



2024 Description of Accreditation Standards

FOR RESEARCH DEANSHIPS

EMPOWERING ACADEMIC & SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT



2024 ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Detailed Description of Accreditation Standards for Research Deanships

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STANDARD 1: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The Research Deanship has a clearly defined vision, mission, and set of goals aligned with the university's strategic plan, and it operates under a well-defined governance structure with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

Definition:

- Vision: A concise statement outlining the Deanship's long-term aspirations for supporting and promoting research excellence within the university.
- Mission: A specific description of the Deanship's key functions and responsibilities in facilitating research activities, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination.
- Goals: Measurable objectives aligned with the vision and mission, focusing on areas such as research funding acquisition, publication output, knowledge transfer, and student research engagement.
- Governance Structure: A transparent and well-defined organizational structure outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Dean, research committees, administrative staff, faculty, and students in research decision-making and management.

Basis for Judgment:

- Availability of documented vision, mission, and goals aligned with the university's strategic plan.
- Evidence of a functional governance structure with defined roles and responsibilities documented in official policies and procedures.
- Minutes of meetings and records of decision-making processes demonstrate stakeholder involvement in research planning and management.

Suggested Documentation:

- Strategic plan of the Deanship aligned with the university's strategic plan.
- Organization chart of the Deanship outlining roles and responsibilities.
- Policies and procedures for research administration, grant management, and faculty research support.

- Minutes of Deanship meetings and research committee meetings.

A strong foundation for a successful Research Deanship lies in its strategic leadership and governance structure. This ensures transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making, ultimately fueling a thriving research environment.

Key aspects of Strategic Leadership and Governance:

- **Vision, Mission, and Goals:**
 - A clearly defined vision that articulates the Deanship's long-term aspirations for university research excellence.
 - A specific mission statement outlining its core functions and responsibilities in supporting research activities.
 - Measurable goals aligned with the vision and mission, focusing on areas like research funding, publication output, and researcher development.
- **Governance Structure:**
 - A well-defined governance structure with clear roles and responsibilities for the Dean, research committees, administrative staff, faculty, and students.
 - Transparent decision-making processes with documented policies and procedures for research support, grant management, and ethical conduct.
 - Regular communication and consultation among stakeholders to ensure alignment and address concerns.
- **Resource Allocation:**
 - Demonstrated commitment to allocating sufficient resources (financial, human, and infrastructural) to support research activities.
 - Strategic and equitable distribution of resources based on research priorities and potential impact.
 - Effective mechanisms for resource management and tracking to maximize utilization and return on investment.
- **Enhancing Strategic Leadership and Governance:**
 - **Performance Management Framework:** Establishing a data-driven performance management framework to track progress towards goals and identify areas for improvement.
 - **Stakeholder Engagement:** Regularly engaging with faculty, researchers, students, and external partners to gather feedback and inform decision-making.

- Continuous Improvement: Fostering a culture of continuous improvement by regularly reviewing policies, procedures, and governance structures to adapt to evolving needs and best practices.
- **Benefits of a Strong Strategic Leadership and Governance:**
 - Clear direction and focus for research activities.
 - Efficient and effective use of resources.
 - Increased collaboration and engagement among stakeholders.
 - Enhanced transparency and accountability.
 - Improved reputation and competitive advantage for the university.

By implementing these key aspects and fostering a strong culture of strategic leadership and governance, the Research Deanship can set the stage for a thriving research environment and contribute significantly to the university's academic and societal impact.

STANDARD 2: RESEARCH SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Deanship provides robust support for research activities through securing funding, maintaining modern research facilities and equipment, and ensuring adherence to ethical research practices.

Definition:

- **Research Funding and Grants:** The Deanship has a dedicated office or unit responsible for assisting faculty and researchers in identifying and securing funding opportunities through internal grants, external grants, contracts, and partnerships with industry or government agencies.
- **Research Facilities and Equipment:** The Deanship provides access to well-maintained and up-to-date research facilities and equipment aligned with the university's research strengths and priorities.
- **Research Ethics and Integrity:** The Deanship has established clear policies and procedures for ensuring ethical research conduct, including conflict of interest disclosure, data management, and animal research protocols.

Basis for Judgment:

- Evidence of a dedicated research funding office or unit with qualified staff to support grant writing and proposal development.
- Inventory of available research facilities and equipment demonstrating adequate capacity and alignment with research priorities.
- Documented research ethics policies and procedures, training programs for faculty and researchers, and mechanisms for investigating and addressing research misconduct allegations.

