



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Western Sydney University
Date of determination	16 th April 2018
Standards Version	June 2010, version 10; Rules March 2014, amendments May 30 2016
Programs of Study Assessed	Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) (Campus: Online)

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) offered online by the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University. This summary highlights selected key features of the assessment.

The existing Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology), 3-year undergraduate sequence of study, taught through traditional (face to face and blended learning) methods and which currently has full accreditation without conditions, will be developed into an online format in a collaboration between Western Sydney University and Online Education Services.

The proposed program sits within a well-established and well-staffed Psychology Discipline which in turn sits within the School of Social Sciences and Psychology. The AOU is led by a senior and experienced academic at Level E who reports to the Dean of the School.

10 Western Sydney University psychology staff (9 full time and one part time) and 3 Online Education Services staff (1.6 FTE) are currently involved in the development of the program and its preparation for online delivery. Seven additional Online Education Services appointments to the program are anticipated (2.2 FTE). The staffing numbers appear adequate, and the proposed enrolment numbers indicate that the ratios are adequate. Further information on how Western Sydney University and Online Education Services staff collaborate to ensure that the program is clearly directed by the AOU rather than Online Education Services (as a separate commercial entity) will need to be demonstrated.

Appropriate grading and quality review processes have been established for the traditional format Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology), and these appear to be largely replicated for the proposed online program.

Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that the conversion of the existing traditional format of the program to an online format replaces the face to face laboratory experiences with appropriate alternatives.

As this program is still under development, most of the section of the Standards relating to teaching materials and methods is difficult to assess at this stage, and a demonstration of how they have been achieved will be required. As well as providing evidence to demonstrate that the proposed online course is appropriately resourced with high quality learning material, the AOU will need to demonstrate that students participating in the online course have adequate access to teaching materials (including unit outlines specifically designed for the proposed online course) and have access to a suitable alternative to face to face laboratory work. Careful consideration will also need to be given to whether a residential component is required for the research units of the proposed course.

Based on an examination of the previous (2016) Application for Accreditation for the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology), the units offered appear to cover the core discipline of psychology and provide a solid foundation in the core graduate attributes listed in the APAC Standards. As this content is being transitioned to an online format for the purposes of this program, a demonstration of how this has been achieved will be required.

The traditional format of the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) contains robust processes for assessment. However, given that the online version of the program is likely to require at least some changes to the assessments undertaken, a demonstration of how this has been achieved will be required.

A follow up site visit may be scheduled once students have commenced in the program.