

CASP020- QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY

STATUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of Existing Policy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Policy
SCOPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All CAS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Some CAS (.....)
	<input type="checkbox"/> One CAS (.....)
TARGET AUDIENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Academic staff <input type="checkbox"/> Non-academic staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Students: <input type="checkbox"/> All levels <input type="checkbox"/> UG <input type="checkbox"/> PG
	<input type="checkbox"/> All specialisations <input type="checkbox"/> Some (.....)

1. Purpose and Rationale

The Colleges of Applied Sciences are striving for high quality in all its activities by enhancing the effectiveness of its core activities of learning, teaching, research and support services.

This policy aims at describing the quality assurance system and the strategies set by CAS to achieve high quality and monitor it. The main objective of this policy is to provide guidance in development and implementation of internal and external quality assurance procedures and practices.

2. Definitions

Assessment: The process of identifying and ensuring that appropriate internal procedures are in place and operational and that outcomes of academic programs and activities are in line with established standards.

Audit: The process of identifying and ensuring that appropriate internal quality assurance processes are in place and operational.

Program Review: A process of holistic appraisal of a course/program and resources, with a view to its further evolution and improvement.

Quality: Refers to “fitness for purpose”. (i.e., the institution and its components of activities have quality if they conform to the purpose for which they were designed).

Quality Assurance: The process whereby measures are established which ensure that outcomes of academic programs and activities are of a prescribed standard.

Quality Management:	Refers to all the processes in place to facilitate achievement of quality in an institution.
Stakeholders	Agencies (government and private) and who have interest in the CAS operations. They may be sponsors, customers or consumers.

3. Content and Principles

In carrying out and implementing this policy CAS is guided by the following principles and objectives:

- 3.1 This is a College-wide policy that applies to all operations, as outlined in the OAAA quality audit scope.
- 3.2 The Higher Committee for Quality Assurance, headed by the General Director of CAS is responsible for setting the strategies of the QA system; overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan in all CAS campuses and measuring its effectiveness.
- 3.3 The College's Quality Assurance Units oversee the implementation of the plans in all academic and administrative departments in their respective Colleges.
- 3.4 CAS academic programs shall be developed and maintained through an enhanced support processes in order to promote a culture of continuous quality improvement able to achieve academic excellence which meets and exceeds the standards expected by stakeholders as outlined in the OAAA accreditation standards.
- 3.5 Internal quality audit shall be carried out regularly for all academic and administrative departments in each College.
- 3.6 Quality, beyond meeting regulatory and customer requirements, shall be regarded as a culture all CAS employees are encouraged to adopt and demonstrate in the performance of their duties.

4. Legislative Compliance

Though the CAS is required to manage its policy documentation within a legislative framework, there is no specific legislation directing this policy.

5. Supporting Materials

- a. Executive Summary: Requirements for Oman's system of Quality Assurance (ROSQA) in Higher Education.
- b. Requirements for Oman's system of Quality Assurance (ROSQA) in Higher Education (it also include a summary of what constitutes 'Best Practice')

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- c. Requirements for Oman's System of Quality Assurance (ROSQA) in Higher Education
 - d. Requirements for Oman's system of Quality Assurance (ROSQA) in Higher Education: Part Two: Procedural Guides for Accreditation Standards.
 - e. Oman Academic Accreditation Authority, Plan for an Omani Higher Education Quality Management System ("The Quality Plan"): A joint initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education and the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority. Draft v4 for Public Consultation, 2006.
 - f. Oman Academic Standards for general Foundation Programs
 - g. CAS Academic Regulations
 - h. Licensing and Accreditation System in Oman: A Proposal
 - i. OAAA Program Standards
 - j. OAAA Institutional Standards

6. Appendices

Appendix A: Mapping of Performance Indicators to Policy Objectives

7. Approval Agency: Board of Trustees

8. Approval Dates

This policy was originally approved on: []

This version was approved on: []

This version takes effect from: []

This policy will be reviewed by: []

9. Policy Sponsor: Director General of CAS

10. Contact: Directorate General of CAS