

Quality Assurance System Manual
Bachelor of Nursing Science
Department of Nursing
College of Applied Medical Sciences
Majmaah University, Al Majmaah, Saudi Arabia

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Abbreviations

APR	- Annual Program Report
CR	- Course Report
CS	- Course Specification
FR	- Field Experience Report
FS	- Field Experience Specification
KPI	- Key Performance Indicator
PS	- Program Specification
SSRP	- Self-Study Report of the Program
AAS	- Academic Advising Survey
PES	- Program Evaluation Survey
POES	- Program Outcome Evaluation Survey
SES	- Students Evaluation Survey
FES	- Field Experience Survey
DAS	- Direct Assessment Sheet
SES	- Self Evaluation Scales of the Program

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. Definition of Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is primarily an internal responsibility system in an institution, and it depends heavily on the commitment and support of all those who involve in administration, management, and teaching. The procedures and standards outlined by the National Commission for Academic Accreditation & evaluation (NCAAA) are based on the expectation that program would adopt such a responsibility system and take appropriate actions to ensure that high quality criteria are achieved. This manual is intended to guide and support those processes. Due to the importance of the higher education system for students, their families, and the wider community, one cannot simply assume that quality can be simply achieved. Quality must be verified by independent processes in order to guarantee to everyone concerned that high levels of quality are being accomplished. The NCAAA accreditation processes for higher education institutions and the programs provide this verification.

2. The Significance of Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is both a process and a framework that aims at accomplishing excellence and transparency. The process intends to ensure quality in the attainment of the program's mission and vision and consequently this will lead to having program performance that is aligned with its purpose. The major goal of quality assurance is to have all programmatic functions performing at an optimum level including academics, students, support services, physical plant (i.e. buildings, classroom environment), research, and services to the local and regional community. With continuous evaluation for attaining high quality in all areas, the program will be well-positioned to adapt itself to changes and provide the highest quality education to students.

3. Relationship of Quality Assurance to Accreditation

Quality assurance is a continuous, ongoing process of monitoring outcomes and ensuring quality in all academic endeavors. If such a process is done properly, program operations will constantly evolve and adapt to environmental changes and social needs. Accreditation is mainly based on the evaluation at a specific period of time, highlighting programmatic quality and outcomes that demonstrate alignment of purpose with performance. As such, quality assurance can be considered as a prerequisite for accreditation.

Accreditation process, at the institutional or programmatic level, involves evaluation by an external body (such as NAACLS) or the internal body of Saudi Arabia (i.e. NCAAA) based upon a set of agreed standards. If the standards are met, accreditation is granted. It is worth mentioning that being accredited indicates that the institution and its programs are up to international standards, and it is essential to maintain such quality standards as part of the institution's ongoing and long-term performance improvement. Thus, it is unlikely that accreditation can be completely granted unless providing evidence that further steps to maintain the effectiveness and the quality of its programs through continual evaluation and assessment are provided.

4. The Quality Assurance Framework of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia

Within higher education, accreditation plays a major role in quality assurance and institutional effectiveness. Thus, granting academic accreditation is advantageous locally and internationally. Starting with learning outcomes, accreditation supports the interests of students by ensuring that the educational programs offered have attained a level that meets international quality standards and it guarantees that the students have demonstrated a certain set of skills and abilities. Taken into account the rapid regional and international changes, the international competition, and the third millennium modern challenges associated with technology development and computer revolution, equipping the students with such skills will enhance their future opportunities and develop their competitiveness in

the job market.

In terms of improving education quality, accreditation has become a critical target to be attained by all academic and professional communities in order to improve educational policies and experiences. The main challenge for the modern educational systems is not only to provide education, but also to make sure that the educational environment and its outcomes as a whole are of high quality. With the purpose of raising the quality and adequacy in addition to contributing to the national economy and development, some organizational arrangements for the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 94 has approved the Education Evaluation Commission issued on 7/2/1438 AH. It stated that the commission is the competent authority in the Saudi Kingdom to assess and accredit education and training institutions and programs.

The National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation, one of the centers supervised by the Commission, is an extension of what was previously known as the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (NCAAA), which was established under the Royal Decree No. 7/B/ 6024 dated 9/2 / 1424H. NCAAA is an independent legal entity with administrative and financial governance that acts as the authority responsible for academic accreditation and quality assurance in higher educational of public and private institutions and programs.

5. National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (NCAAA)

The National Commission for Academic Accreditation & Evaluation (NCAAA) has been established with responsibility for determining standards and criteria for academic accreditation and assessment and for accrediting postsecondary institutions and the programs they offer. The Commission is committed to a strategy of encouraging, supporting, and evaluating the quality assurance processes of postsecondary institutions to ensure that quality of learning and management of institutions are equivalent to the highest international standards. The six broad standards are applicable to both institutions and

programs.

6. National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (NQF)

The system for accreditation and quality assurance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is designed to ensure that the quality of higher education is equivalent to high international standards and is widely recognized as such in the international academic and professional communities.