Suggested Documentation:

- Policies and procedures for internal and external research grant applications.
- Inventory of research facilities and equipment with maintenance records.
- Research ethics policies and procedures, training materials for faculty and researchers, and records of ethical review committee meetings.

Building a solid foundation for research requires providing effective support and robust infrastructure. The Research Deanship plays a crucial role in ensuring researchers have the tools, resources, and environment they need to thrive.

Key aspects of Research Support and Infrastructure:

- **Research Funding and Grants:**
 - Dedicated office or unit to assist faculty and researchers in identifying and securing funding opportunities through internal grants, external grants, contracts, and partnerships.
 - Training and support on grant writing, proposal development, and budget planning.
 - Streamlined administrative processes for grant applications and financial management.
- **Research Facilities and Equipment:**
 - Maintaining well-equipped and up-to-date research facilities aligned with the university's research strengths and priorities.
 - Providing access to specialized equipment and technology through core facilities or rental programs.
 - Implementing effective maintenance and safety protocols for research facilities and equipment.
- **Research Ethics and Integrity:**
 - Establishing clear policies and procedures for ensuring ethical research conduct, including conflict of interest disclosure, data management, and animal research protocols.
 - Offering training and workshops on research ethics to raise awareness and prevent misconduct.

- Having efficient mechanisms for investigating and addressing potential research misconduct allegations.
- **Enhancing Research Support and Infrastructure:**
 - Collaborations with External Research Facilities: Partnering with external research institutions and facilities to expand access to cutting-edge equipment and resources.
 - Open Access Initiatives: Supporting and promoting open access publishing to increase the visibility and impact of research findings.
 - Research Data Management Services: Providing data storage, archiving, and analysis services to ensure data integrity and accessibility.
- **Benefits of strong Research Support and Infrastructure:**
 - Increased research productivity and output.
 - Improved competitiveness in securing research funding.
 - Enhanced collaboration and interdisciplinary research.
 - Attract and retain top researchers and talent.
 - Maintain a safe and ethical research environment.

By prioritizing effective research support and building a robust infrastructure, the Research Deanship can empower researchers and enable them to conduct high-quality research that contributes to advancements in their respective fields.

STANDARD 3: RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Deanship actively invests in faculty and student research development through training programs, mentorship opportunities, and research collaboration initiatives.

Definition:

- **Faculty Development Programs:** The Deanship offers regular workshops, seminars, and training programs on research methodologies, grant writing, publication skills, and research ethics.
- **Student Research Opportunities:** The Deanship provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with hands-on research experience through participation in research projects, research internships, and summer research programs.

- Research Collaboration and Networking: The Deanship facilitates collaboration among researchers within the university and promotes external partnerships with other institutions, industry, and government agencies.

Basis for Judgment:

- Evidence of a structured faculty development program with diverse training opportunities on research-related topics.
- Availability of undergraduate and postgraduate research programs, internships, and scholarships.
- Documentation of collaborative research projects with internal and external partners, including co-authored publications and joint grant proposals.

Suggested Documentation:

- Faculty development program schedule and training materials.
- Information on undergraduate and postgraduate research opportunities.
- Records of collaborative research projects and partnerships.

Nurturing a thriving research environment thrives on fostering the growth and potential of its researchers. The Research Deanship plays a vital role in equipping faculty and students with the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to excel in the research arena.

Key aspects of Research Capacity Building and Development:

- Faculty Development Programs:
 - Regularly offering workshops, seminars, and training programs on diverse research-related topics like methodologies, grant writing, publication skills, and research ethics.
 - Providing mentorship opportunities for early-career faculty from established researchers.
 - Supporting faculty participation in conferences, workshops, and international research collaborations.
- Student Research Opportunities:
 - Integrating undergraduate and postgraduate students into ongoing research projects, offering valuable hands-on experience and preparing them for future research careers.
 - Establishing undergraduate research fellowships, internships, and summer research programs to encourage student engagement in research.
 - Providing funding and support for student research projects and conference presentations.

- **Research Collaboration and Networking:**
 - Facilitating collaboration among researchers within the university through research clusters, interdisciplinary initiatives, and joint research projects.
 - Encouraging partnerships with external institutions, industry, and government agencies to broaden research horizons and access new resources.
 - Supporting the development of research networks and communities to promote knowledge sharing and exchange.
- **Enhancing Research Capacity Building and Development:**
 - **Needs-Based Assessment:** Regularly conducting needs assessments to identify the specific skill gaps and development needs of faculty and students at different stages of their research careers.
 - **Tailored Training Programs:** Designing and delivering training programs that cater to the specific needs and research interests of different faculty and student groups.
 - **Mentorship and Coaching Initiatives:** Establishing formal mentorship programs where experienced researchers guide and support early-career faculty and students.
 - **Career Development Support:** Providing career counseling and guidance to help researchers navigate career paths in academia, industry, or other sectors.
- **Benefits of Strong Research Capacity Building and Development:**
 - Enhanced research quality and productivity.
 - Increased student interest and engagement in research.
 - Stronger collaboration and networking opportunities.
 - Development of future generations of research leaders.
 - Improved university reputation and competitiveness.

By investing in research capacity building and development, the Research Deanship can cultivate a dynamic and vibrant research environment where researchers at all levels can thrive and contribute to advancements in their fields.

STANDARD 4: RESEARCH OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

The Deanship encourages and supports high-quality research publications, promotes knowledge transfer, and effectively communicates research findings to various audiences.

Definition:

- **Publication Record:** The Deanship fosters a culture of research excellence by encouraging faculty and researchers to publish in reputable peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.
- **Knowledge Transfer and Innovation:** The Deanship supports the translation of research findings into practical applications through technology transfer, start-up incubation, and industry partnerships.
- **Research Communication and Outreach:** The Deanship implements effective communication strategies to disseminate research results to the academic community, policymakers, and the general public through various channels such as public lectures, press releases, and other media channels.

Basis for Judgment:

- **Research Publication Quality:**
 - Evaluation of the quality of research publications, considering factors such as impact factor, citations, and peer-review process.
 - Assessment of the diversity of publication outlets, including reputable journals, conferences, and other scholarly platforms.
- **Knowledge Transfer and Application:**
 - Examination of initiatives promoting the transfer of knowledge from research to practical applications.
 - Assessment of collaborations with industry, government, or other sectors to apply research outcomes for societal benefit.
- **Communication Strategies:**
 - Analysis of communication strategies to reach various audiences, including the academic community, policymakers, industry professionals, and the general public.
 - Consideration of the use of diverse communication channels such as conferences, workshops, media, and online platforms.
- **Innovation and Commercialization:**
 - Evaluation of efforts in translating research into innovations and commercial products.
 - Assessment of patents, licenses, and partnerships with industry for the commercialization of research outcomes.
- **Dissemination Ethics:**

- Consideration of ethical standards in the dissemination of research findings, including proper attribution, avoiding plagiarism, and ensuring open access where appropriate.

Suggested Documentation:

- Publication Records:
 - Copies of high-impact research publications and evidence of peer-review processes.
 - Documentation showing the diversity of publication outlets.
- Knowledge Transfer Initiatives:
 - - Records of collaborations with industry, government, or community organizations.
 - Documentation highlighting knowledge transfer activities, such as workshops, training programs, or technology transfer agreements.
- Communication Strategies:
 - Samples of communication materials, including press releases, articles, and social media posts.
 - Records of participation in conferences, seminars, and other events.
- Innovation and Commercialization:
 - Documentation of patents, licenses, and partnerships with industry.
 - Evidence of successful commercialization projects resulting from research.
- Ethical Guidelines and Compliance:
 - Documentation of adherence to ethical guidelines in research dissemination.
 - Policies and procedures ensuring proper attribution, avoiding plagiarism, and promoting open access.
- Impact Assessment:
 - Reports or studies assessing the impact of research outputs on academia, industry, and society.
 - Testimonials or feedback from stakeholders regarding the practical application of research findings.

The fourth pillar of a successful Research Deanship is ensuring the effective communication and impact of the research conducted within the university. This involves not only encouraging high-quality publications and presentations, but also actively translating research findings into practical applications and engaging with diverse audiences beyond academia.

Key aspects of Research Output and Dissemination:

- **Publication Record:**
 - Fostering a culture of research excellence by supporting faculty and researchers in publishing their work in reputable peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.
 - Providing resources and training on academic writing, publication ethics, and citation management.
 - Tracking and celebrating publication achievements of faculty and students.
- **Knowledge Transfer and Innovation:**
 - Bridging the gap between academic research and real-world applications through technology transfer, start-up incubation, and industry partnerships.
 - Encouraging researchers to explore the commercial potential of their findings and participate in innovation-driven initiatives.
 - Supporting the development of intellectual property portfolios and licensing agreements.
- **Research Communication and Outreach:**
 - Implementing effective communication strategies to disseminate research results to a wider audience beyond academic circles.
 - Utilizing various channels such as public lectures, press releases, social media, and science cafes to engage with the public and policymakers.
 - Tailoring communication to different audiences, using clear and concise language and avoiding jargon.
- **Metrics and Evaluation:**
 - Establishing clear metrics to track the impact and reach of research outputs, such as citations, media mentions, downloads, and policy influence.
 - Conducting regular evaluations of research dissemination strategies and implementing continuous improvement measures.
 - Encouraging researchers to actively engage in public outreach and knowledge exchange activities.
- **Enhancing Research Output and Dissemination:**

