

Virtual University of Pakistan

Self-Assessment Report (SAR) of Program M.Sc. Applied Psychology

Self-Assessment Cycle – II (2021 – 22)

Directorate of Quality Enhancement (DQE)

Executive Summary

The Virtual University of Pakistan established in 2002 with the aim to provide extremely affordable world class education to aspiring students all over the country regardless of their physical location. The University also seeks to alleviate the lack of capacity in the existing universities while simultaneously tackling the acute shortage of qualified professors in the country using free-to-air satellite television broadcasts and the Internet. To pursue this aim, the department of Psychology is designated to initiate and implement Self-Assessment process designed by Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of HEC. The current document summarizes the findings of self-assessment process of M.Sc. Applied Psychology program.

The department is committed to producing graduates who can lead organizations towards success and social responsibilities in the global marketplace. The department follows its mission in all of its courses and areas of specialization that offered at both Masters and Bachelors levels. The department feels satisfied upon completion of the following list of tasks:

1. Development of Self-Assessment Report (SAR) by Program Team for **M.Sc. Applied Psychology program**.
2. Conduct of critical review and submission of **Assessment Report (AR)** by Assessment Team for M.Sc. Applied Psychology Program.
3. Development of Rectification Plan by Head of Department.
4. The tasks were completed according to the set methodology through Program and Assessment Teams nominated by the Rector on the recommendation of the Department.

Methodology:

The following methodology is adopted to complete the whole SAR cycle:

1. HOD of the concerned department nominated a program team (PT) for the current program. The composition of PT is given below. DQE also arranged initial orientation and training sessions for all PT members:

Table 1: Program Team

Sr. #	Program Name	Program Team Member
1	M.Sc. Applied Psychology	Mr. Hussnain Mustafa Khalid Instructor (Department of Psychology)

2. All the relevant material such as SAR manual, survey forms, etc. was provided to PT.
3. Continuous support, guidance, and feedback were provided to PT members to prepare the SAR for said program.

4. After completion and submission of the final SAR by PT, the Rector on the recommendation of the HOD approved the formation of an Assessment Team (AT) for critical appraisal of program and SAR. It is also ensured that a Subject Specialist from other institution become part of this team. The composition of AT is given below:

Table 2: Assessment Team

Sr. #	Program Name	Program Team Member
1	M.Sc. Applied Psychology	Dr. Naima Hassan Assistant Professor (Department of Psychology)

5. The SAR developed by PT was forwarded to AT for critical review.
6. After completion of critical review and assessment of the SAR, AT member visited the department and had a meeting with PT.
7. After the visit, AT submitted a report and feedback form (Rubric Form) to DQE.
8. DQE forwarded the observations & findings of AT report to the Head of Department for developing a rectification plan.
9. DQE will now monitor implementation of Rectification Plan.

Parameters for the SAR:

Following eight (8) criteria prescribed by the HEC are used to develop SAR:

- Criterion 1: Program Mission, Objectives and Outcomes Criterion
- Criterion 2: Curriculum Design and Organization Criterion
- Criterion 3: Laboratory and Computing Facility Criterion
- Criterion 4: Student Support and Advising Criterion
- Criterion 5: Process Control Criterion
- Criterion 6: Faculty Criterion
- Criterion 7: Institutional Facilities Criterion
- Criterion 8: Institutional Support

Key Findings of the SAR:

Following is the summary of the key SAR findings:

Academic Observations:

- The introduction of "Department of Psychology" is missing on the main website of the department. The Deans' message, the Department and Program missions are also not available.
- The categories of courses as Major and General must be mentioned in the study scheme.
- Practical Courses and Credit hours are missing in the study scheme.

- Some Foundation and Major courses (Experimental Psychology PSY402, Neurological Bases of Behavior PSY610 & Psychological Testing and Measurement PSY631) are being offered without a practical.
- Psychological assessment tools and Psychological Testing/Practical Lab is not established yet.
- Systematic counseling procedure for the student is needed to adopt. It can be through fortnight seminars or on campus lectures.
- Proper time should be provided to faculty for research related activities and projects. They must be allowed to attend seminar and conduct training workshops related to contemporary issues in the field of Psychology.
- Faculty members are overburdened due to increasing enrollment in different study programs offered by the department.
- Physical library is needed to fulfill the academic and scholarly needs of students and faculty members as well. Physical Libraries are needed for student campuses as well. Links of digital library need to be functional. There is dire need to develop data base of e-books (in some cases these books are available online free of cost). Furthermore, it is also required that the references of recommended books may be updated time to time
- HEC is going to phase out 2 years M.A/ M.Sc. in June 2022, so Virtual University of Pakistan must upgrade 2 Years M.Sc. program with a vision to offer specialization courses in last two semesters of BS Psychology.
- Practical courses must be included in study scheme.
- References of different textbooks are outdated and updating in references is required.
- There are some audio courses (Developmental Psychology PSY505 & Cross Cultural Psychology PSY515 in the scheme of study for M.Sc. Applied Psychology should be converted into video lectures.
- Video lectures of some courses (Introduction to Psychology PSY 101 & Social Psychology PSY403) also need to be updated.
- Internship opportunities in different hospitals and institutions for students must be provided by the Psychology Department. In this regard, MOUs should be signed between the Virtual University of Pakistan and different institutes providing mental health services.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

While analyzing Criteria Referenced Self-Assessment, it has been found that performance of the department is satisfactory. It is reflected in terms of moderate overall assessment score (78/100) reported by AT. This average score demands that the rectification plan should be implemented immediately. In the report, AT has identified some need improvement areas. Most of the criteria are rated low and become a major reason for this moderate score. The criteria rated low are: Criterion

3 (Laboratories and Computing Facilities), Criterion 6 (Faculty) and Criterion # 8 (Institutional Support).

The Need Improvement areas identified during self-assessment process have been reported to the Head of respective Department, and the particular rectifications have also been requested. DQE will follow up the implementation plan as per the specific time-frame.

Prepared by:

Signature:



**Syed Naveed Anwer
QA Officer**