work throughout the multidisciplinary School. Hence Psychology has no separate name, is not a recognised academic organisational unit, it has no recognised disciplinary

committee or board in the School or University and has no Head. All organisation required for teaching and assessing psychology has been handled by the undergraduate and Honours program coordinators.

Psychology staff are active in research. There is no recognised psychology Academic Organisational Unit (AOU) and Head of the AOU, to have sufficient academic, financial and administrative control to ensure the provision of a high standard of education. Staff comply with all relevant codes of ethics and conduct.

Standards 2.1.1 – 2.1.2, 2.1.4 - 2.1.6 are not met.

The total number of ongoing and fixed term full-time and part-time staff is 10. Staffing teaching psychology was a total FTE of 8.8 in 2013. There is one staff member at Level E (although only at 0.2 FTE in 2014). There are three Level Cs and one Level D with the remainder at Level B and A. With sessional staff and non Psychology staff contribution, there is a total FTE of 10.5. The student:staff ratio in 2013 therefore was 15.0:1

The degrees being taught out are reducing EFTSLs, but the number of external students has increased in 2014, while total staff FTE decreased, so that the ratio may not be affected greatly in the near future.

Provided a full-time Level E in Psychology is maintained as part of a recognised AOU, all relevant sections of Standard 2.4 then would be met. There appears to be some ambiguity about the role of the Level E, and it is unclear whether in the new School structure Level Es are to be full-time in their respective organisational units, since there is no recognised Psychology AOU. Standard 2.4 is largely met, with the exception of Standard 2.4.4 which is not met.

The core undergraduate three year sequence in the degree for which accreditation is sought comprises 16, 12.5% units, six in the first year (75%), six in the second year (75%), and four in the third year (50%) plus three psychology electives (37.5%) making 187.5% psychology across a three year degree. Together this sequence more than meets the requirements for an undergraduate sequence. It provides scientific training, laboratory work, covers the core content areas and meets the core graduate attributes. However the assessments for the graduate attributes could not be made fully from the insufficient materials made available in the application or to APAC at the time of the site visit. New 'SCU unit reports' provided inconsistent or little relevant information. However, a full table addressing the graduate attributes and consistent unit reports were provided to APAC after the conclusion of the site visit. The three year program meets the relevant Standards.

The fourth year Honours program content is 100% psychology with entry criteria at the appropriate credit level. The fourth year comprises course work and a substantial research project and there are neither placements nor coverage of applied topics or basic skills. The Honours program meets the relevant Standards.

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: Southern Cross University

Date of Site Visit: 23 September 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	✓		



Authorised:

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Chair

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 8 December 2014