



جامعة دار العلوم
Dar Al Uloom University
لعلوم تواكب العصر



Student's Guide to Quality

General Directorate of Planning, Development and Quality Assurance
Directorate of Quality Assurance
Quality Culture Unit



qualityculture@du.edu



+966-11-4949184



<https://dau.edu.sa/quality>

Content

DAU’s Vision.....	5
DAU’s Mission.....	5
DAU’s Values.....	5
DAU’s Graduate Attributes.....	5
DQA’s Mission.....	5
The importance of quality in education:	6
The importance of graduating from an accredited college.....	6
Responsibility for the Quality of Education:.....	7
1. The Role of Community Parties:	7
2. The Role of Educational Institutions:.....	8
How Do You Contribute to Achieving Quality in Your College?	9
1. Curriculum, Education, and Learning:.....	9
2. Teaching and Learning Evaluation:.....	9
3. Teamwork:	9
4. Student Support:	9
5. University, College, and Program Accreditation:.....	10
6. Community Engagement:	10
7. Continuing individual responsibility	10
Who is a good learner?.....	10
Conclusion.....	11

Introduction

Welcome to the Quality Guide for Students! This guide is designed to help you understand the important role you play in maintaining and enhancing academic quality. By following the principles outlined in this guide, you can make the most of your educational experience and contribute to a vibrant and rigorous learning environment.

Universities represent the fundamental pillars of higher education, as they contribute to building individuals intellectually, culturally, creatively, and skillfully in a way that supports the development of human resources in all disciplines needed for sustainable development plans. Improving the quality of education is also a key requirement for the success of educational programs, to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary skills for excellence, leadership, and the ability to practice their specialization in the job market. Hence, there is increasing interest in the development of higher education institutions with the aim of improving the quality of their performance and activating their role in leading comprehensive development processes.

Academic quality is not solely the responsibility of educators and institutions; students have a significant influence on the overall quality of education. When students actively engage, collaborate, and take ownership of their learning, it creates a positive impact on the academic community. In this guide, we will explore various roles that students can fulfill to contribute to academic quality. These roles include active engagement, preparation and attendance, critical thinking, collaboration, providing feedback, and practicing effective time management. Being well-prepared and attending classes regularly demonstrates your commitment to learning. It allows you to fully benefit from instruction, interact with peers, and grasp complex concepts more effectively. Collaboration fosters a cooperative and inclusive learning environment. Engaging in group projects, study groups, and peer discussions enables you to share knowledge, perspectives, and experiences, thereby enriching the learning experience for everyone involved. Providing constructive feedback to instructors and institutions is vital for continuous improvement. Your input on various aspects such as curriculum, teaching methods, resources, and assessment techniques can help shape a more effective and relevant educational experience.

In light of this and considering that the student is the core of the educational process within the university system, this guide is provided by the Directorate Quality Assurance to clarify the role of university students in implementing quality standards.



Content

DAU's Vision

To be a world-class university.

DAU's Mission

To inspire professional and personal success of our graduates through excellence in education, research, and community engagement.

DAU's Values

- **Academic Excellence:** A commitment to providing quality and excellence in all educational processes.
- **Innovation and Creativity Nurturing:** A commitment to the development of original ideas and innovative approaches to solving complex problems.
- **Knowledge Empowerment:** A commitment to the expansion and deepening of knowledge to give graduates greater power over both their professional and personal lives.
- **A Welcoming Community:** A commitment to maintaining a strong sense of community among students, faculty, and staff.
- **Fostering Ethical Conduct:** A commitment to providing a values-based education and to promote the development of ethical judgment and behavior.

DAU's Graduate Attributes

Knowledgeable: Demonstrate both broad and in-depth understanding of discipline area(s).

Effective Communicator: Present ideas clearly, concisely, and with high quality, in both oral and written form.

Digitally Enabled: Live, learn, and work in a digital society.

Critical Thinker: Apply critical, creative, evidence-based thinking, and research skills to devise innovative responses to problems and challenges.

Ethically and Socially Responsible: Value integrity, ethics, social responsibility, and volunteer work.

Employable Professional: Demonstrate high levels of leadership, professional responsibility, and commitment to lifelong learning.

DQA's Mission

Continuous development and improvement of performance quality at DAU in accordance with national and international quality assurance standards.