- Dedicated Research Communication Unit: Establishing a dedicated unit within the Deanship to provide expertise and support for researchers in preparing and disseminating their work.
- Collaboration with University Press and Libraries: Partnering with the university press and libraries to offer publishing services, open access initiatives, and research data management support.
- Public Engagement Programs: Organizing science festivals, community outreach events, and school visits to connect researchers with the public and spark interest in science.
- Media Relations and Strategic Communication: Developing a proactive media relations strategy to raise awareness of university research and secure media coverage for significant findings.

By actively prioritizing research output and dissemination, the Research Deanship can play a crucial role in maximizing the societal impact of university research, contributing to advancements in various fields and addressing real-world challenges.

STANDARD 5: PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

Standard: The Deanship employs clearly defined performance indicators and regularly monitors and evaluates its activities and performance against established standards.

Definition:

- Clearly defined performance indicators: The Deanship has established quantitative and qualitative indicators to track progress towards its goals and objectives, such as research funding secured, publications in high-impact journals, student research participation, and knowledge transfer activities.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation: The Deanship conducts regular internal and external evaluations of its research support services, infrastructure, and capacity building programs.
- Continuous improvement: The Deanship uses data-driven insights and best practices to continuously improve its services, policies, and procedures for supporting research excellence.

Basis for Judgment:

- Availability of documented performance indicators aligned with the Deanship's goals.

- Evidence of regular internal and external evaluation reports with recommendations for improvement.
- Demonstration of implementing recommendations from past evaluations to improve research support services and research environment.

Suggested Documentation:

- Performance indicators document with baseline data and annual progress reports.
- Internal and external evaluation reports with action plans for implementing recommendations.

To ensure continuous improvement and accountability, a Research Deanship must establish a robust system for measuring and evaluating its performance. This involves defining clear metrics, conducting regular assessments, and using the findings to guide decision-making and enhance research support services.

Key Aspects of Performance Measurement and Evaluation:

- Clearly Defined Performance Indicators:
 - The Deanship should establish quantitative and qualitative indicators aligned with its goals and objectives, such as:
 - Research funding secured.
 - Publications in high-impact journals.
 - Student research participation.
 - Knowledge transfer activities.
 - Research ethics compliance.
 - Satisfaction of researchers and stakeholders.
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation:
 - Conducting regular internal and external evaluations to assess the effectiveness of research support services, infrastructure, and capacity-building programs.
 - Employing a mix of data collection methods, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and document analysis.
 - Ensuring evaluation processes are transparent, fair, and involve relevant stakeholders.
- Continuous Improvement:

- Using evaluation findings to identify areas for improvement and make data-driven decisions to enhance research support services, policies, and procedures.
- Sharing evaluation results with stakeholders to foster transparency and accountability.
- Benchmarking performance against other similar Deanships or national and international standards.

Enhancing Performance Measurement and Evaluation:

- Data Management Systems:
 - Investing in robust data management systems to collect, store, and analyze performance data effectively.
 - Utilizing data visualization tools to communicate performance trends and insights clearly.
- Evaluation Expertise:
 - Building internal evaluation capacity or engaging external evaluators with expertise in research administration and evaluation methods.
- Feedback Mechanisms:
 - Establishing formal feedback mechanisms to gather input from faculty, researchers, students, and external stakeholders on the Deanship's performance.
- Benefits of Strong Performance Measurement and Evaluation:
 - Demonstrates accountability to stakeholders.
 - Identifies areas for improvement and drives continuous quality enhancement.
 - Justifies resource allocation decisions based on evidence of impact.
 - Celebrates successes and showcases achievements.
 - Contributes to a culture of evidence-based decision-making in research administration.

By prioritizing performance measurement and evaluation, the Research Deanship can create a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring its services and initiatives are aligned with the university's research goals and that they effectively support research excellence and impact.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Alignment with National and International Standards:** The accreditation standards should be aligned with relevant national and international standards for research quality and management, such as those set by Quality Assurance Organizations and UNESCO.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Stakeholders such as faculty, researchers, students, and external partners should be involved in the accreditation process through surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The accreditation standards should be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect evolving best practices and emerging research trends.

This detailed description provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the key accreditation standards for a Research Deanship.