



**APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report**

<b>Higher Education Provider</b>	<b>University of South Australia, Magill campus</b>
<b>Date of determination</b>	<b>24 October 2016</b>
<b>Standards version</b>	<b>June 2010 ver 10; Rules 2014 incorporating amendments as at 30 May 2016</b>
<b>Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation</b>	<b>Three year:</b> Bachelor of Psychological Science Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills) Bachelor of Psychological Science (Cognitive Neuroscience) Bachelor of Psychological Science /Bachelor of Social Science (Human Services) Bachelor of Psychological Science /Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills)/Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management)  <b>4<sup>th</sup> year:</b> Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Cognitive Neuroscience)  <b>5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years:</b> Master of Psychology (Clinical)

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology at the University of South Australia 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.

The Psychology AOU is located in the School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy within the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, located on the Magill campus. Professor Kurt Lushington is both the Discipline Head of Psychology and the Head of the School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy. Since the last accreditation assessment the discipline of psychology has grown almost doubling in student numbers with a corresponding increase in staff numbers.

The Head of Psychology is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the discipline, the career development of psychology staff, the curriculum development within the discipline and the research profile of the discipline.

The School has five active research groups recognised by the University. These include the Asia-Pacific Centre for Work, Health and Safety (APC-WHS), The Centre for Sleep Research, The Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, The Australian Patient Safety Foundation, and the Centre for Social Change. The first three of these are led by psychology staff (Professor Maureen Dollard, Professor Carskadon and Professor Ina Bornkessel-Schlesewsky respectively).

In 2014/2015 the undergraduate degree structure was refined to offer named areas of knowledge in Counselling and Interpersonal Skills (Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills)) and Cognitive Neuroscience (Bachelor of Psychological Science (Cognitive Neuroscience)). In addition a new double degree (Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills)/Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) commenced in 2016. A new Honours degree (Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Cognitive Neuroscience)) is due to commence in 2017 and accreditation was sought for this degree. All degrees are nomenclature compliant.

The discipline of psychology was awarded a Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning by the University in 2012 and by the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) in 2013 for introducing work-integrated learning and enhancing student experiences and professional development into psychology undergraduate degrees through nationally-recognised curriculum renewal. In addition The Indigenous Employment Pathways Initiative was established in 2014 and is a collaborative venture with SYC Ltd, youth services division, HYP A (helping young people achieve) aimed at increasing Indigenous employment in the sector and improving outcomes for graduates of the School. The AOU is to be commended for the psychology experiential learning placement as well as its commitment to Psychology and Indigenous Australians.

All of the *Standards* relating to the AOU including degree nomenclature, academic staffing and resources are met.

The three year programs are identical and all meet the *Standards* in terms of course structure, content and assessment although the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills), the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Cognitive Neuroscience) and the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Counselling and Interpersonal Skills)/Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) can only receive accreditation with conditions until students graduate from the courses (Rule 5.2 (c) (ii)).

Both of the 4<sup>th</sup> year courses meet all of the *Standards* in terms of structure, content, research and assessment but the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Cognitive Neuroscience) can only receive accreditation with conditions until students graduate from the courses (Rule 5.2 (c) (ii)).

The Masters course is currently under the direction of Professor David Gleaves. Typically six full time equivalent students commence the course each year. There are nine staff involved in teaching the clinical program. The staff/student ratio is well within APAC Standard 5.1.2. Since the previous accreditation assessment there have been several new appointments and this, along with some re-allocation of teaching responsibilities, has resulted in a team who are clearly identified as staff of the clinical program and whose teaching and research are clearly clinically focused.

A Course Advisory Board meets twice a year. The membership consists of representatives of the Field Placement Supervisors, potential employers and staff. There are 1st and 2nd year student representatives from the course as members of the Advisory Board.

The AOU has a Psychology Clinic housed in a stand-alone building. While the Clinic contains an appropriate suite of interview rooms, the test library and an administrative unit for the clinic, it is small and this limits the numbers of students who may enter the program and the number of clients who can be seen at any one time. There are currently negotiations in place for a larger and possibly multi-disciplinary clinic in the very near future. The clinic is equipped throughout with up-to-date electronic recording facilities including computer resources for conducting e-therapy. All students work with at least one client via e-therapy and this is a very useful adjunct to the placement program.

Assessments of the core capabilities are through a variety of assessment tools including examinations, seminars, case reports, log books and individual assessments. While the range of assessments is satisfactory, it was noted that there does not appear to be any formal OSCEs or other objective measures of student competence. However, clinical staff regularly discuss the progress of students, that is, there is discussion around students' communication skills, skills attained on placement, overall knowledge and interpersonal skills.

Clinical Masters students maintain a log book of all of their placement experiences. These were inspected. While supervisors indicated that they do sign log books every week, several of the log book entries inspected had not been signed by the supervisor. Subsequently, processes have been put in place to ensure that log books are signed every week.

Masters theses are supervised by academic staff within the AOU. The theses inspected and the topics discussed with students indicate that the research topics are relevant to the field of Clinical Psychology.

The first placement is within the Psychology Clinic at Magill. UPAC (University Placement Allocation Committee) organises placements in SA within the SA Government and non-government agencies. As part of this state-based process, all placement supervisors are registered psychologists and endorsed to practice in the area of clinical psychology. A small number of private practitioners also provide placement experiences. The Clinic Director is responsible for guiding students into placements deemed appropriate in order to provide each student with as complete an educational experience as possible. All *Standards* for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year course are met.

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 South Australia

Date of Site Visit: 6-7 June 2016

### 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	✓		



<b>Four Year Sequence Program of Study</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> Year Research Project	4.1.18-20	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

<b>Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study - Clinical</b>	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 Simon Crowe  
**Chair**, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

**Date:** 5 December 2016