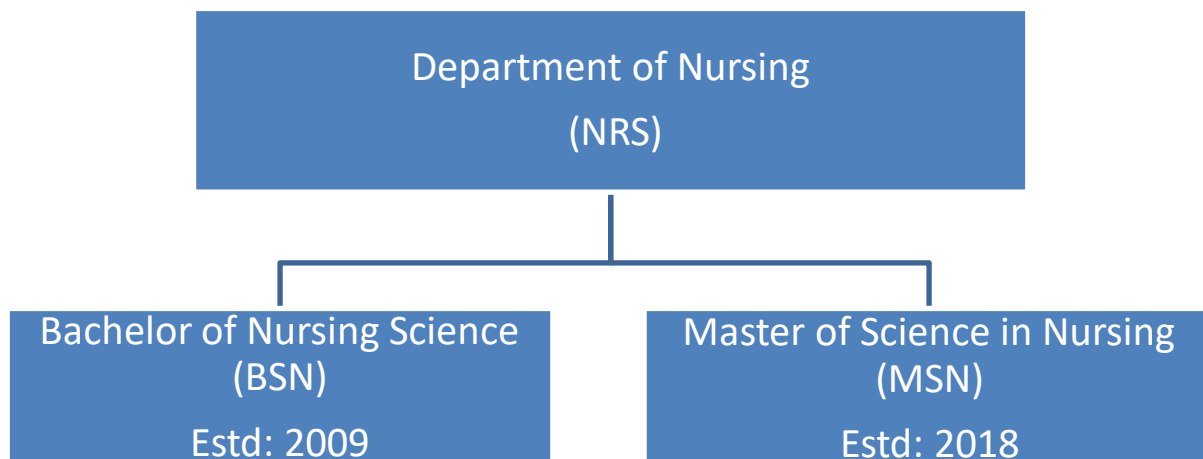
The National Qualifications Framework is an important element in this system. It is intended to ensure consistency within the Kingdom in the standards of student learning outcomes regardless of institution attended, and to make clear the equivalence of those standards with those for equivalent awards granted by higher-education institutions in other parts of the world.

The Framework helps to provide appropriate points of comparison in academic standards for institutions in their planning and self-review processes and for external reviewers involved in program accreditation processes and institutional reviews.

7. Principal Elements in the Qualifications Framework: The principal elements in the framework are:

- Domains of Learning
- Teaching strategies
- Assessment methods

Programs offered by the Department



A. Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision of the Department

To be one of the leading providers of nursing education, scientific research and community service both regionally and nationally.

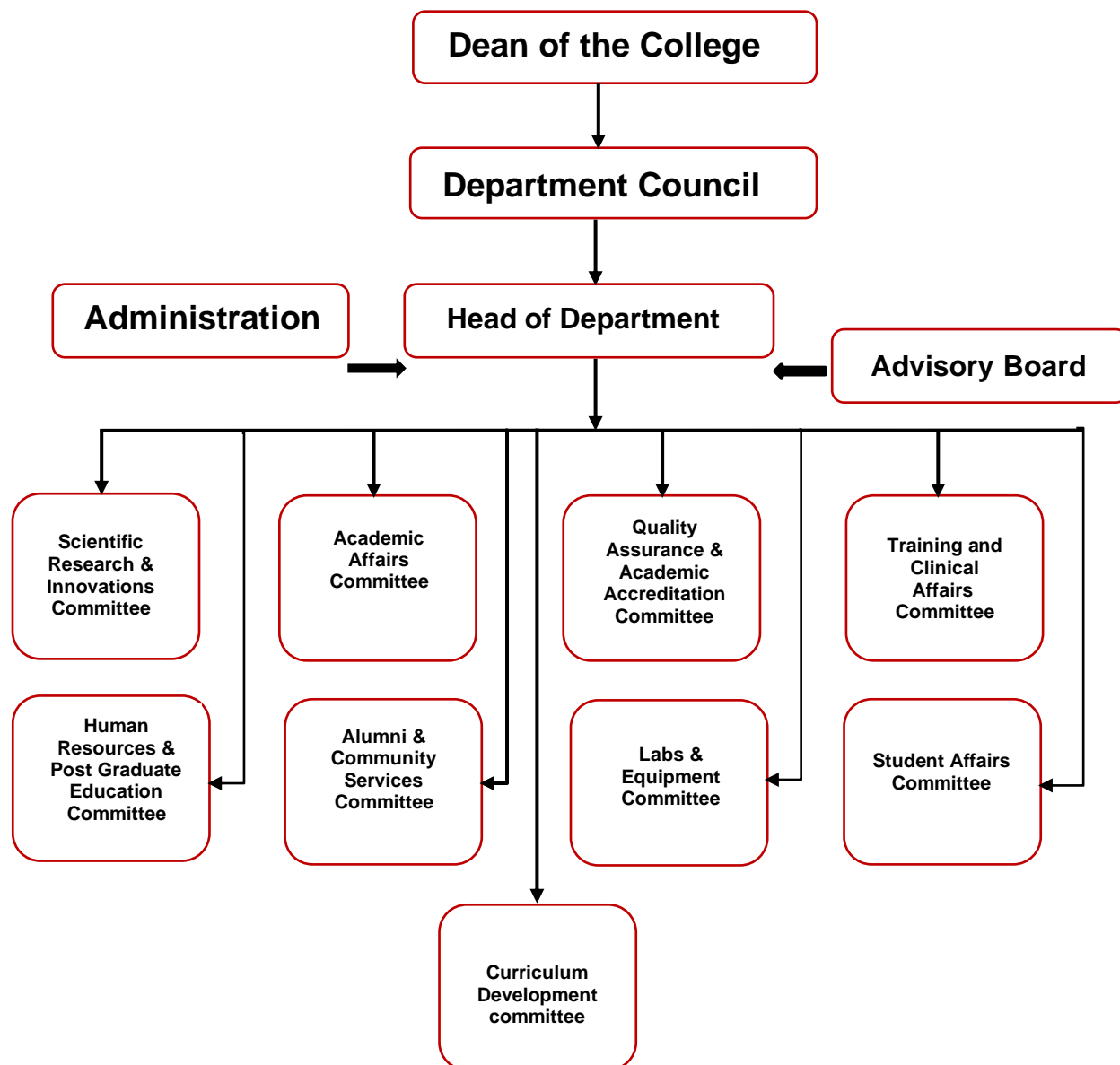
Mission of the Program – Bachelor Degree in Nursing Science

Preparation of competent nursing graduates through quality education environment supporting scientific research and community responsibility.

