



University of Wollongong - APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher education provider	University of Wollongong
Name of the Psychology AOU	School of Psychology
Standards version	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
Purpose of assessment	Out of cycle assessment of a new program
Program and level of study assessed	Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) (Level 3)
Campus	Online
Date of assessment	June 2019
Date of APAC Board determination	28 October 2019
Accreditation start date	28 October 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2022



Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation assessment made following an application by the University of Wollongong for accreditation of its Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) in an out-of-cycle assessment. This program is a specialisation of their current Master of Professional Psychology program (currently accredited without conditions), intended for students who have co-sponsorship from the NSW Department of Education. A flexible delivery method is used, including online lectures, teleconference meetings, e-learning and two residential teaching blocks.

This assessment is in the form of an on-paper assessment based solely on the *Application Form for Accreditation*.



Key findings

Based on the application, the curriculum appears to adequately cover the Level 3 competencies, with appropriate assessment tools and strategies. Appropriate policies and procedures were submitted to APAC regarding public safety, academic governance, student experience and assessment.

Based on the plans for the program, the policies and procedures, and the responses to the criteria, the program is expected to meet the *Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs (2019 v 1.2)* and therefore the recommendation is for the program to be accredited with conditions. A small number of conditions relating to the inspection of teaching resources for what is a new method of delivery for the school's postgraduate programs is recommended, as is the provision of logbook evidence for the first cohort of students to show that the required hours of placement and supervision have been appropriately undertaken. It is anticipated that a follow-up site visit may be conducted in early 2020.



APAC Board determination

That the **Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology)** (Level 3) (Campus: Online) program is accredited from **28 October 2019** to **31 December 2022** subject to the following conditions:

1. To ensure that Standard 3 Program of study, criteria 3.5 and 3.6 are met, the School must provide evidence to APAC by **29 February 2020** that the teaching, learning and assessment resources for the flexible methods of delivery are appropriate. It is recommended this occur in conjunction with a follow up site visit at the beginning of 2020.
2. To ensure that Standard 1 Public safety, criteria 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10 are met, the School must submit copies of completed logbooks to APAC by **31 December 2019** for a representative sample of students from the 2019 cohort, showing that they attained their direct client hours, client related hours and supervision hours appropriately.



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

Domain 1: Public safety	Standard Statement 1: Public safety is assured
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 2: Academic governance and quality assurance	Standard Statement 2: Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective
	Level 3 Standard is met
Domain 3: Program of study	Standard Statement 3: Program of study, design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required graduate competencies
	Level 3 Standard is substantially met
Domain 4: The student experience	Standard Statement 4: Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support
	Level 3 Standard is met
Domain 5: Assessment	Standard Statement 5: Assessment is fair, reliable and valid
	Level 3 Standard is met



Commendation

This extension to the existing relationship between the NSW Department of Education and the Psychology honours level course is exciting, timely and innovative, and is likely to be of significant use to building capacity both locally and regionally in the school system.