



Australian Psychology
Accreditation Council

APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Victoria University, Psychology Discipline
Date of determination	10 November 2014
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	<p>Undergraduate three year programs St Albans campus Bachelor of Psychological Studies Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Arts (Criminal Justice and Psychology) Bachelor of Arts /Diploma in Liberal Arts Bachelor of Science (Psychology) Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Psychological Studies</p> <p>Footscray campus Bachelor of Psychological Studies Bachelor of Psychological Studies/Bachelor of Business Bachelor of Exercise Science and Human Movement/Bachelor of Psychological Studies</p> <p>Undergraduate four year program St Albans and Footscray campuses (first 3 years) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) – 4th year at St Albans</p> <p>Undergraduate 4th year programs Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (Psychology) Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Psychology) Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Honours)</p>

	<p>Graduate Diploma in Psychology</p> <p>Postgraduate professional programs</p> <p>St Albans Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)</p> <p>Footscray Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology)</p>
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This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the Psychology Discipline at Victoria 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.

In January 2013, Victoria University underwent a major restructure. Existing Faculties and Schools were dissolved and a series of Colleges was developed, integrating both Higher Education and TAFE sectors in the University. Within Colleges, discipline groups were constructed and most discipline groups included both Higher Education and TAFE staff. The Psychology programs are offered across two campuses currently, St Albans and Footscray Park. However, in 2015 the majority of these programs will be consolidated onto one campus/Precinct, namely the Footscray Precinct (which includes Nicholson Street and Footscray Park (in Footscray)). A new psychology training clinic is being custom-built in the Metro West building which is in the centre of Footscray and is due to open in late 2014. There will be significant relocation of psychology programs and staff (2015-2016).

The Psychology Discipline is the Academic Organisational Unit (AOU) for Victoria University and part of the College of Arts. It has a recognised Head at Level E who has sufficient academic control over the function of the discipline. Administrative and financial control has largely been centralised and has to be requested. Standard 2.1.4 is not met.

Staff of the AOU are required to comply with the APS Code of Ethics, Victoria University's Staff Code of Conduct, Victoria University Research Integrity Policy, Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the Victoria University Student Charter. However, during the site visit the assessors noted that some of the staff teaching psychological assessment, including administration and interpretation of psychometric tests restricted to use by registered psychologists, were not currently registered as psychologists. This does not comply with the APS Code of Ethics (B 13.6) (see also Standard 2.5.10). Standard 2.1.7 is not met.

The policy and the practice of the AOU are to require a pass grade of 50% in order to progress to the units in the psychology sequence of study. A concern raised by several students during interviews was that some assessments are completed as a group project and each member of group is almost always given an identical individual mark as the other members in their group. In reference to Standard 2.1.9 which states "Grading systems in which any student's grade is dependent on the calculation of a median, aggregation of averaging of the marks of multiple students must not be employed". Students at Victoria University understood the need to

develop and demonstrate collaboration and teamwork skills but voiced concerns about a system whereby their mark was partially dependent on the performance of other students. Standard 2.1.9 is not met.

The Footscray and St Albans campuses are separated by a 30 minute car trip or 40 minutes via public transport and therefore close enough for some students to attend units on both campuses. Most of the undergraduate teaching currently occurs on the St Albans campus together with the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology). Undergraduate teaching in some of the degree programs and the Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) occurs on the Footscray Campus. The University is planning to move almost all Psychology programs to the Footscray Campus from 2015. Students enrolled in the three year sequence Bachelor of Science (Psychology) will remain at the St Albans campus from 2015.

Fourteen psychology staff are currently based at St Albans and seven at Footscray. From 2015, all Psychology staff will be based at Footscray and the AOU will ensure staff are regularly present at St Albans for teaching, supervision and student support.

The student to academic staff ratio across all the programs in the AOU is presently 25:1 and above the required ratio of 22:1. Initial calculations including only employed or contracted academic staff yielded a ratio of 29.6:1 but the inclusion of sessional staff reduced the ratio to 25:1. Standard 2.4.3 is not met.

The AOU currently offers two postgraduate professional training programs. Staffing for the Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) does not meet the qualifications requirements of Standard 2.4.8. The Master of Psychology (Clinical) does meet staffing requirements. The AOU employs a suitable number of Level D and E academics for these two professional training programs. Standard 2.4.8 is not met.

The AOU maintains two test libraries, one at St Albans and one at Footscray Park. The assessment team was unable to verify if both campuses had an academic staff member who was appropriately qualified to have responsibility for the test library. It was evident from course teaching outlines that some staff who were teaching psychological assessment, including administration and interpretation of psychometric tests restricted to use by registered psychologists, were not currently registered as psychologists. Standard 2.5.10 states that “the AOU should be able to demonstrate that procedures are in place to restrict access to psychological test materials to qualified psychologists and students enrolled in assessment and testing units”. Standard 2.5.10 is not met.