The importance of quality in education:

- Ensuring the student's right to receive a quality education.
- Ensuring the community's right to graduates who meet its expectations and needs.
- Gaining the trust of the local, regional, and international community in the results and outputs of higher education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The importance of graduating from an accredited college

Graduating from an accredited college holds significant importance for several reasons:

- 1. Quality Assurance:** Accreditation ensures that a college or university meets certain standards of quality and effectiveness in its educational programs. It serves as a form of quality assurance, indicating that the institution has been evaluated and deemed to provide a high standard of education. By graduating from an accredited college, you can have confidence in the quality of your education and the value of your degree.
- 2. Transferability of Credits:** Accreditation is an important factor when it comes to transferring credits between institutions. If you decide to pursue further education or transfer to another college or university, accredited institutions are more likely to accept the credits you earned. This flexibility can save you time and money by allowing you to build upon your previous coursework.
- 3. Employment Opportunities:** Many employers consider accreditation when assessing job applicants. Graduating from an accredited college can enhance your employability and credibility in the job market. Employers often view degrees from accredited institutions as more reputable and indicative of a well-rounded education.
- 4. Professional Licensing and Certification:** Certain professions, such as nursing, engineering, or teaching, often require a degree from an accredited institution as a prerequisite for licensure or certification. Graduating from an accredited college ensures that you meet the educational requirements necessary to pursue your desired career path.
- 5. Higher Education Opportunities:** If you plan to pursue advanced degrees, such as a master's or doctoral degree, graduating from an accredited college is typically a requirement for admission to reputable graduate programs. Accreditation ensures that you have received a solid foundation of knowledge and skills necessary for further academic pursuits.

Responsibility for the Quality of Education:

The quality of education represents a common interest for the student, educational institutions, the community, and the state. Therefore, it is also a shared responsibility among all these parties.

1. The Role of Community Parties:

The community stakeholders are those who are connected to the work of graduates and the activities of the institution (such as professional associations, employers, hiring entities sought by graduates, the local community, etc.), and their roles are as follows:

1 .Professional Associations: Professional associations play a crucial role in setting standards, providing guidance, and regulating the professional practice of graduates. They ensure that graduates have the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the expectations and requirements of their respective professions.

2 .Employers: Employers have a direct interest in the quality of education as they seek competent and skilled graduates to meet the needs of their organizations. They provide feedback on the relevance of the curriculum, the adequacy of the practical training, and the desired competencies of graduates. They may also collaborate with educational institutions in internship programs or offer job opportunities to graduates.

3 .Employment Agencies: These entities are responsible for linking job seekers, including graduates, with potential employment opportunities. They play a role in assessing the readiness of graduates for the job market, matching their skills with available positions, and providing guidance on professional development and career pathways.

4 .Local Community: The local community is directly impacted by the quality of education as graduates are expected to contribute positively to the social and economic development of the community. The community provides support, resources, and opportunities for collaboration with educational institutions, creating a symbiotic relationship that benefits both parties.

Overall, the societal stakeholders collaborate with educational institutions to ensure that graduates are well-prepared, meet the needs of the job market, and contribute effectively to the development of the community and society.

2. The Role of Educational Institutions:

Educational institutions play a crucial role in ensuring the quality of education and fulfilling their mission of imparting knowledge and skills to students. Their role includes:

1 .Curriculum Development: Educational institutions are responsible for designing and developing curricula that align with the latest advancements in knowledge and meet the needs of the students and society. They must ensure that the curriculum is comprehensive, well-structured, and covers the necessary subject matter.

2 .Instruction and Teaching: Institutions are responsible for providing effective and engaging instruction to students. This includes employing qualified faculty members, utilizing innovative teaching methods, and creating a conducive learning environment. They should foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and encourage active participation from students.

3 .Assessment and Evaluation: Institutions need to implement robust assessment and evaluation mechanisms to monitor student progress and ensure learning outcomes are met. This involves designing appropriate assessment methods, providing timely feedback to students, and continuously improving the evaluation processes.

4 .Support Services: Educational institutions should offer comprehensive support services to students, including academic advising, counseling, and career guidance. These services help students navigate their educational journey, address any challenges they may face, and prepare them for future careers.

5 .Research and Innovation: Institutions play a vital role in conducting research and promoting innovation in their respective fields. They contribute to the advancement of knowledge, develop new methodologies, and foster a culture of inquiry and intellectual growth.

6 .Collaboration and Partnerships: Educational institutions should actively engage in collaborations and partnerships with other institutions, industries, and the community. This includes establishing academic partnerships, internship programs, and research collaborations to enhance the learning experience and bridge the gap between academia and the real world.

By fulfilling these roles, educational institutions can ensure the delivery of quality education, produce competent graduates, and contribute to the overall development of individuals, society, and the workforce.

How Do You Contribute to Achieving Quality in Your College?

