



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

HONG KONG SHUE YAN UNIVERSITY

COMBINED PROGRAMME VALIDATION

**DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN COUNSELLING
PSYCHOLOGY**

AND

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PSYCHOLOGY

DECEMBER 2014

This accreditation report is issued by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in its capacity as the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap 592) (AAVQO). This report outlines the HKCAAVQ's determination, the validity period of the determination as well as any conditions or restrictions on the determination.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Hong Kong Shue Yan College, the predecessor of Hong Kong Shue Yan University (the University), was founded in 1971. On 19 December 2006, approval was given by the Chief Executive in Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Hong Kong Shue Yan College to change its English and Chinese titles to “Hong Kong Shue Yan University” and “香港樹仁大學” respectively. In the same year, the University attained from the HKCAAVQ a Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status at QF Level 5 for 14 programme areas. At present, the University offers six QF Level 6 programmes. They were externally validated by the HKCAAVQ between 2010 and 2014.

1.2 Based on the Service Agreement, the HKCAAVQ was commissioned by the University to conduct a combined programme validation exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To determine whether i) the Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology Programme of the University meets the stated objectives and QF standard and can be offered as an accredited programme from the 2015/16 academic year; and ii) the Master of Social Sciences in Psychology Programme of the University meets the stated objectives and QF standard and can be offered as an accredited programme from January 2016; and
- (b) To submit to the University an accreditation report setting out the HKCAAVQ's determination in relation to (a) above.

1.3 An on-site visit took place on 24-26 September 2014.

2. HKCAAVQ's Accreditation Determination

Having due consideration of the accreditation panel's observations and comments as presented in this Report, the HKCAAVQ makes the following accreditation determination:

2.1 Programme Validation

Approval

Name of Operator	Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學	
Name of Award Granting Body	Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學	
Title of Learning Programme	Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology 輔導心理學博士課程	Master of Social Sciences in Psychology 心理學社會科學碩士課程
Title of Qualification (Exit Award)	Doctor of Psychology (Counselling Psychology) 心理學博士（輔導心理學）	Master of Social Sciences in Psychology 心理學社會科學碩士
Primary Area of Study/Training	Social Sciences	Social Sciences
Other Area of Study/Training	Not applicable	Not applicable
QF Level	Level 7	Level 6
QF Credit	Not applicable	Not applicable
Mode of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 3 years	Part-time, 2 years
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2015	1 January 2016
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2019	31 December 2019
Number of Enrolments	One enrolment per year	One enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	6 per year	35 per year
Specification of Competency Standards Based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address of Teaching Venue	10 Wai Tsui Crescent, Braemar Hill, Hong Kong	

2.1.1 Requirements

- (a) The University is to recruit at least one more full-time academic staff member with a doctoral degree in Counselling Psychology. This staff member is expected to be in post by August 2017.
- (b) The University is to submit the curriculum vitae and publication record of this staff member, and any other document that the University may consider relevant to the HKCAAVQ for the fulfilment of this requirement **by 31 August 2017**.

2.1.2 Recommendations

- (a) The University should articulate and clarify more fully the additive and qualitative characteristics that distinguish the Doctoral programme in Counselling Psychology from the Master's programme in Counselling Psychology.
- (b) The University should consider a flexible programme length to accommodate the part-time nature of the PsyD Programme so as to address the needs of those students who fail to complete the Programme in a timely manner.
- (c) The University should articulate and clarify more fully the criteria and standards necessary to achieve a successful thesis.
- (d) In making the required appointment of the additional new staff, the University should ensure that the candidate has a strong publication record in Counselling Psychology research.
- (e) Consistent with the scientist-practitioner model, the Department should make use of the support put in place by the University in establishing a plan to encourage and support staff to conduct and publish Counselling Psychology research in refereed journals.
- (f) The University should ensure that all clinical supervisors are explicitly trained in the theory and practices of supervising students in Counselling Psychology.
- (g) The University should consider recruiting up to four students for the first year of the PsyD Programme.

3. Programme Details

The following are the programme information provided by the operator.

