

| AQF LEVEL | AQF LEVEL 9 CRITERIA – MASTERS DEGREE (COURSEWORK) | PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES |
|------------------|---|--|
| PURPOSE | The Masters Degree (Coursework) qualifies individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship and as a pathway for further learning | |
| KNOWLEDGE | Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice ▪ knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and or learning | Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will have advanced and integrated knowledge of clinical psychology as required by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) guidelines including advanced knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Psychological theories of aetiology, progression and/or recovery from psychological disorders and their sequelae, including incidence and prevalence, and risk, protective, and maintenance factors. ▪ Developmental systems and biopsychosocial models of health as they apply to psychological disorders as well as the multiple factors that impinge on mental health across the lifespan. ▪ Psychopathology and relevant international taxonomies of classification of psychological disorders including severe, complex and chronic mental illness. ▪ Psychopharmacology, particularly as it relates to complex psychological disorders. ▪ The demonstration of sound understanding of methodological and statistical approaches in psychology that inform evidence- based practice and demonstrate being able to critically evaluate contemporary scientific literature to inform practice across the lifespan. ▪ The relationship of psychology to cognate disciplines and professions (e.g. neuroscience, health, counselling). ▪ How the science and practice of psychology is influenced by social, historical, professional and cultural contexts. ▪ Professional ethics, values, legal, and professional matters and their relationship to practice, self-care. |

SKILLS

Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have:

- cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship
- cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice
- cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level
- communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship

Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will have specialised cognitive and technical skills in clinical psychology and its independent practice to:

- Analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories as applied to the psychological functioning of children and adults.
- Research and apply established theories to clinical psychology practice.
- Convey, appraise, interpret and transmit knowledge of clinical psychology skills and ideas to mental health, education, and other specialists and to the public and consumers of clinical psychology services.
- Employ professional communication skills, in a culturally responsive manner, with a range of socially and culturally diverse clients.
- Integrate, interpret and synthesise clinical psychological assessment data with the knowledge of psychopathology to inform case formulation, diagnosis and intervention.
- Design and evaluate psychological interventions.
- Interpret and communicate findings in oral and written formats, including formal psychological reports, using culturally appropriate language.
- Operate within the boundaries of their professional competence, consult with peers or other relevant sources where appropriate, and refer on to relevant other practitioners where appropriate.
- Ethically design, conduct, interpret and communicate laboratory and field research that investigates a substantive individual research question relevant to the discipline of clinical psychology.

**APPLICATION OF
KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS**

Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will demonstrate the application of knowledge & skills:

- with creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning
- with high level personal autonomy and accountability
- to plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship

Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will demonstrate application of knowledge and skills to assessment, interventions and ethical practice in the area of clinical psychology by:

- Performing appropriate standardised psychological testing, as part of broader assessment, to assess and interpret aspects of functioning.
- Conducting professional interviews and assessments and synthesise information from multiple sources, including assessment of risk, to formulate a conceptualisation of the presenting issues to determine the most appropriate interventions, including management of risk.
- Using assessment tools and processes related to a wide range of psychological disorders, and including psychometric tests, structured or semi-structured interviews, behavioural observations, measures of functionality and processes that enable collection of collateral information from multiple sources, including groups and systems relevant to the client.
- Evaluating psychological disorders with reference to relevant international taxonomies of classification, including disorders of moderate to severe level and complexity.
- Implementing appropriate, empirically supported interventions, and monitor clients' progress and intervention outcomes.
- Monitoring outcomes and modifications based on evolving case formulation, including health and health concerns, family and support networks, and organisational, cultural or community contexts, with care given to the appropriateness of interventions for the client within their wider context.
- Evaluating symptom reduction, therapeutic outcomes, the therapeutic alliance and client progress throughout therapy.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of their professional practice, identifying areas for improvement and implementing changes where needed.
- Selecting, tailoring and implementing appropriate evidence-based interventions on the basis of an initial case formulation, whether individual, dyads or carers/dependants.
- Conducting evidence-based practice in the understanding and management of psychological disorders, including across the age range and across modalities (such as e-health approaches).
- Showing familiarity with legal and professional matters relevant to psychological practice, apply personal moral philosophical positions to novel ethical dilemmas, and practice consistent with the current accepted Code of Ethics for the profession.
- Complete an ethically designed, conducted, interpreted and communicated laboratory and field research that investigated a substantive individual research question relevant to the discipline of clinical psychology.

**ADDITIONAL
PROGRAM LEARNING
OUTCOMES**

Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will demonstrate cultural capabilities and respectful interprofessional practice by:

- Showing cultural responsiveness (i.e. capacity to engage respectfully with members of different cultures).
- Consulting and collaborating with other professionals regarding clinical planning and referrals, particularly in the context of complex case presentations.

Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will demonstrate a commitment to self-care and life-long learning by:

- Practicing autonomously, engage in self-reflective professional practice, taking account of the impact of their own values and beliefs, and taking appropriate actions as a result and commit to continued professional development and life-long learning and self-care.

Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology will have met the registration requirements for general registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia.