

Executive Summary
Self-Assessment Report (SAR) of Program
Associate Degree Program in Computer Networking
Directorate of Quality Enhancement (DQE)
Virtual University of Pakistan

The Virtual University of Pakistan was established in 2002 intending to provide extremely affordable world-class education to aspiring students all over the country regardless of their physical location. The University also aimed 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 Computer Sciences is designated to initiate and implement the Self-Assessment process designed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of HEC. The current document summarizes the findings of the self-assessment process completed during the assessment period **July 2020 – June 2021 (Cycle – II)** for the Associate Degree Program in Computer Networking program.

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

1. The development of ***Self-Assessment Report (SAR)*** by a Program Team constituted for **Associate Degree Program in Computer Networking**.
2. The conduct of critical review and submission of ***Assessment Report (AR)*** by an Assessment Team for Associate Degree Program in Computer Networking.
3. Development of a ***Rectification Plan*** by the Head of Department

The tasks were completed according to the set methodology through Program and Assessment Teams nominated by the Rector on the recommendations of the Department.

Methodology

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

1. A Program Team (PT) was nominated for the program. Initial orientation and training sessions for all members were arranged by DQE. The composition of PT is given below:

Table 1: Program Team

Name	Designation
Rehan Ahmed	Tutor (Department of Computer Sciences)

2. All the relevant material such as the 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 the said program.

4. After completion and submission of the final SAR by PT, an Assessment Team (AT) was formed by the Rector on the recommendation of the Department. The composition of AT is given below:

Table 2: Assessment Team

Name	Designation
Dr. Salman Bashir, AP	Assistant Professor (Faculty of Computer Science and IT)

5. The SAR developed by PT was forwarded to AT for critical review.
6. After completion of the critical review and assessment of the SAR, AT members 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 the implementation of the Rectification Plan.

Parameters for the SAR:

The SAR is prepared on the following eight (8) criteria prescribed by the HEC:

- 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:

1. The Mission statement of the University and department are not approved by Statutory Bodies.
2. The documented Program mission, Vision objectives, outcome are precisely specific to the discipline.
3. Since this program is a skilled-oriented program hence extensive laboratory work is suggested but the execution of lab work is not defined in the document.
4. Employers' survey is not conducted to get feedback for VU graduates.

5. University has the infrastructure to counsel and advise students but how it is measured, is not specified yet. The effectiveness and efficiency of such a system need documented evidence in the form of a feedback survey.
6. Professional counseling is the key for this degree which is not available. PT must specify the seminar details in which students were guided about their professional careers and the latest trends and technologies.
7. The processes of the university are very strong and centralized. The important aspect is the review and evaluation of these processes. No evidence is available to learn when these processes are being evaluated.
8. To ensure the psychomotor domain of the program, the required support and facilities are missing in the program.
9. To contribute effectively to scholarly activities and to remain current in their discipline, the faculty is not giving proper time to research.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

While analyzing the Rubric Criteria designed by HEC for Self-Assessment, it has been found that the performance of the department is satisfactory. It is reflected in terms of a moderate overall assessment score (76/100) awarded by AT. However, in the report, need improvement areas are also identified by AT. The average score and need improvement areas require that a rectification plan should be implemented immediately.

According to the scorecard, criterion # 8 is rated low and becomes a major reason for this moderate score. The criterion is related to "Institutional Support" and according to AT, specific labs for computer networking are required for practical exposure of the students. The other criteria like Criterion # 3 ("Laboratories and Computing Facilities") and Criterion # 7 (Institutional Facilities) are also relatively low rated. The early response of AT echoed that they have significant concerns about the following areas:

- The lab work is an essential part of this program but no networking lab is available.
- The least time is given by the faculty for research and scholarly activities.
- Limited access to digital resources and physical library.

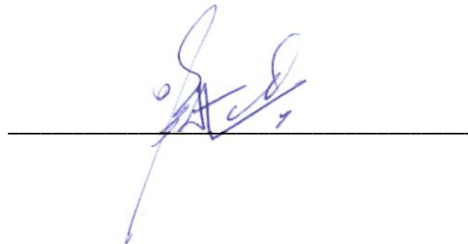
The Need Improvement areas identified during the self-assessment process have been reported to the Head of the respective Department and specific rectifications have also been requested. DQE will follow up on the implementation plan as per the specific time frame.

Prepared by:



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Director DQE:



The Rector:

