



## University of South Australia - APAC Accreditation Assessment Report

<b>Higher education provider</b>	University of South Australia
<b>Name of the Psychology AOU</b>	School of Psychology, Social Work & Social Policy
<b>Standards version</b>	Version 1.2, 1 January 2019
<b>Purpose of assessment</b>	Out of cycle assessment of a new program
<b>Programs and level of study assessed</b>	Bachelor of Psychology (Level 1)
<b>Campus</b>	Online
<b>Date of review</b>	January 2020
<b>Date of APAC Board Determination</b>	25 May 2020
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2020
<b>Accreditation end date</b>	31 December 2021



## Background and overview

This is a report of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accreditation assessment made following an application by University of South Australia (UniSA) for the accreditation of the above listed Level 1 program (Bachelor of Psychology) (Campus: Online) in an out-of-cycle assessment. This assessment is in the form of an on-paper assessment based solely on the *Application Form for Accreditation*.

UniSA's psychology programs were last reviewed by APAC in 2016, at which time the programs offered at the Magill campus were accredited for a period of five years.

The 3-year undergraduate Bachelor of Psychological Science (MBPU) program and the various double degrees that also incorporate the three-year psychology sequence were all accredited without conditions. According to the application submitted, the newly proposed Bachelor of Psychology (XBPY) will contain the same psychology sequence as the currently accredited Bachelor of Psychological Science (MBPU).

Of note is that the University of South Australia is undergoing an organisational change process and from April 2020 the discipline of Psychology will form part of a new academic unit entitled 'Justice and Society'.



## Key findings

Based on the application, the proposed curriculum in the online Bachelor of Psychology program appears to consist of an almost identical sequence to that of the Bachelor of Psychological Science. All but one of the compulsory units are offered online (and these have been developed by the psychology staff), however many of the elective 'specialist' units are not yet available in online mode. This reduces the choice the online students. Furthermore, the unit 'Psychology Placement BEHL3027' that appears to be compulsory in the on-campus structure is not available externally.

Despite these few differences, the curriculum appears to adequately cover the Level 1 competencies if it is to remain identical to the currently accredited Bachelor of Psychological Science. However, the application indicates that the "majority of the course development for this new program will occur in 2020" (p47) and that assessment rubrics are not yet available and will be "generated during the course development process".

It will be necessary to review the unit outlines and assessment rubrics when available, if these become different to those in the currently accredited on-campus program. The online units will be delivered by online tutors and it would appear that at least four staff with PhD's in psychology and with teaching experience have been employed as online course facilitators or online tutors.

The main area of concern is that it is not clear whether the units and the assessment in the online program will be identical to those in the on-campus program.

Based on the plans for the proposed program, the policies and procedures and the responses to the criteria, the program is expected to meet the Accreditation Standards (2019 v1.2) and therefore the recommendation is for the program to be accredited with a small number of conditions.



## Recommendation to the APAC Board

That the University of South Australia's **Bachelor of Psychology** (Level 1) (Campus: Online) program is accredited from **1 January 2020** until **31 December 2021** subject to the following conditions:

By **15 December 2020**:

1. To ensure Standard 2 Academic governance and quality assurance, criterion 2.2 is met, the School is to submit evidence to APAC of internal or external reviews and/or benchmarking.
2. To ensure Standard 4 The student experience, criterion 4.1 is met, the School is to submit evidence to APAC that information about learning and assessment processes and requirements is accurate, clear and accessible.
3. To ensure Standard 5 Assessment, criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 are met, the School is to submit evidence to APAC of assessment samples, marking rubrics/criteria and detailed information about moderation practices used.



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

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



## Commendations

The University of South Australia is commended for the School's emphasis on:

- integrating cultural awareness and cultural safety via the UniSA Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and embedding cultural awareness throughout the undergraduate program.
- supporting the online course facilitators with a workload model that encourages engagement in research and/or scholarship of learning and teaching.