

AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 7 CRITERIA – BACHELOR DEGREE	PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PURPOSE	The Bachelor of Counselling Degree qualifies individuals who are prepared to apply a broad and coherent body of knowledge and applied skills to undertake professional work in a range of contexts and as a pathway for further learning.	
KNOWLEDGE	Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have a broad and coherent body of knowledge, with depth in the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines as a basis for independent lifelong learning.	<p>Graduates of the Bachelor of Counselling will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a broad body of knowledge of theories and models of counselling and develop advanced applied knowledge and skills of the core modalities covered in this program. They will have knowledge of psychological theories that underpin the counselling discipline and understand the interface between psychological and counselling theories and concepts and their application to evidence-informed and ethical professional practice.</li> <li>• Develop an appreciation of the discipline as continuously evolving body of knowledge and commit to the professional requirement of lifelong learning. All of the above will form the foundation for a career as professional counsellors and/or prepare students for higher levels of learning pathways.</li> <li>• Have the knowledge to investigate current issues and learn to problem-solve complex concerns, through the acquisition of information-gathering, research and critical evaluation skills. These skills will be equally applied to critical engagement with theoretical as well as practical knowledge and skills through, amongst others, the presentation of increasingly complex real-world case studies and self-reflective practice. Culmination of application of knowledge and skills will take place in the workplace through work-integrated learning opportunities in the practice components of their final year of study.</li> </ul>
SKILLS	<p>Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cognitive skills to review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge</li> <li>• cognitive and technical skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge with depth in some areas</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of the Bachelor of Counselling will be:</p> <p><u>Flexible thinkers with advanced cognitive skills</u></p> <p>Advanced cognitive skills are a requirement for effective counselling practice. Students will engage in carefully designed and graded delivery of activities that increasingly foster their development of critical thinking, evaluative and analytical skills, multiple perspective taking and cognitive flexibility. The application of problem-based learning tasks, critical appraisal of discipline related challenges, and development of higher level perspective taking skills will pave the way to both theoretical as well as applied skills development. Work-integrated learning will be a capstone experience when students apply and enhance these skills in their practice with real</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cognitive and creative skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement in identifying and solving problems with intellectual independence</li> <li>• communication skills to present a clear, coherent and independent exposition of knowledge and ideas</li> <li>• interpersonal and personal capabilities for a successful career in counselling or related fields</li> </ul>	<p>counselling cases in varied contexts, including in mental health settings.</p> <p><u>Innovative and creative, with critical judgement:</u></p> <p>Students develop skills in thinking innovatively and creatively through a range of different learning opportunities. Research training equips them for evaluating the quality of information and developing their own perspective based on the evidence available. Students will develop high-level skills in observing patterns, analysing data, and generating ideas and learn creative problem solving from this information. These higher level skills are applied to counselling case studies of individuals and groups, and through practice with clients with real-world problems during placements. Students thus will learn to draw from research informing evidence-based practice and translate these skills when practicing as counsellors.</p> <p><u>Effective Communicators and team members:</u></p> <p>Effective interpersonal and communication skills are the essence of the Bachelor of Counselling program. Students learn how to build effective therapeutic relationships and interact with people from a diverse range of backgrounds in different contexts. This more advanced level of communication combines high levels of effective interpersonal skills with an awareness of self, self-other dynamics, and competence in articulating the role of interpersonal, cultural and interprofessional aspects of human interactions. Students develop skills in analysing behaviour interactions, the ability to mindfully choose responses, and develop tolerance for ambiguity and complexity. This also includes learning inter-professional communication in the workplace via work-integrated learning. As competent interpersonal communicators, they will be capable to assist individuals, families and groups. Students also gain skills in professional writing such as case formulations, reports, as well as communicating with peers and the community via a range of media.</p>
<b>APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE &amp; SKILLS</b>	<p>Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with initiative and judgement in planning, problem solving and decision making in professional practice and/or scholarship</li> <li>• to adapt knowledge and skills in</li> </ul>	<p>Graduates of the Bachelor of Counselling will be:</p> <p><u>Socially and professionally responsible and engaged in their communities:</u></p> <p>Students develop ethical awareness and skills in ethical reasoning and decision-making throughout their program of study, both from a social, personal and professional perspective. They develop the capacity to apply their knowledge as evolving practitioners throughout their training and are provided with opportunities to apply these competencies in the workplace.</p> <p>Students also engage in ongoing reflective practice as emerging practitioners throughout the</p>

- diverse contexts
- with responsibility and accountability for own learning, behaviours and emotion regulation; self-awareness; ethical and effective professional practice; and in collaboration with others within broad parameters

program with the aim of developing self-awareness and capabilities for the practice of 'reflection in action'. This will provide them with an appreciation of the importance of ongoing personal and professional development.

Competent in culturally diverse and international environments:

Cultural competency is a fundamental principle within the counselling profession. Students gain an appreciation of the importance of cultural competency in the counselling profession, and are provided with opportunities to develop knowledge of, and skills in, working with people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Reflective capacity development, theoretical and applied knowledge of overt and covert mechanisms in human interactions, and development of skills to effectively practice counselling in a multi-cultural and global context will be a core feature in this program. This will include a particular awareness and appreciation of the Australian and Torres Strait Islander First Peoples.