Goals of the Program – Bachelor Degree in Nursing Science

- Providing a suitable, rich and stimulating academic environment for students' teaching and learning to thrive within the classroom, the laboratory, and the clinical setting.
- Empowering the graduate to apply theoretical and empirical knowledge gained from basic sciences and nursing sciences to develop holistic plans of care for individuals, families, and communities throughout the lifespan.
- Equip graduates with the necessary leadership and management skills and principles in the effective delivery of nursing care and the advancement of the nursing profession in all aspects of practice.
- Preparing graduates to practice nursing according to codes of professional standards, and ethical and behavioral principles that protect the rights of the individuals and the public.
- Enabling graduates theoretically and clinically to pursue new development in research, technology, and informatics in nursing profession and to contribute effectively both locally, regionally and internationally.
- Promote the concept of community and public partnership between the nurse and the service user within the cultural framework and value system.

Organizational Chart



Tasks of the Department Committees

1. Department Council

1. Supervising the implementation of the working plans of the various activities of the department.
2. Follow up the completion of all academic accreditation requirements.
3. Preparing and updating the manuals of the department and program.
4. Holding a weekly meeting to discuss the reports of the quality management system in the department.
5. Follow-up and coordination with the Vice Dean of Development and quality and providing it with periodic reports.
6. Define the vision, mission and goals of the department and review it periodically.
7. Follow up the implementation of the department's action plan.
8. Identifying elements of strength and weakness in the various activities of the program and drawing up the necessary plans to benefit or address them.
9. Looking forward to the future of the department.
10. Activate the role of the advisory committee in the department.
11. Identify and implement training programs to develop teaching, research, and technical skills for faculty members.

2. Quality Assurance and Academic Accreditation Committee:

1. Enhancing quality culture among faculty members, department staff and students.
2. Develop, manage and monitor quality control processes in the department.
3. Prepare, monitor, distribute, collect and analyze all five questionnaires of the National Commission for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation.
4. Selecting performance indicators and benchmarking of the program, analyzing it and building improvement plans based on it.
5. Select and follow up the independent auditor's report and develop improvement plans based on his / her recommendations.
6. Follow up the development of modern trends in methods, methodology and teaching techniques.

7. Preparing and revising reports of Program's Description, course specification, and Courses Reports that are assembled from College members, and running its electronic saving, and then sorting them in their specific files.
8. Organizing, supervising and preserving program's documentations in the academic room, in order to be ready prepared and organized at the time of the external auditors' surveillance stopover.
9. Ensure the preparation of copies of the student exams and copies of their answer sheets for all courses of the program each semester.
10. Regularly updating and revising all accreditation files, in order to be ready at any sudden visit of scrutiny, and any allowed users.
11. Regularly organizing, preparing and submitting periodical reports of the Committee's meeting, and also placing all these reports in the program's academic room.
12. Supervising and Preparing the Self-study report (SSR) for obtaining or updating national and international accreditations.
13. Arbitration of study plans from internal and external bodies to ensure access to an academic excellence plan, with emphasis on the fulfillment of the "National Qualifications Framework".
14. Submit periodic reports on the scientific programs to the department council.
15. Preparing the organizational structure, job descriptions and tasks for each of its units.
16. Supervise the implementation of the administrative quality system and address the gaps that prevent its implementation.
17. Preparing plans to develop and improve the department's quality management system.
18. Working on achieving and applying the objectives and policy of administrative quality.
19. Making recommendations for improving financial and administrative performance.
20. Surveying the satisfaction of beneficiaries (internal and external) about the services provided.
21. Provide the necessary facilities to implement the system.
22. To identify, analyze and solve the employee problems.
23. Analyzing and treatment of complaints of beneficiaries and take the necessary corrective and preventive measures.

3. Student Affairs Committee

1. Prepare a plan for the student guidance program and update it annually.
2. Raising awareness of the importance of academic, professional, psychological and social accreditation.
3. Raising students' awareness of supporting services and activities provided by the college and university and follow-up.
4. Receiving and responding to students' proposals or complaints and working to overcome them.
5. Prepare preventive programs to protect students from vulnerability.
6. Academic support (study the situation of students with default or low rates) and preparing academic programs to support students with unsatisfactory performance.
7. Follow-up of extra-curricular activities

4. Academic Affairs Committee

1. Work on the preparation of study schedules; to be delivered on time.
2. Follow up the commitment of the departments with the regulations of the college in the preparation of the time table of the study.
3. Prepare and review the teaching load of faculty members.
4. Follow-up distribution of the courses of the departments on the halls assigned to each department.
5. Checking the suitability of the number of students in each section with the capacity of the class assigned for the course.
6. Follow up the work of the examination committees.
7. Receive the results from the teachers of the courses in preparation for adoption before monitoring.

5. Curriculum Development Committee

1. Developing plans, curricula and scientific curricula in accordance with the needs of the society and the labor market.
2. Identify and implement training programs to develop teaching, research and technical skills for faculty members.

3. Determine the appropriateness of courses for practical life.
4. Submit periodic reports on the curricula and scientific programs to the department council.
5. Introducing good interdisciplinary programs.
6. Preparation and implementation of workshops for proposed or new programs in the department.
7. Follow-up updating the scientific references of the decisions.
8. Activating and integrating the work with electronic courses and digital content at all levels of study in the department.
9. Commitment to the Blackboard system to be the tool in delivering electronic course information.
10. Determine the appropriate training needs for faculty members and students to apply e-learning.
11. Supervising the department's website.
12. Urging faculty members to update their electronic pages on the department's website and to develop their educational materials and scientific production.

6. Human Resources & Post Graduate Education Committee

1. Establishing a database of graduates of the department and update it periodically.
2. Collecting personal data of the students who are expected to graduate including their contact details
3. Attract graduates qualified to continue their higher studies.
4. Follow-up promotion of faculty members.
5. Collecting, tabulating and documenting the data of employers and employees, indicating how to contact them, and exploring the possibility of cooperation with them in recruiting graduates and creating effective partnership in this context.
6. Develop communication programs, whether electronic or otherwise, to strengthen the relationship between graduate students and employment.
7. Surveying (preparation, distribution and collection of questionnaires) graduates' opinions who have jobs in the public and private sectors outside the college.
8. Find an effective mechanism to provide employment opportunities for graduates in their fields of specialization.
9. Communicating with the public and private sectors to find opportunities to train students and qualify them to work in summer classes.

