



Evaluation of Academic Programs at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

A. Purpose and Application

1. Establish general rules for the uniform and periodic evaluation of current academic programs at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.
2. Integrate the provisions in university regulations, standards, and requirements of institutional and professional licensing and accreditation agencies.
3. Ensure that all processes of academic program evaluation, as well as the resulting report, comply with Certification Number 142 (2023-2024) of the Government Board and adhere to the regulations and guidelines for the evaluation of academic programs at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.

B. Objectives

1. Respond to the institutional mission by ensuring the highest quality academic offerings through continuous program evaluation.
2. Reinforce a culture of evaluation by establishing a mechanism to demonstrate progress in achieving the goals outlined in the University's Strategic Plan.
3. Demonstrate and improve the quality of teaching, research, and service through periodic reviews of program achievements. Identify strengths, areas for improvement, and priorities for short- and medium-term action.
4. Align program evaluation processes with academic planning, resource allocation, and decision-making structures within and outside the University.
5. Standardize procedures for evaluating current academic programs and the preparation and processing of corresponding reports.
6. Establish efficient and effective processes for 5-year evaluations of academic programs, facilitating the presentation, consideration, and processing of evaluation reports.
7. Promote better communication and collaboration among officials and entities involved in the periodic evaluation of academic programs.

C. Definitions

1. **Academic Program:** A set of courses or educational offerings, organized by discipline or interdisciplinary, that, when completed satisfactorily, entitles the recipient to official recognition from the institution. This recognition can be at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional level.
2. **Program Evaluation:** A process that monitors the status, effectiveness, and progress of academic programs, recognizing and addressing strengths and limitations. This process identifies significant trends in the disciplines and evaluates the program's alignment with the mission and development plans of the Mayagüez Campus.
3. **Periodic Evaluation:** The evaluation of academic programs that are not professionally accredited. This evaluation must be conducted every 5 years.

D. Areas of evaluation

1. The evaluation report will include institutional data provided by the Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Improvement (OPIMI).
2. The report will include the following categories:
 - a. Title, degrees awarded, program creation date and duration, accreditations, authorizations, licenses, administration, and any other pertinent information.
 - b. Mission, Vision, and objectives.
 - i. Include the most recent mission, goals, and objectives approved by the program/department.
 - ii. Demonstrate goals and objectives focused on student learning and program improvement. Provide evidence of achievements within the program's goals and objectives.
3. Need and justification of the program.
4. Relevance of the program, including unique characteristics, existence of other similar programs, relationship with other programs, demand, and other reasons.
5. Curriculum, graduate profile, curriculum sequence, or similar information.
6. Assessment Results, changes made, and action plan based on these results.
 - a. Examine the program's evaluation plan and techniques used to assess success in achieving its mission, goals, and objectives (institutional effectiveness and student learning outcomes assessment).
 - i. Include structures, processes, and strategies used to evaluate program effectiveness and student learning.
 - ii. Demonstrate results regarding student learning and program effectiveness.
 - iii. Indicate any curricular changes to be made as a result of these evaluations.

7. Number of applicants to the program, recruitment and admission policies and practices, enrolment and capacity, admission data and sociodemographic profile, course approval rates, degrees awarded, retention and graduation rates, graduate placement rate, and other relevant data.
8. Faculty profile, including recruitment, retention, promotion, research, creative work, and external funding secured by faculty associated with the program. Evaluate the quality, diversity, and competence of faculty and their contribution to the program's mission, goals, and objectives.
9. Service and administrative support staff and academic advising:
 - a. Highlight program efforts from student recruitment to graduation, providing necessary quality services for student development and persistence.
 - b. Provide evidence that support services meet student needs.
10. Strengths and limitations.
 - a. Highlight strengths demonstrated over the past five years.
 - b. Identify areas for improvement.
 - c. Indicate limitations faced during this period.
 - d. List challenges or obstacles encountered.
 - e. Specify strategies to address limitations and weaknesses.
11. Other relevant information about the current status of the program and future projections.
12. Development and improvement plan for the next three years, including a recruitment plan for faculty and non-faculty staff:
 - a. Develop a specific plan, including strategies to address identified areas, program goals, activities to be undertaken, required resources, deadlines for actions, and success measures.
 - b. Include a recruitment plan for faculty and non-faculty staff.