Executive Summary
Self-Assessment Report of Program Master of Accounting
Self-Assessment Cycle 1 (2017-18)
Directorate of Quality Enhancement (DQE)
Virtual University of Pakistan

Virtual University of Pakistan was 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 by alleviating 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 Management Science is designated to initiate and implement Self-Assessment process defined by Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of HEC. The current document summarizes the findings of self-assessment process of the program Master of Accounting.

The department is committed to produce graduates who can lead organizations towards success and prosperity in the global marketplace. The department offers rigorous programs in different areas of specialization 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 Master of Accounting
2. Conduct of critical review and submission of *Assessment Report (AR)* by Assessment Team for Master of Accounting
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 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.#	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Lubna Hamid	Lecturer, Finance
2.	Mr. Khalid Usman (Team Lead)	Lecturer Management

2. All the relevant material such as SAR manual, survey forms, etc. were provided to PT.
3. Continuous support, guidance, and feedback were provided to PT members to prepare SAR for the 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 was ensured that a Subject Specialist from some other institution was also part of this team. The composition of AT is given below:

Table 2: Assessment Team

Sr.#	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Azeem Naz	Director, School of Commerce and Accountancy, UMT Lahore
2.	Muhammad Shahbaz Yaqub	Assistant Professor, Department of Management Science, VU

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 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 implementation of Rectification Plan.

Parameters of SAR:

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

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

Key Findings of the SAR:

Following is a summary of the key SAR findings:

1. The program outcomes should support program objectives.
2. The mechanism to measure the achievement of program outcomes is not available.
3. The curriculum involves certain courses which are inconsistent and un-supportive to the program's documented objectives.
4. There are certain courses which are of very basic nature hence should be replaced with more degree-specific courses.
5. The courses such as E-Commerce (IT430) and Information Systems (CS507) cannot be categorized as " Solution Design".

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Analysis of the Criteria Referenced Self-Assessment reveals that performance of the department is good to excellent in most of the areas. It is reflected by overall good assessment score (80/100) reported by AT. In spite of good to excellent performance in almost all of the areas, it has been found that program outcomes and their alignment with program objectives, and the inclusion of some of the irrelevant courses in the curriculum have been reported as the areas that need improvement.

The areas that need corrective actions identified during self-assessment process have been reported to the Head of respective Department for rectification. DQE will follow up the implementation plan as per the specific time-frame to track continuous improvement.

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Manager QA

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