



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	University of Queensland (St Lucia campus)
Date of Determination	10 April 2017
Standards Version	June 2010, version 10; Rules March 2014, amendments May 30 2016
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	<p>Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology</p> <p>Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology/Doctor of Philosophy</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Clinical Psychology</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Counselling</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Health</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Organisational Psychology</p> <p>Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice in the field of Sport and Exercise</p>

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology, University of Queensland and its above listed postgraduate 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.

This was an on-paper accreditation assessment of new postgraduate psychology programs. These programs, introduced in 2017, have been developed using units from programs that were assessed during the full accreditation site visit in 2016.

In the accreditation report for the 2016 assessment, the School of Psychology was commended on the use of a hybrid approach to postgraduate training. This approach allows the training of relatively small numbers of students in three areas of practice by having a common core of five coursework units, a dissertation and two generic placements, followed by three area of practice coursework units and two area of practice placements.

The Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology for which accreditation is being sought is the fourth area of practice that will be included in the Master of Psychology. It can also be taken in combination with a PhD.

The planned student enrolment each year is only two students and this will not significantly impact on the staffing arrangements, including the student:staff ratio, that were found to be satisfactory in the 2016 assessment.

The Advisory Committee listed in the application is the same as that contained in the 2016 accreditation application. As outlined previously, the composition of the committee does not satisfy Standard 5.1.4 and also applies to the Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology.

The coursework and placement units of the Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology are the same as those in the Doctor of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology and Clinical Psychology. These units as well as the Master of Psychology were fully evaluated in the 2016 assessment and were found to meet the relevant Standards.

The structure of the Master of Psychology requires all students to complete five common coursework units, a common dissertation unit, with research being relevant to the area of practice endorsement, and two common placements. In addition to this common content, students in the Clinical Neuropsychology stream take three neuropsychology units and two placement units that cover the area of practice endorsement.

Arising from the fact that some of the common units are also offered in the unaccredited Master of Counselling program and the apparent lack of coverage of the National Standards for the Mental Health Workforce, conditions were imposed on the Master of Psychology in the 2016 assessment. Those conditions thus also apply to the Master of Psychology in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology.

The aim of the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice is to provide registered psychologists who have completed an 'approved postgraduate qualification in a specialist area of psychological practice' with an opportunity to meet the academic requirements of another specialist area. Offered within the generic framework of the degree are six areas of practice endorsement – Clinical Neuropsychology, Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Health Psychology, Organisational Psychology, and Sport and Exercise Psychology. These six areas of practice are covered in various postgraduate programs offered by the AOU and the relevant units from those programs are used in the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice.

The stated entry requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice are 'an approved masters or higher degree in psychology or equivalent and current registration as a general psychologist'. These requirements mean that a person who has completed a fifth year program and then one year of supervised practice would be eligible for the program. That is not consistent with the requirements of Standard 5.5.1 which stipulates that to be eligible the applicant must:

- (Hold) a postgraduate professional degree in a specified accredited specialisation' and
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- (Be) 'eligible for ... full membership of the college of that specialization (*sic*)'.

While the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice is a single degree, there will be separate coordinators for each stream. For the areas of Clinical Psychology and Organisational Psychology the named coordinators are neither registered nor eligible for membership of the relevant College of the APS.

In the case of the Organisational Psychology stream there are previously identified problems relating to the qualifications of the teaching staff. Of the five coursework units in the stream, four are taught by staff who are not registered psychologists nor eligible for membership of the APS College of Organisational Psychologists.

The planned student enrolment each year is only six students and as these are likely to be spread across the six areas of practice, this will not significantly impact on the student:staff ratios that were assessed in 2016.

Based on the 2016 assessment of the postgraduate professional programs, all staff involved in placement supervision are registered psychologists with a relevant Area of Practice Endorsement.

The coursework and placement units used in the Graduate Diploma in Psychological Practice were fully evaluated in the 2016 assessment and were found to meet the relevant Standards. The coursework units for the streams in the Graduate Diploma are taken from the relevant professional Masters and Doctoral programs. For Clinical Neuropsychology, Sport and Exercise Psychology and Counselling Psychology the units are the same as those in the respective professional programs. This is essentially the case in the Health Psychology stream as well, with the exception that a restriction applying to the selection of electives means that students are not able to take both the Health Promotion Planning unit and the Health Promotion Implementation and Evaluation unit which is possible in the Master of Psychology.

In the Master of Clinical Psychology, students have to complete six full coursework units, four half units, as well as one full elective unit out of three possible options. Not all of those units can be included in the Graduate Diploma and this has resulted in three core units relating to assessment, ethical practice and clinical skills (half unit) and all three elective options being omitted from the Graduate Diploma. In addition Graduate Diploma students are only required to do two of the three half units that are core in the Masters program. Despite this, the units included in the Clinical Psychology stream do cover the knowledge, competencies and skills relating to Clinical Psychology and as such the Clinical Psychology stream meets the requirements of Standard 5.5.5.

In the case of the Counselling Psychology stream, students take one more unit than they do in the Counselling stream of the Master of Psychology.

As identified in the 2016 assessment report, there is a problem relating to the level of psychology education. Many of the units in the Counselling Stream are shared with the Master of Counselling program which is not an accredited psychology program and does not require undergraduate psychology studies for entry. Consequently, a condition was imposed that required that the AOU 'demonstrate that the psychology units that are double badged with Counselling units are clearly based on a four year foundation of psychology education and consequently are at a sufficiently advanced level of study'.

There are more coursework units in the Master of Organisational Psychology than there is space for in the Graduate Diploma. This means that the core units covering advanced personnel assessment and professional skills development for Organisational Psychologists have been omitted from the

Graduate Diploma and students take only one of five electives compared to Masters students who take two electives. Nevertheless the units included in the Organisational Psychology stream do cover the knowledge, competencies and skills relating to Organisational Psychology.

Students complete three placement units each of which, based on the unit outlines, appears to involve about 250 hours of placement related activities. The first is the initial placement in the Master of Psychology program which has been modified so that students in the Graduate Diploma undertake a placement that is relevant to their area of practice. Thereafter the students complete two externship placements for the stream. These placements are ones that are part of the relevant Masters or doctoral program.

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: University of Queensland

On-paper accreditation assessment 2017

Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Programs of Study	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	✓		



Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4	✓		
Coursework	5.5.5	✓		

Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Clinical Psychology	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4		✓	
Coursework	5.5.5	✓		

Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Counselling	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4	✓		
Coursework	5.5.5		✓	

Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Health	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4	✓		
Coursework	5.5.5	✓		



Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Organisational Psychology	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4		✓	
Coursework	5.5.5	✓		

Graduate bridging program of study: Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Sport & Exercise	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	5.5.1		✓	
Length	5.5.2	✓		
Practicum	5.3.17-30 /5.5.3-4	✓		
Coursework	5.5.5	✓		

Comments:

Additional conditions for Masters programs:

- Advanced level of study (Standard 5.1)
- Have students graduate from the program (Rule 5.2 (c) (ii)).

Additional condition for all Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice programs:

- Have students graduate from the program (Rule 5.2 (c) (ii)).

Additional condition for Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Clinical Neuropsychology / Counselling / Sport & Exercise / Health:

- Advisory/Liaison Committee (Standard 5.1.4)

Additional condition for Graduate Diploma of Psychological Practice in the field of Organisational Psychology:

- Staffing 5.1.1



Australian Psychology
Accreditation Council

Authorised:

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Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

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