3.1 Programme Objectives

Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology (PsyD) Programme

- Enable trainees to develop a heightened degree of sensitivity to individual and cultural diversity among their clients;
- Enable trainees to develop current knowledge in the skills, techniques, and practices of counselling psychology in the major variations of practices;
- Enrich trainees' knowledge of and experience with using quantitative and qualitative methods for conducting research and completing evaluations;
- Enable trainees to develop skills and strategies to perform assessment and evaluation of clients, programmes, and institutions, acceptable at a professionally recognized level;
- Familiarize trainees with the practice of counselling psychology in areas where most counselling psychologists are employed;
- Make trainees aware of lifespan development issues that can benefit from some type of psychological intervention;
- Make trainees aware of and find solutions for a wide variety of legal, professional, and ethical issues in counselling psychology;
- Provide trainees with ample opportunities to integrate theory and practice, in preparing for clinical practice, and in clinical practice itself; and
- Allow trainees to fully experience the scientist-practitioner model of Counselling Psychology in theory and in practice.

Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (MSSPsy) Programme

- apply for student affiliate or graduate membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society, the American Psychological Association, the British Psychological Society, and other professional associations of comparable standing;
- gain direct entry into any career potentially open to Psychology graduates in both the private and the public sectors; and
- apply for postgraduate training in all recognized areas in Psychology, and in particular, in one of the four areas of applied professional psychology (i.e. Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and Educational Psychology) in an accredited university.

3.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology (PsyD) Programme

- show sensitivity toward and identify the impact of individuation and culture on the practice of psychotherapy in a variety of social and cultural situations;
- demonstrate awareness of important and unresolved issues in counselling psychology;
- perform assessment and evaluation in counselling psychology at an advanced level acceptable to the profession;
- delineate the core concepts of a chosen area in counselling psychology;
- apply quantitative and qualitative approaches to research in counselling psychology, particular in the realm of evidence-based research;
- conduct original research in counselling psychology;
- write a research thesis (under supervision) at the doctoral level on a chosen topic of interest;
- compose a scholarly paper worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal;
- demonstrate in-depth comprehension of the theories, skills and techniques of at least two therapeutic approaches;
- demonstrate competence in providing professional services to clients, including assessment, evaluation, psycho-education, prevention, and intervention ;
- demonstrate competence in providing clinical supervision for students in counselling and counselling psychology at the undergraduate and master's levels; and
- demonstrate awareness of a high standard of professional conduct and ethical concern.

Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (MSSPsy) Programme

- distinguish between healthy and unhealthy approaches to physical, mental and emotional lifestyles;
- apply independent, critical thinking in a team environment;
- describe the origins, systems and developments in psychology;
- critically analyse the biological, cognitive and neurological explanations of human behaviour;
- evaluate the various aspects of the normal and abnormal development of the individual;
- be conversant with the practice of Educational Psychology and demonstrate the ability to use counselling skills in an educational environment;

- demonstrate an understanding of the practice of Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology, and be able to apply rudimentary assessment and intervention skills in counselling and psychotherapy;
- apply knowledge of the salient aspects of Industrial and Organizational Psychology in creating business models and/or critiquing prototypes of human resource management;
- articulate the importance of research in the creation and upgrading of knowledge in Psychology;
- implement principles of ethics in conducting research in Psychology;
- employ a comprehensive toolkit of quantitative and qualitative research skills;
- conduct both quantitative and qualitative research in Psychology so as to facilitate the systematic development of the discipline along both theoretical and practical lines;
- produce an original contribution to knowledge through conducting either a quantitative or qualitative research project in Psychology; and
- pursue further professional qualifications in Psychology on the strength of an adequate academic foundation and practical experience in research.

3.3 Programme Structure

Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology (PsyD) Programme

The Knowledge Dimension	Credits	Sub-total
Culture and Psychotherapy	3	12
Conceptual Issues in Counselling Psychology	3	
Guided Readings in Specific Topics	3	
Advanced Skills in Assessment and Evaluation in Counselling Psychology	3	
The Practice Dimension		
Preparing for Practice: Independent Clinical Study I, II	3 x 2	24
Clinical Practice: Clinical Practice I, II, III	6 x 3	
The Research Dimension		
Advanced Skills in Research Methods in Counselling Psychology	3	24
Research Mentorship in Counselling Psychology	3	
Clinically-based Research Thesis I, II, III	6 x 3	
Programme Total:		<u>60</u>

Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (MSSPsy) Programme

Curricular Element	No. of Courses	Total Credits
Core Psychology courses	7	21
Elective courses in applied professional psychology	2	6
Specialised research courses	3	12
Programme Total		<u>39</u>

3.4 Graduation Requirements

Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology (PsyD) Programme

- To be eligible for the award of the PsyD degree, students are required to satisfactorily complete the full Programme, acquire a minimum number of 60 credits, and achieve a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or above.

Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (MSSPsy) Programme

- Students are required to obtain a minimum of 18 credits in the first year of study for progression and obtain 21 more credits in the second year of study for graduation. To be eligible for the award of the degree, students are to acquire a total of 39 credits and achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.

3.5 Admission Requirements

Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology (PsyD) Programme

- An applicant is expected to possess a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology or Clinical Psychology from a recognized local or overseas university, have earned a GPA of 3.3 or above, and be either currently registered or eligible to register with the Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPS) as a Counselling or Clinical Psychologist.

Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (MSSPsy) Programme

- A Bachelor's degree with Second Class Honours or above from an accredited university in Hong Kong or overseas in an area other than Psychology, and a pass in an entrance examination on

Introductory Psychology or completion of a course in Introductory Psychology at an accredited university in Hong Kong or overseas.

- For a Bachelor Degree attained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, a minimum score of 600 (paper-based) or 100 (internet-based) or 250 (computer-based) in TOEFL or Band 6.5 in IELTS or equivalent.
- An applicant who does not satisfy the normal entry requirements for the Programme may be considered exceptionally on a case-by-case basis.

3.6 Graduate Profile

Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology Programme and **Appendix 2** for the Master of Social Sciences in Psychology Programme.

4. Substantial Change

- 4.1 Maintenance of the HKCAAVQ accreditation status during the validity period is subject to no substantial change being made without prior approval from the HKCAAVQ.

5. Qualifications Register

- 5.1 Qualifications accredited by the HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register (QR) at <http://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the Qualifications Framework (QF). The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.2 Only learners who are admitted to the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification uploaded in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

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Graduate Profile of Doctor of Psychology in Counselling Psychology

Qualification Title	Doctor of Psychology (Counselling Psychology) 心理學博士（輔導心理學）
Qualification Type	Doctoral Degree
QF Level	7
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Programme Objectives	<p>The Programme Objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. enable trainees to develop a heightened degree of sensitivity to individual and cultural diversity among their clients; 2. enable trainees to develop current knowledge in the skills, techniques, and practices of counselling psychology in the major variations of practices; 3. enrich trainees' knowledge of and experience with using quantitative and qualitative methods for conducting research and completing evaluations; 4. enable trainees to develop skills and strategies to perform assessment and evaluation of clients, assessment and evaluation of programmes, and assessment and evaluation of institutions, acceptable at a professionally recognized level; 5. familiarize trainees with the practice of counselling psychology in areas where most counselling psychologists are employed, including mental health counselling practices (agency and private), school-based practices (Primary, Form 1-6 [Secondary], and University), marital and family psychotherapy and vocational psychology ; 6. make trainees aware of lifespan development issues that can benefit from some type of psychological intervention; 7. make trainees aware of and find solutions for a wide variety of legal, professional, and ethical issues in counselling psychology; 8. provide trainees with ample opportunities to integrate theory and practice, in preparing for clinical practice, and in clinical practice itself; and 9. allow trainees to fully experience the scientist-practitioner model of Counselling Psychology in theory and in practice.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the Programme, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. show sensitivity toward and identify the impact of individuation and culture on the practice of psychotherapy in a variety of social and cultural situations; 2. demonstrate awareness of important and unresolved issues in counselling psychology; 3. perform assessment and evaluation in counselling psychology at an advanced level acceptable to the profession; 4. delineate the core concepts of a chosen area in counselling psychology;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. apply quantitative and qualitative approaches to research in counselling psychology, particular in the realm of evidence-based research; 6. conduct original research in counselling psychology; 7. write a research thesis (under supervision) at the doctoral level on a chosen topic of interest; 8. compose a scholarly paper worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal; 9. demonstrate in-depth comprehension of the theories, skills and techniques of at least two therapeutic approaches; 10. demonstrate competence in providing professional services to clients, including assessment, evaluation, psycho-education, prevention, and intervention ; 11. demonstrate competence in providing clinical supervision for students in counselling and counselling psychology at the undergraduate and master’s levels; and 12. demonstrate awareness of a high standard of professional conduct and ethical concern.
Education Pathways	Graduates of the Programme will have accumulated sufficient knowledge, practice and research to confidently identify themselves as experts in their chosen area of clinical practice, and be qualified for admission into and/or registration with major professional groups.
Employment Pathways	<p>Students admitted to the Programme are already recognized and practising counselling psychologists, and an enhancement of their academic qualifications would advance their career opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As counselling psychologists in the private sector; ◆ As counselling psychologists in university-operated counselling centres; ◆ As research assistants in universities; ◆ As teaching assistants in universities; ◆ As instructors in psychology in associate degree programmes; ◆ As clinical supervisors of undergraduate programmes in counselling; or ◆ As clinical supervisors of counselling centres.
Minimum Admission Requirements	An applicant is expected to have possessed a Master’s degree in Counselling Psychology or Clinical Psychology from a recognized local or overseas university, have earned a GPA of 3.3 or above, and be either currently registered or eligible to register with the Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPS) as a Counselling or Clinical Psychologist.
Operator	Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學