7. Labs and Equipment Committee

1. Inventory materials, equipment and equipment in various laboratories and their requirements of materials, and organize the process of placing them in the correct place and maintenance periodically.
2. Make a list of the day and date and sign the examiner at each device and follow it up first.
3. Ensure the availability and operation of all laboratory equipment in the student laboratories.
4. Ensure that maintenance plans (periodic and preventive) are available for laboratories and scientific equipment.
5. Working to provide the required spare parts through guaranteed signed and approved maintenance and purchase contracts.
6. Supervising and following-up the updating of the equipment in the student labs, providing the necessary maintenance, and ensuring full care for their cleanliness.
7. Follow up the requests of faculty members for equipping laboratories and follow up the implementation of these requests.
8. Providing teaching and learning aids for students in laboratories.
9. Supervising the library of the department
10. Follow-up and work to provide sources of learning to meet all the needs of the program and its courses.
11. Ensuring an easy access to learning resources when students need them.
12. Collecting the needs of the teaching staff from the learning resources before using them in sufficient time and work to provide them.
13. Develop safety policies and regulations that achieve the safety in the department.
14. Monitor the inspection of the equipment and all safety measures in the laboratory.
15. Inventory safety equipment and organize the process of placing it in the correct place and maintenance periodically.
16. Ensure that safety measures are provided in laboratories and classrooms before starting the study in each semester.
17. Communicate with the main safety committee in the college regarding coordination, training courses and other works.

18. Development of emergency phone numbers - Preparation of awareness-raising instructional publications for students on safety procedures for various hazards (electrical and/ or chemicals) at the beginning of the academic year.
19. Follow up the conservation of chemical and radioactive wastes in the department.
20. Follow-up safety procedures in laboratories and classrooms and Place the safety phone numbers in the laboratory.
21. Conducting periodic training for faculty members and students to comply with the implementation of evacuation methods and dealing with safety methods in laboratories.
22. Follow-up of all safety requirements in the Department - Raising awareness among the staff of the department and students of the importance of complying with safety instructions.

8. Scientific Research & Innovations Committee

1. Develop an operational plan for scientific research in the department and follow up on its implementation.
2. Examining the files of applicants for postgraduate studies, sorting and nominating suitable candidates.
3. Follow-up of the comprehensive examination for doctoral students.
4. Supervising the performance of graduate students and submitting recommendations thereon to the department council.
5. Follow-up student scholarship, and submit periodic reports about them to the department.
6. Establishing and updating a database of research, scientific projects and conferences locally and internationally, in addition to patents, prizes, books and translations.
7. Encouraging publication in scientific journals with a global classification.
8. List of graduate students involved in research, projects, conferences, patents, and local or international awards.
9. Evaluation of the graduate programs in the departments periodically.
10. Prepare a list of graduates of the master's and doctoral students.
11. Prepare a list of the faculty members supervising the scientific theses of the higher studies and its numbers.
12. Conducting an annual evaluation of scientific research projects in the department and submitting recommendations to the Higher Studies and Scientific Research

9. Alumni & Community Services Committee Partnership

1. Caring for social relations between faculty members and/or department.
2. Develop programs of internal and external visits to the college or department.
3. Receiving foreign delegations and organizing their residency programs and visits.
4. Caring for social relations between faculty members or the department
5. Develop practical programs to strengthen the relationship between the department and the community, and follow up their implementation.
6. Monitor and categorize scientific research projects carried out by the department and its members that contribute to the service of society and development plans.
7. Monitoring and tabulating training programs and scientific consultations, and cultural and awareness activities carried out by the department, which contribute to community service and development plans.
8. Supervising the activities that serve the community, namely: museums, astronomical observatory, permanent exhibition, greenhouse etc.
9. Encouraging and developing the spirit of initiative among the employees of the department and the students to maximize the return of the service role to society.
10. Activating the partnership between the program and the various community institutions, in particular public and private schools.
11. Deepening communication between the department (Program) and the bodies responsible for development plans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

10. Clinical Affairs Committee

Monitoring the Hospital / Industrial training programs

PART 2 - PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

A. Bi-annual Quality Assurance Auditing

a. Program Quality Assurance Committee

Quality Assurance Committee is responsible of performing a regular check on the quality of documents and services provided by the program. This is carried once each semester using approved forms by the Vice-deanship of Quality and Development. These forms are used to evaluate the quality of the important documents and reports such as course reports, course specification and annual program report.

b. Quality Assurance Unit in VDQSD

Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) at Vice-deanship of Quality and Development performs a bi-annual review to make sure that quality of documents and services provided by programs meet the predetermined standards. For this purpose, QAU review the documents, ask for evidence, check programs facilities, and arrange meetings with different beneficiaries to evaluate the quality of documents and services provided by the program.

