

Executive Summary

Associate Degree – Web Design and Development

Cycle III (2023-24)

The Department of Computer Sciences has been chosen to commence and implement the Self-Assessment procedure proposed by HEC's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to pursue the VU mission of quality education. The current document summarizes the findings of the self-assessment process executed for the BS Computer Science program.

The Department of Computer Sciences is committed to producing graduates who can develop computer applications/processes to enhance the efficiency & effectiveness of organizations to lead in the global marketplace. The department follows its vision in all of its courses and areas of specialization offered at both **Master's** and **Bachelor's** levels. The department feels satisfied upon completion of the following list of tasks:

1. **Development of *Self-Assessment Report (SAR)*** by the Program Team (PT) for the Associate Degree in Web Design and Development.
2. Conduct of critical review and submission of the ***Assessment Report (AR)*** by the Assessment Team (AT) for the Associate Degree in Web Design and Development.
3. Development of ***Rectification Plan*** by Head of Department

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 department adopted the identical methodology defined by the QAA. The methodology includes the nomination and notification of PT and AT after approval of the competent authority. Initial orientation and training sessions for all members were arranged. All the relevant materials like the manual, survey forms, etc. were provided to PT and AT.

Program & Assessment Teams

Sr.#	Name	Type	Designation
1.	Ms. Anam Naveed	PT	Tutor (Computer Science)
2.	Dr. Mushtaq Hussain	AT	Assistant Professor, (Computer Science)

PT developed the SAR following the eight criteria available in QA Manual provided by QAA, HEC. Various recommended surveys (Graduating, Alumni, and Faculty satisfaction) were also conducted to collect diverse feedback. A meeting was scheduled for May 24, 2024, at the Lawrence Road office to critically evaluate the program by AT, with all DQE team members in

attendance. After the meeting, AT submitted a report and feedback form (Rubric Form) to DQE. Based on the findings of AT, the Head of the Computer Science Department was requested to develop a rectification plan. Continuous support, guidance, and feedback were provided to both PT and AT members to prepare the SAR and AT Reports for the said program. DQE will now monitor the implementation of the Rectification Plan.

Key Findings of the SAR:

Following is the summary of the key SAR findings:

1. There is no department-level committee or body that periodically evaluates the program and recommends improvements.
2. Alignment between program objectives and outcomes is essential and for this purpose, there is a need to make fine-tuning objectives and outcomes and also to make them measurable.
3. The mapping of learning objectives and outcomes is inconsistent.
4. The mapping of the programs' learning objectives (PLOs) and programs' educational outcomes (PEOs) needs revision on a priority basis
5. It is reported that an e-library or digital library is used but no supporting documents like e-catalog, login history, list of subscribed Journals, e-books, etc. were available.
6. It is reported that counseling and advising mechanisms are provided to students but to what extent these mechanisms are effective & efficient is not predictable.
7. As per the information provided by PT, the study centers are sufficient enough to meet the academic needs of the students, however, to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of those recourses to meet student's academic needs, the audit reports of the last three years must be provided with SAR to AT because due to geographical locations of these centers, the physical audit/inspection by AT is not possible.
8. The AT highlighted reservations about formal career counseling prospects which were found insufficient. The AT proposed that the University must arrange seminars and invite experts from industries and organizations for live interaction.
9. Lack of time for research activities is identified as a main weak area of the job description of faculty associated with the Virtual University of Pakistan.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

While analyzing the Rubric Criteria provided by HEC for Self-Assessment, it has been found that the performance of the department is very GOOD. The AT awarded an overall assessment score (85.24/100). The team also identified need improvement areas in some standards. These gray areas and average rubric scores demand a rectification plan that must be implemented immediately.

The criterion rated relatively low by AT was Criterion # 7 (Institutional Facilities). The current IT infrastructure is unable to meet the requirements of new technological trends emerging in IT, according to the rating of that criterion. The digital library is the least effective and does not meet the scholarly requirements of students and faculty. The team also showed concern about the shortage of faculty members, publications output of faculty, and limited access to digital resources and physical libraries.

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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Manager, QA

Director DQE: _____