



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

LEARNING PROGRAMME RE-ACCREDITATION

**MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY**

JUNE 2015

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 University is the only private university in Hong Kong to date. It was founded in 1971 as Hong Kong Shue Yan College, and has been registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) since 1976. It became the first recognized private degree-awarding institution in Hong Kong in 2001, and gained the university status in December 2006. At present, the University operates twelve bachelor degree programmes at QF Level 5 and five postgraduate programmes at QF Level 6.

1.2 Based on the Service Agreement, HKCAAVQ was commissioned by Hong Kong Shue Yan University (the University) to conduct a learning programme re-accreditation exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

(a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) to determine whether the Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Psychology Programme of Hong Kong Shue Yan University meets the stated objectives and QF standard and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme from the 2015/16 academic years; and

(b) To issue to the University an accreditation report setting out HKCAAVQ's determination in relation to (a) above.

1.3 A site visit took place on 16 - 17 April 2015.

2. HKCAAVQ's Accreditation Determination

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

2.1 Learning Programme Re-accreditation

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	Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Psychology 社會科學碩士(輔導心理學)課程
Title of Qualification (Exit Award)	Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Psychology 社會科學碩士(輔導心理學)
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Other Area of Study / Training	Not Applicable
QF Level	Level 6
QF Credit	Not Applicable
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 2 years Part-time, 4 years
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2015
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2020
Number of Enrolments	One enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	Year 1 Entry: Full-time: 30 per year Part-time: 5 per year
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address of Teaching Venue	10 Wai Tsui Crescent, Braemar Hill, Hong Kong

2.1.1 Recommendations

- (a) The University should refine the wordings of PILO #9 so that it clearly reflects the actual learning outcome the programme intends to achieve in regard to awareness of self and others in the therapeutic process.
- (b) The University should refine PILO #10 so that it aims to familiarize students with at least two specific models of psychotherapy, and establish their confidence as a beginning practitioner in one of the models.

3. Programme Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

3.1 Programme Objectives

- Alert students to the presence of individual and cultural diversity in clients.
- Equip students with current knowledge in the skills, techniques, and practices of counselling psychology.
- Enrich students' knowledge of and experience in quantitative and qualitative methods in research.
- Enable students to perform assessment and evaluation of clients within the paradigm of counselling psychology at a professionally recognized level.
- Familiarize students with the practice of counselling psychology in areas where most counselling psychologists are employed, including mental health counselling, school psychology and counselling, family counselling and vocational.
- Make students aware of lifespan developmental issues for which intervention is indicated.
- Enhance students' awareness of professional and ethical issues in counselling psychology.
- Provide students with ample opportunities to integrate theory and practice, in the forms of clinical practicum, clinical seminars, internships and externships.
- Allow students to fully experience the scientist-practitioner model of counselling psychology in practice.
- Qualify students for admission into professional bodies in counselling psychology.

3.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

- Describe and analyze the dominant theories and techniques in counseling psychology.
- Demonstrate an understanding developed to postgraduate level of the philosophy, theory and practice of at least two specific models of psychotherapy.
- Apply knowledge of theories of life-span development to the practice of counseling psychology.
- Show sensitivity to the presence of cultural and individual diversity in the practice of counselling psychology.
- Demonstrate the ability to discern legal and ethical issues within the clinical practice of counselling psychology.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative approaches to research in counseling psychology, particularly in the realm of evidence-based research.
- Competently conduct research in counselling psychology.
- Distinguish and analyze the merits and demerits of past and current researches in counseling psychology.
- Demonstrate self-awareness and be alert to the presence of transference and counter-transference in counselling clients.
- Practise safely and competently in at least two specific models of psychotherapy.
- Perform assessment and evaluation of clients within the context of counseling psychology.
- Work competently in at least two of the following areas: mental health counselling, school psychology and counselling, vocational psychology and counselling, and couple and family counselling.
- Qualify for membership of professional bodies in counselling and counseling psychology.

3.3 Programme Structure

The Knowledge Dimension	Credit
Psychotherapy I, II	3 x 2
Cultural and Individual Diversity	3
Assessment and Evaluation for Counselling Psychology I, II	3 x 2
Professional Practice and Ethical Issues in Counselling Psychology	3
Specific Issues in Developmental Psychology	3
Sub-total	21
The Research Dimension	
Research Methods in Counselling Psychology	3
Research Workshops and Seminars in Counselling Psychology	3
Dissertation I, II	6 x 2
Sub-total	18
The Practice Dimension	
Clinical Practicum I (Choose one of the following courses)	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Behaviour Therapy • Psychodynamic Psychotherapy 	
Clinical Practicum II (Choose one of the following courses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution Focused Brief Therapy • Client-Centred Therapy 	3
Clinical Seminar I (Choose one of the following seminars) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Psychology and Counselling • Couple & Family Counselling 	3
Clinical Seminar II (Choose one of the following seminars) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Counselling • Vocational Psychology Counselling 	3
Internship	3
Externship I, II, III	3 x 3
Sub-total	24
Programme Total	63

3.4 Graduation Requirements

Students are required to complete a total of 63 credits for graduation. The graduation requirements are as follows:

- obtain at least a Grade of C+ in all compulsory courses;
- complete all coursework requirements;
- present a written project/dissertation; and
- obtain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.