Graduate Profile of Master of Social Sciences in Psychology

Qualification Title	Master of Social Sciences in Psychology 心理學社會科學碩士
Qualification Type	Master Degree
QF Level	6
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Programme Objectives	<p>The Programme Objectives are to enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. apply for student affiliate or graduate membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society, the American Psychological Association, the British Psychological Society, and other professional associations of comparable standing; 2. gain direct entry into any career potentially open to Psychology graduates in both the private and the public sectors; and 3. apply for postgraduate training in all recognized areas in Psychology, and in particular, in one of the four areas of applied professional psychology (i.e. Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and Educational Psychology) in an accredited university.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the Programme, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. distinguish between healthy and unhealthy approaches to physical, mental and emotional lifestyles; 2. apply independent, critical thinking in a team environment; 3. describe the origins, systems and developments in psychology; 4. critically analyse the biological, cognitive and neurological explanations of human behaviour; 5. evaluate the various aspects of the normal and abnormal development of the individual; 6. be conversant with the practice of Educational Psychology and demonstrate the ability to use counselling skills in an educational environment; 7. demonstrate an understanding of the practice of Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology, and be able to apply rudimentary assessment and intervention skills in counselling and psychotherapy; 8. apply knowledge of the salient aspects of Industrial and Organizational Psychology in creating business models and/or critiquing prototypes of human resource management; 9. articulate the importance of research in the creation and upgrading of knowledge in Psychology; 10. implement principles of ethics in conducting research in Psychology; 11. employ a comprehensive toolkit of quantitative and qualitative

	<p>research skills;</p> <p>12. conduct both quantitative and qualitative research in Psychology so as to facilitate the systematic development of the discipline along both theoretical and practical lines;</p> <p>13. produce an original contribution to knowledge through conducting either a quantitative or qualitative research project in Psychology; and</p> <p>14. pursue further professional qualifications in Psychology on the strength of an adequate academic foundation and practical experience in research.</p>
Education Pathways	<p>The Programme provides the knowledge and skills for graduates to be eligible to apply to any postgraduate programme in Psychology either locally or overseas that requires completion of an honours degree in Psychology. Graduates are also eligible to apply for student affiliate or graduate membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society, American Psychological Association, British Psychological Society, and other professional associations of comparable standing.</p>
Employment Pathways	<p>Graduates with the qualification could pursue a career in Psychology or upgrade their abilities and credentials for the purpose of enhancing job performance in a wide variety of industries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ law enforcement, ◆ human resource management, ◆ education, ◆ non-governmental organizations, ◆ advertising, and ◆ business administration.
Minimum Admission Requirements	<p>An applicant is expected to satisfy the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Bachelor's degree with Second Class Honours or above from an accredited university in Hong Kong or overseas in an area other than Psychology, and a pass in an entrance examination on Introductory Psychology or completion of a course in Introductory Psychology at an accredited university in Hong Kong or overseas. 2. For a Bachelor Degree attained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, a minimum score of 600 (paper-based) or 100 (internet-based) or 250 (computer-based) in TOEFL or Band 6.5 in IELTS or equivalent. 3. An applicant who does not satisfy the normal entry requirements for the Programme may be considered exceptionally on a case-by-case basis.
Operator	<p>Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學</p>