Your main role in implementing the education quality system in your college consists of several axes, procedures, and associated practices that help achieve the required quality standards. They are as follows:

1. Curriculum, Education, and Learning:

- Ask the professor of each course you study about the objectives of the course and what you should learn through studying it.
- Inquire from the professor of each course you study about the intended learning outcomes.
- Make sure to read the course description and ask about the program description of the courses you are studying.
- Assist your professors in the teaching and learning process by completing the assigned tasks and readings, and actively participate in discussions.
- Engage with your professors to apply modern learning methods that aim to equip you with essential skills demanded by the job market.
- Actively participate in field training, which represents a significant requirement for entering the job market.

2. Teaching and Learning Evaluation:

- Make sure to evaluate the teaching and learning process through questionnaires that are filled out at the end of the course or at the end of the year and strive to be fully objective.
- Express your satisfaction with the practices carried out by the college, whether they relate to faculty members, the administrative staff, or the facilities and laboratories provided by the college.
- Adopt a positive attitude and avoid negativity. If you are dissatisfied with anything in your educational institution, it is essential to communicate it to the responsible parties.

3. Teamwork:

- Make sure to participate in learning activities with your peers to develop your teamwork skills.
- Help and support your peers in understanding and learning and emphasize the importance of their role in achieving the quality of education to create a better future for themselves and their country.

4. Student Support:

- Read the college's student handbook thoroughly and make sure to understand its study system, how to enroll in different majors, as well as examination systems and the rules governing them.
- Maintain regular communication with your academic advisor and ask them about anything you need to know, seeking their advice continuously.
- Take advantage of the student services available at the university.
- Discuss your exam results with your professors to understand the reasons behind any mistakes and avoid them in the future.
- Engage and participate in student activities within the college and serve the surrounding community.

5. University, College, and Program Accreditation:

- Familiarize yourself with the mission of the university and the college, and the program you belong to, as well as their strategic plans, and participate in providing your opinion on improvement and development processes.
- The university and the college will undergo periodic review visits conducted by expert reviewers in the field of educational quality, affiliated with the Education and Training Evaluation Commission - National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation ETEC-NCAAA. Make sure to provide them with accurate information without exaggeration when asked for your opinion on this matter.
- Engage with your university in community awareness programs and environmental services, as they are integral parts of acquiring work skills.
- Actively participate in efforts aimed at improving and developing education in the Kingdom by participating in surveys and polls related to this.
- Make sure to utilize the resources of your college (library, computer equipment, laboratory tools, etc.) and make the best use of them, as they are for your benefit.

6. Community Engagement:

- Participate in community and environmental awareness programs organized by your university, as they are integral to acquiring work skills.
- Actively participate in scientific seminars and engage in research activities that train you in the intellectual and practical skills required by the job market.
- Provide service to members of the local community and actively participate in community engagement initiatives organized by the college.

7. Continuing individual responsibility

- Assess yourself regularly and judge the extent to which you consider the qualities of a good student.
- Seek academic guidance if necessary.
- Stay updated on what is happening in the university and college in light of quality standards to contribute to development.
- Compare the skills you acquire with the requirements of the job market, employers, and stakeholders.

Who is a good learner?

- 1. The student who is capable of discovering knowledge by themselves, evaluating it, and adding to it, utilizing their skills in research, analysis, evaluation, and creativity.
- The student who can effectively utilize the knowledge they acquire to achieve meaningful learning, which has a positive impact on their understanding, ideas, values, and attitudes.
- The student who can solve problems and overcome obstacles by utilizing all their available potential and the alternatives at their disposal.
- The student who is committed to lifelong learning, with a deep belief in their existence in this life, a genuine understanding of the ultimate goal they strive to achieve, and a continuous realistic approach towards acquiring more knowledge and achieving further accomplishments.

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- The student who is psychologically, cognitively, and ethically balanced, and in harmony with themselves and their community.
 - The student who is righteous in themselves, beneficial to their community, country, and religion.
 - The student who collaborates with their peers and professors.
 - The student who is tolerant and open-minded towards others.
 - The student who is committed to their religion and loves their country and university.
 - The student with firm principles, committed to values, and responsible.

Conclusion

Dear student,

Your role is pivotal in bringing about positive change and development, and it is essential that your academic achievement reflects the desired level, quality, and excellence. Your cooperation in assessment and filling out the questionnaires requested of you is one of the most important areas that should be attended to, as it plays a crucial role in improving the performance of your program, college, and university. Furthermore, being attentive and responsive in completing the questionnaires will have a positive impact on the quality and improvement of all the services provided to you.

Remember, that your quality, as the most important member of the university, has a significant role in achieving the goals we aspire to together. May you always be successful and beneficial to your country and society.