B. Annual Internal Review

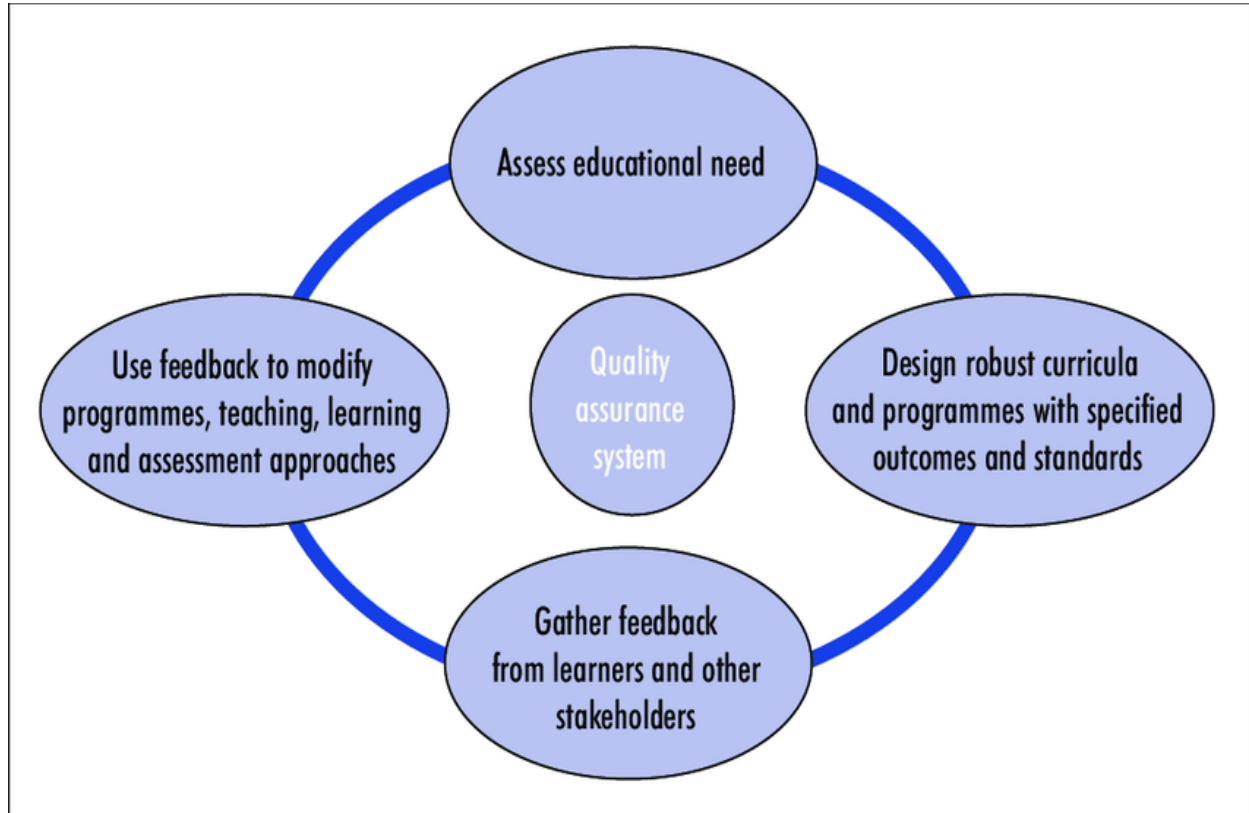
This is the second reviewing process, which is an annual review and more comprehensive than the bi-annual Quality Assurance Auditing. The internal review process is carried out once per year under supervision of the Vice-Dean of Quality and Development for the main purposes of assessing and evaluating the quality of services offered by academic programs in the College of Applied Medical Sciences (CAMS). In addition, the review checks also the readiness of programs for academic accreditation. The review team members of internal review process include the Vice-Dean of Quality and Development, the Coordinator of Academic Accreditation Unit, the Coordinator of Measurement and Evaluation Unit, and Coordinator of Quality Assurance Unit. The internal review process is a comprehensive and focused review of all quality documents, and all services provide by the programs. Detailed review reports are prepared with suggestions and recommendations to the concerned programs. These feedbacks are used by program coordinators in development plans to improve the services provided by their programs.

II. Procedures

A. Assessment & Evaluation

Purpose: To provide program, committees with analysis for further recommendations, writing action plans and for improvement issues.

The quality cycle is:



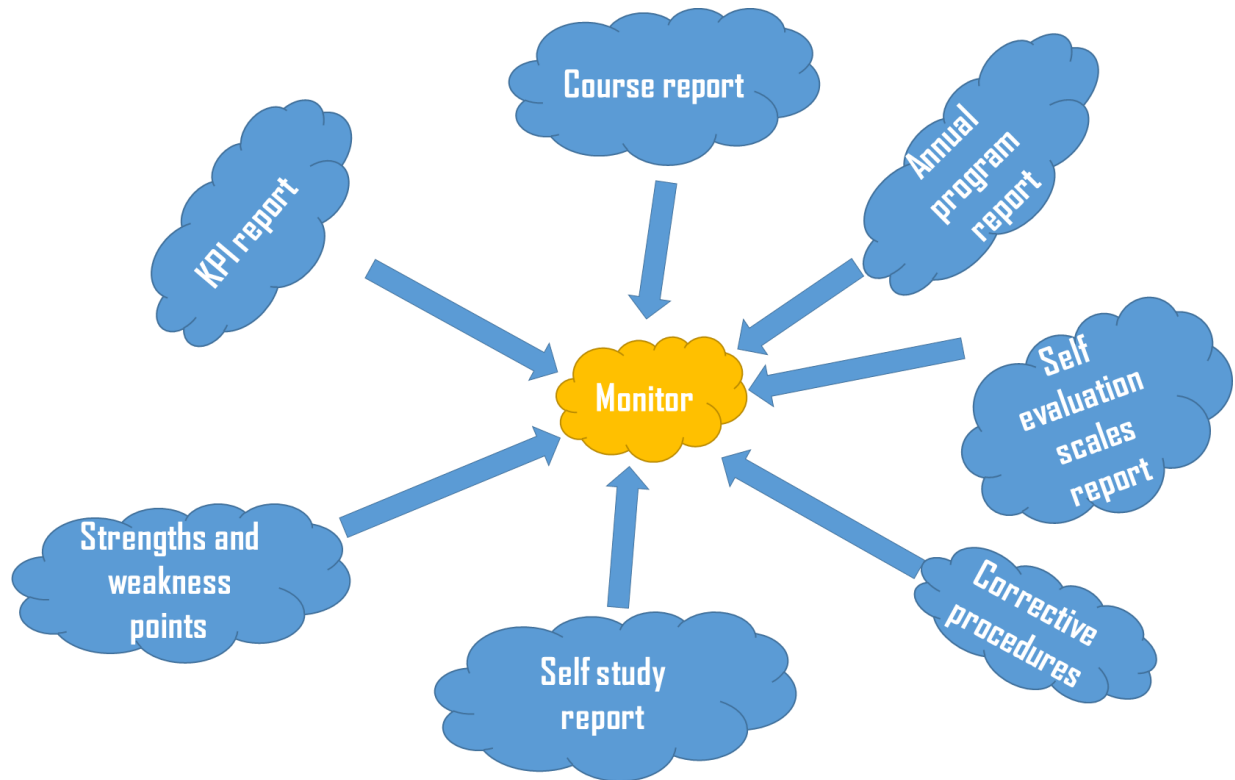
Program Plan to achieve the Mission & Objectives