Apart from Standards 2.1.4, 2.1.7, 2.1.9, 2.4.3, 2.4.8 and 2.5.10, all other relevant Standards regarding the academic organisational unit are met.

The basic undergraduate degree is 3 years full-time or part time equivalent and double degrees are 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent. The course structure ensures that the first year of the program of study includes a minimum of 25% psychology. Second and third years contain a minimum of 50% psychology with an option in third year of greater than 50% in psychology. Students studying a three year program of study all complete a core of eight units plus a

minimum of two other elective psychology units. Some programs such as the Bachelor of Psychological Science require an additional six compulsory units plus two elective units.

All relevant Standards for the undergraduate three year sequence were met with the exception of Standard 3.1.4 as there was no evidence provided of external moderation processes to compare the AOU against other APAC-accredited AOU's although the internal processes for maintaining standards were demonstrated.

The four year sequence contains the three year sequence plus the 4th year. In the 4th year, Standard 4.1.4 was not met because there was a lack of evidence that there is advanced education and training in the core psychology graduate attributes. In particular, adequate coverage of advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge in some of the core research areas of the discipline was not evident. Standard 4.1.8 was also not met as although professional and research ethics are covered in four 3rd year units only one of which is a core unit, the other three are electives. None of these four units has any learning outcome or assessment linked to professional and research ethics. At 4th year level, it was stated that professional and research ethics are covered in two units, one of which covered "professional and ethical guidelines around psychological assessment" in week 1 of semester 1 and the other unit covering the APS Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines midway through semester 2. Reference was made to "various presentation classes" and to workshops linked to the students' research but the timing of these with respect to undertaking research was not clear.

All other relevant Standards for fourth year courses are met and for the four year sequence, the additional meeting of Standard 3.1.4 is required.

Victoria University currently offers a Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) and a Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) at the postgraduate level. The Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) is offered at the Footscray Park campus of Victoria University and the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) runs out of the St Albans campus.

The Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) does not meet the staffing requirements set out in Standard 2.4.8. There are 13 staff listed who teach into this program yet, from the documentation provided, only three staff are noted as meeting the qualifications requirements of the Standard. Standard 2.4.8 requires that "no less than half of the total staff EFT teaching into this program" must meet the qualifications requirements of the Standard (e.g., be eligible for full membership of the relevant APS College). Standard 5.1.1 is not met.

All staff members listed as responsible for practical placement supervision associated with the Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) program are registered psychologists but the majority do not have an area of practice endorsement in Community Psychology. In addition, there were four staff members listed for which there were no accompanying curricula vitae. Standard 5.1.3 is not met.

The Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology) program consists of a combination of coursework (54.2%), research (25%) and practical placements (20.8%). Standard 5.3.7 is not

met as the practical placement component of the program does not meet the requirement of 25-30% weighting for the practicum.

All other relevant Standards are met for the Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology).

The Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) meets the staffing requirements set out in Standards 2.4.8-2.4.10. The program has a biennial intake of a maximum of 15 students of which two-thirds are full-time and one-third study part-time. In 2015, there will still be approximately 9 students enrolled in the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) which had its last intake in 2014 and is now discontinued. The postgraduate program in Clinical Psychology has a current student:staff ratio of 6.13:1. All staff members listed as responsible for practical placement supervision associated with the Clinical program are registered psychologists and satisfy the qualification requirements of the Standard.

In the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology), in addition to the specialist content, and the attention to the core capabilities, the content specified in Standard 5.3.9 is only partially covered. The management of people, practice management issues and record keeping are covered in the clinical experience units, however, the content related to the National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce is absent from the program. Standards 5.3.9- 5.3.10 are not met.

There was some inconsistency in the documentation reported in the logbooks and some inaccuracies noted in some of the sighted casework and reports (e.g., reports were dated into the future). Standard 5.3.22 is not met.

All other relevant Standards are met for the Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology).

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: Victoria University

Date of Site Visit: 25-27 June 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	✓		



Four Year Sequence Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5 /4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content (Years 1 - 4)	3.1.6-7 /4.1.4-7		✓	
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8		✓	
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	3.1.11-16 /4.1.16-17		✓	
Assessment of 4 th Year Research Project	4.1.18-20	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study- Master of Applied Psychology (Community Psychology)	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 Study	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	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8		✓	
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30	✓		



Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study- Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)	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 Study	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	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10		✓	
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

Authorised:

Professor John Dunn

Chair

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 10 November 2014