3.5 Admission Requirements

- General requirements
EITHER a first or second honours Bachelor's degree in Psychology from a recognized local or overseas university;
OR a first or second honours Bachelor's degree in fields other than Psychology, and completion of a postgraduate conversion programme in Psychology.

Applicants are subject to psychological tests, English writing tests and are required to attend individual and group interviews.

- Specific requirement
Completion of a foundation course in Theories and Techniques in Counselling. (Those who have not taken this course at the time of application may choose to enrol in the course offered by the University during the Summer Semester.)

- Language requirements
Fluency in English and Chinese in both oral and written forms,
and
EITHER an honours degree from a local or overseas university
where the medium of instruction is English;
OR IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.
- IT Literacy requirements
EITHER completion of courses in IT applications either in
undergraduate study or from recognized institutions of learning;
OR work experience that can demonstrate IT literacy and
competence.

3.6 Graduate Profile

- Please refer to Appendix.

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 HKCAAVQ.

5. Qualifications Register

- 5.1 Qualifications accredited by 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.

Report No.: 15/234
File Reference: 40/19/03

Graduate Profile of Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Psychology

Qualification Title	Master of Social Sciences in Counselling Psychology 社會科學碩士(輔導心理學)
Qualification Type	Master Degree
QF Level	6
Primary Area of Study / Training	Social Sciences
Programme Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alert students to the presence of individual and cultural diversity in clients. 2. Equip students with current knowledge in the skills, techniques, and practices of counselling psychology. 3. Enrich students' knowledge of and experience in quantitative and qualitative methods in research. 4. Enable students to perform assessment and evaluation of clients within the paradigm of counselling psychology at a professionally recognized level. 5. Familiarize students with the practice of counselling psychology in areas where most counselling psychologists are employed, including mental health counselling, school psychology and counselling, family counselling and vocational 6. Make students aware of lifespan developmental issues for which intervention is indicated. 7. Enhance students' awareness of professional and ethical issues in counselling psychology. 8. Provide students with ample opportunities to integrate theory and practice, in the forms of clinical practicum, clinical seminars, internships and externships. 9. Allow students to fully experience the scientist-practitioner model of counselling psychology in practice.

	<p>10. Qualify students for admission into professional bodies in counselling psychology.</p>
<p>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and analyze the dominant theories and techniques in counseling psychology. 2. Demonstrate an understanding developed to postgraduate level of the philosophy, theory and practice of at least two specific models of psychotherapy. 3. Apply knowledge of theories of life-span development to the practice of counseling psychology. 4. Show sensitivity to the presence of cultural and individual diversity in the practice of counselling psychology. 5. Demonstrate the ability to discern legal and ethical issues within the clinical practice of counselling psychology. 6. Apply quantitative and qualitative approaches to research in counseling psychology, particularly in the realm of evidence-based research. 7. Competently conduct research in counselling psychology. 8. Distinguish and analyze the merits and demerits of past and current researches in counseling psychology. 9. Demonstrate self-awareness and be alert to the presence of transference and counter-transference in counselling clients. 10. Practise safely and competently in at least two specific models of psychotherapy. 11. Perform assessment and evaluation of clients within the context of counseling psychology. 12. Work competently in at least two of the following areas: mental health counselling, school psychology and counselling, vocational psychology and counselling, and couple and family counselling.

	13. Qualify for membership of professional bodies in counselling and counseling psychology.
Education Pathways	<p>The University provides further study opportunities for graduates of the MSSCP programme to pursue PsyD in Counselling Psychology to create leadership for the profession. Furthermore, the University is contemplating the introduction of MPhil and PhD studies for those who are more interested in research than practice.</p> <p>Graduates are also eligible to apply for registration with the Division of Counselling Psychology (DCoP) of the Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPS) as members upon graduation, and as Registered Counselling Psychologists with one year's supervised practice.</p>
Employment Pathways	<p>Graduates are well equipped to be 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	<p>1. General requirements EITHER a first or second honours Bachelor's degree in Psychology from a recognized local or overseas university; OR a first or second honours Bachelor's degree in fields other than Psychology, and completion of a postgraduate conversion programme in Psychology.</p> <p>Applicants are subject to psychological tests, English writing tests and are required to attend individual and group interviews.</p> <p>2. Specific requirement Completion of a foundation course in Theories and Techniques in Counselling. (Those who have not taken this course at the time of application may choose to enrol in the course offered by the University during the Summer Semester.)</p>

	<p>3. Language requirements Fluency in English and Chinese in both oral and written forms, and EITHER a honours degree from a local or overseas university where the medium of instruction is English; OR IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.</p> <p>4. IT Literacy requirements EITHER completion of courses in IT applications either in undergraduate study or from recognized institutions of learning; OR work experience that can demonstrate IT literacy and competence.</p>
Operator	<p>Hong Kong Shue Yan University 香港樹仁大學</p>