Program means to achieve the goals



Ensuring the adequacy of Learning processes & Resources



Programs KPIs

KPI No.	KPI	KPI Analysis methods and frequencies		
		Data Source	Frequency	Committees Responsible
KPI-P-1	Percentage of achieved indicators of the program operational plan objectives: Percentage of performance indicators of the operational plan objectives of the program that have achieved the targeted annual level to the total number of indicators targeted for these objectives in the same year.	Data	Annual	Quality & Academic Accreditation Committee
MU-P-01	Average rating of beneficiaries' satisfaction with the community services provided by the program on a five-level scale in an annual survey	Survey	Annual	Alumni & Community Services Committee
KPI-P-2	Students' Evaluation of quality of learning experience in the program: Average of overall rating of final year students for the quality of learning experience in the program on a five point scale in an annual survey.	Survey	Annual	Academic Affairs Committee
KPI- P-3	Students' evaluation of the quality of the courses: Average students' overall rating of the quality of courses on a five- point scale in an annual survey.	Survey	Semester wise	Academic Affairs Committee
KPI-P-4	Completion rate: Proportion of undergraduate students who completed the program in minimum time in each cohort	Data	Annual	Academic Affairs Committee
KPI-P-5	First-year students retention rate: Percentage of first-year undergraduate students who continue at the program the next year to the total number of first-year students in the same year	Data	Annual	Student Affairs Committee
KPI-P-6	Students' performance in the professional and/or national examinations Percentage of students or graduates who were successful in the professional and / or national examinations, or their score average and median (if any)	Data	Annual	Student Affairs Committee
KPI-P-7	Graduates' employability and enrolment in postgraduate programs Percentage of graduates from the program who within a year of graduation were: a. employed b. enrolled in postgraduate programs during the first year of their graduation to the total number of graduates in the same year	Data	Annual	Human Resources and Post Graduate Education Committee
KPI-P-8	Average number of students in the class: Average number of students per class (in each teaching session/activity: lecture, small group, tutorial, laboratory or	Survey	Annual	Student Affairs Committee

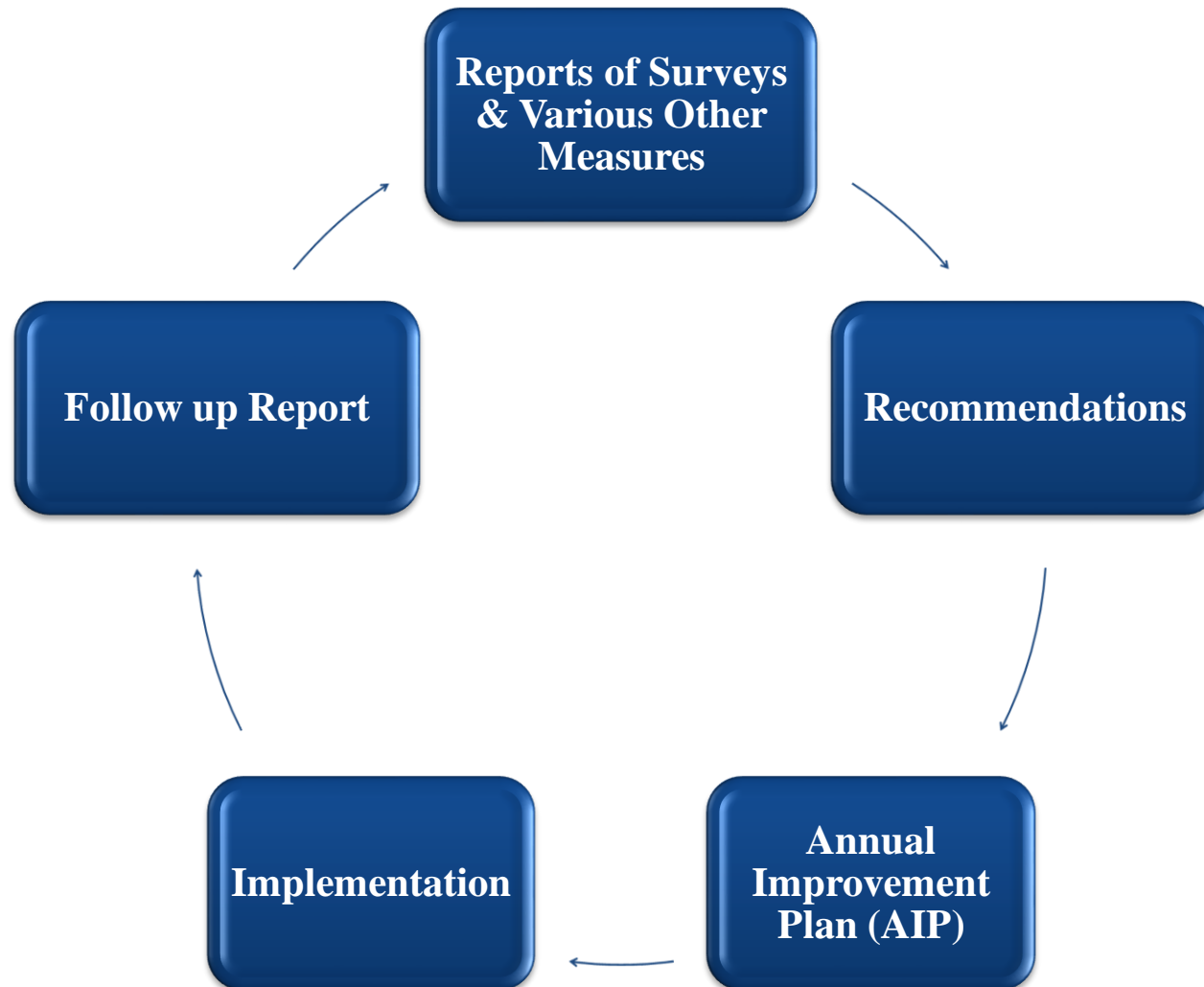
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	clinical session)			
KPI-P-9	Employers' evaluation of the program graduates proficiency: Average of overall rating of employers for the proficiency of the program graduates on a five-point scale in an annual survey	Survey	Annual	Alumni Affairs Committee
MU-P2	The percentage of students who received a warning or more in the program to the total number of students in the program.	Data	Annual	Student Affairs Committee
MU-P3	The percentage of students who were denied entry to the final examination of the course for exceeding the legally permitted percentage of the total number of students in the program.	Data	Annual	Student Affairs Committee
MU-P4	Students' publications in conferences: The number of student papers that have been published or presented in scientific conferences during the past year.	Data	Annual	Scientific Research & Innovations Committee
KPI-P-10	Students' satisfaction with the offered services: Average of students' satisfaction rate with the various services offered by the program (restaurants, transportation, sports facilities, academic advising, ...) on a five-point scale in an annual survey	Data	Annual	Quality & Academic Accreditation Committee
KPI-P-11	Ratio of students to teaching staff: Ratio of the total number of students to the total number of full-time and full-time equivalent teaching staff in the program	Data	Annual	Human Resources and Post Graduate Education Committee
KPI-P-12	Percentage of teaching staff distribution: Percentage of teaching staff distribution based on: a. Gender b. Branches c. Academic Ranking	Data	Annual	Human Resources and Post Graduate Education Committee
KPI-P-13	Proportion of teaching staff leaving the program: Proportion of teaching staff leaving the program annually for reasons other than age retirement to the total number of teaching staff.	Survey	Annual	Human Resources and Post Graduate Education Committee
KPI-P-14	Percentage of publications of faculty members: Percentage of full-time faculty members who published at least one research during the year to total faculty members in the program	Survey	Annual	Scientific Research & Innovations Committee
KPI-P-15	Rate of published research per faculty member: The average number of refereed and/or published research per each faculty member participating in the	Data	Annual	Scientific Research &

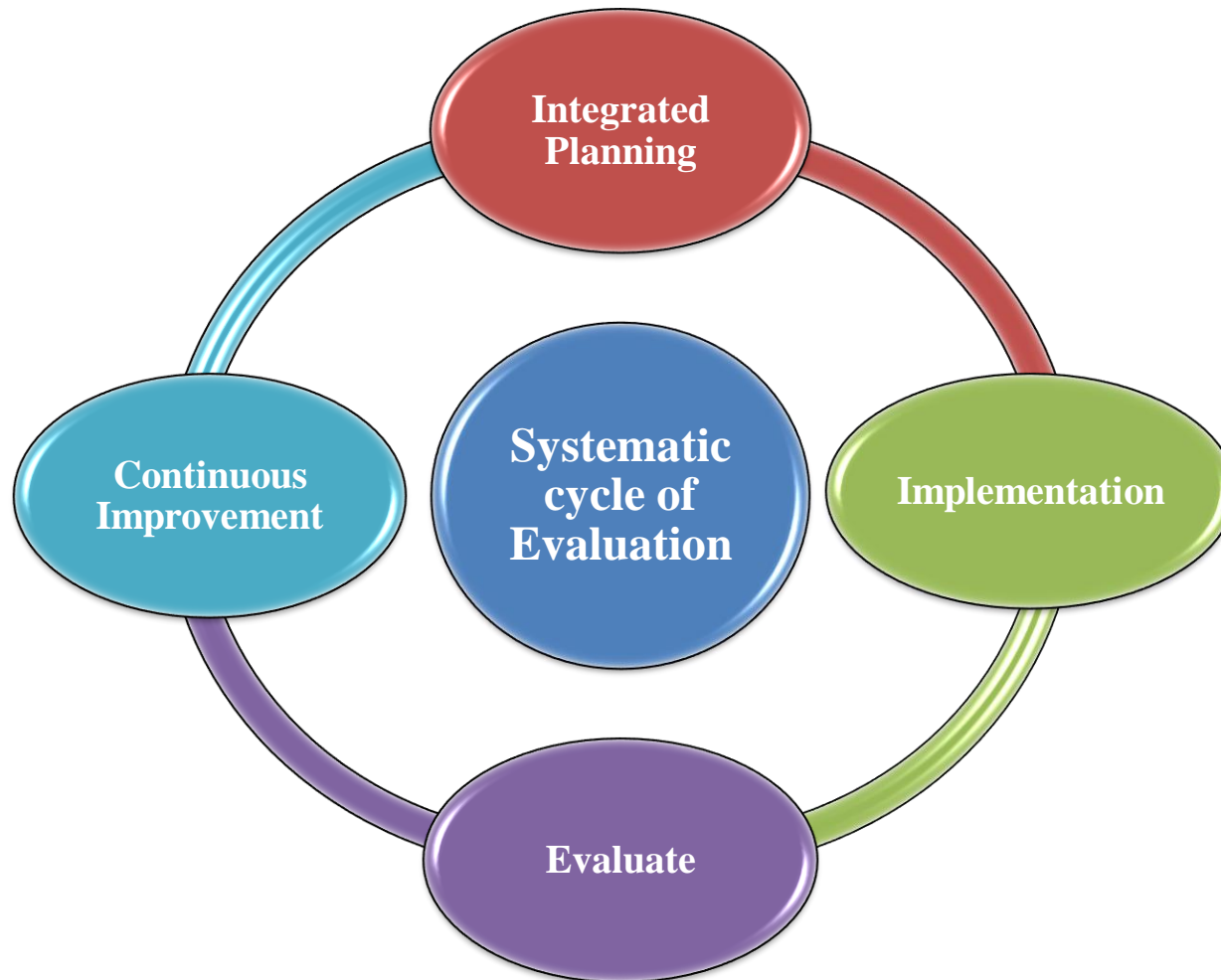
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	program during the year (total number of refereed and/or published research to the total number of faculty members during the year)			Innovations Committee
KPI-P-16	Citations rate in refereed journals per faculty member: The average number of citations in refereed journals from published research (total number of citations in refereed journals from published research for faculty members to the total published research)	Data	Annual	Scientific Research & Innovations Committee
KPI-P-17	Satisfaction of beneficiaries with the learning resources: Average of beneficiaries' satisfaction rate with the adequacy and diversity of learning resources (references, journals, databases... etc.) on a five-point scale in an annual survey.	Survey	Annual	Labs & Equipment Committee
MU-P-05	The percentage of full-time faculty members who provided professional development activities inside or outside the university during the year to the total teaching staff in the program	Data	Annual	Quality & Academic Accreditation Committee

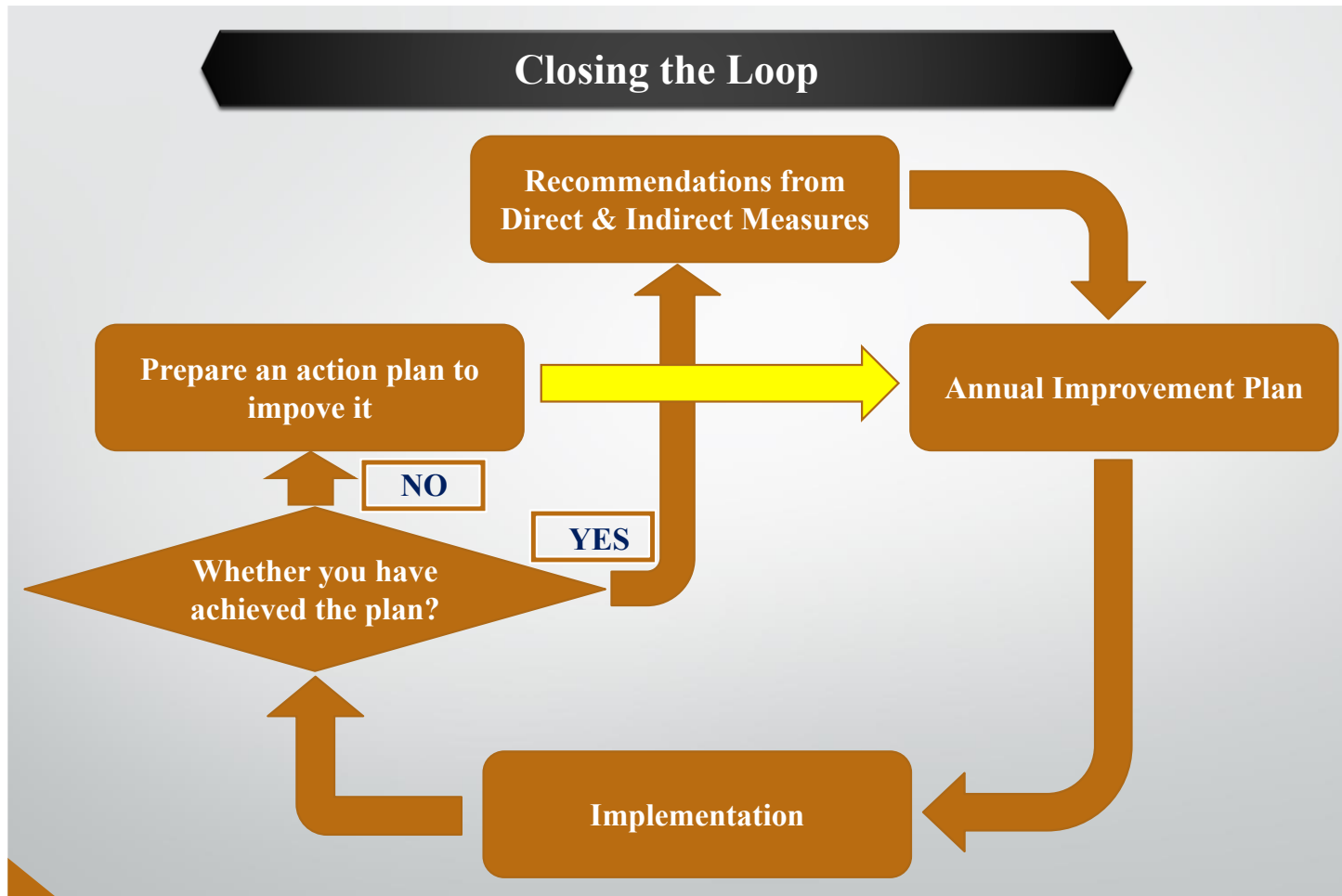
Program Evaluation Process



Systematic Cycle of Evaluation



Process of Closing the Loop



Mapping Matrix of the Indirect Measures

S. No	Methods of Assessment	Mapping Matrix based on desired level of performance. (I=Introduced, P=Practiced, M=Mastered)
1	Student Experience Survey (SES)	I
2	Course Evaluation Survey (CES)	I
3	Academic Advising Survey (AAS)	I
4	Survey on Community Services (SCS)	I
5	Program Evaluation Survey (PES)	P
6	Scientific Supervision Survey (SSS)	P
7	Faculty Satisfaction Survey (FSS)	P
8	Advisory Committee feedback	P
9	Student overall GPA	P
10	Quality Assurance Audits	P
11	Graduate / Alumni Survey (AS)	M
12	Graduate Stakeholder's Survey (GSS)	M
13	Vision Mission Survey (VMS)	M
14	External reviews (NCAAA)	M