

Research and Development a Catalyst for Improved Quality Assurance and Practice in Distance Education

An Exploration of Criterion 9: UCJ Standards for Distance Education

University Council of Jamaica 16th Annual Quality Assurance in Higher Education Week

Facilitators: Eraldine Williams-Shakespeare, Michelle McKoy, Ora Tanner

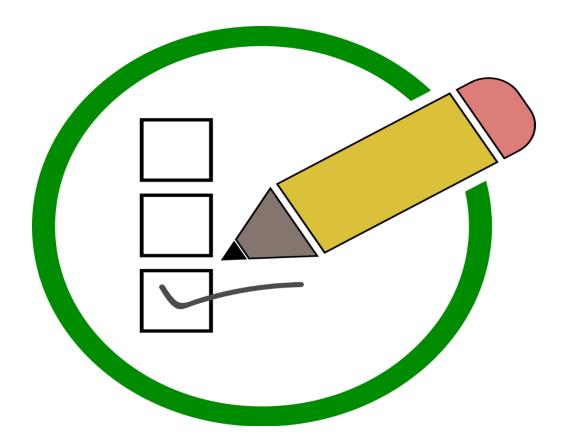


Session Focus

 We will discuss Criterion 9 and report on priority issues, expectations, and implications for revising the national quality standards on distance education.



What do you know about R&D?



https://forms.gle/wKkWjUdKGiDHeGLZ6



Scope

The institution collects data on learners; their needs and learning and achievement, for use in the review of programmes and courses; and the provision of support services.

A well formulated plan guides the management and operations of the institution, with emphasis on satisfying the needs of stakeholders and meeting high standards of quality.

9.1.1 Standards for research are communicated to learners and staff.

9.1.6 Research is done as part of the institutions community outreach and partnership with external stakeholders

9.1.2 Procedures and guidelines for the conduct of research are documented and communicated to learners and staff.

9.1 The institution encourages, promotes, and facilitates research among staff and learners

9.1.5 Guidelines are available for the quality and quantity of publications required.



9.1.3 Research and publication are criteria for tenure and are used for promotion of facility.

9.1.4 Incentives are provided for the conduct and publication of research.



Criterion 9.1 - Indicators

- Research committee handbook/guidelines for research
- Annual reports of research output (submitted by staff)



9.2.1 Surveys of employees, public and private sector bodies and other stakeholders are regularly undertaken to inform programme and course development.

9.2.2 Technology Research Committee (or similar entity) provides technical assistance to the administration, faculty, staff and students.

9.2 The institution uses data from research to make informed decisions about programmes and course development.

9.2.3 Technology options are carefully researched and the information generated used to make informed decisions about the value of various technologies.



Criterion 9.2 - Indicators

- Survey reports are available and their use reported in curriculum committee minutes
- Policy statements as well as discussions taken re technology in use, reflect the involvement and recommendations of the technology research committee



9.3 The institution has in place procedures for the ethical conduct of research.

9.3.1 Ethical practices in research relating to plagiarism, copying, intellectual property rights, etc. are documented and communicated.



Criterion 9.3 - Indicator

Handbook/guidelines for research

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF JAMAICA
"Assuring Quality in Higher Education"

9.4.1 A learner data base is maintained and staff members have access to and are able to collect and analyse learner data to assist them in planning and maintaining quality teaching and learning.

9.4.2 Reviews and analyses of data on learner profiles, needs and expectations, are conducted.

9.4.5 Mechanisms exist for learners to provide feedback which is sued for programme improvement. 9.4 The institution collects and maintains information and data from formal and informal sources, to inform policy and strategies relating to the teaching and learning environment.

9.4.3 Research data inform the review of courses and programmes, course materials and assessment.

9.4.4 Learners are encouraged to participate in the formulation of policy in relating to learner support.



Criterion 9.4 - Indicators

- Student database exist and can be scrutinized.
 Protocols regarding access are developed and documented.
- Minutes of relevant meetings (at the unit/department/school/faculty and organizational (e.g. university) level indicate use of the available data in planning, curriculum review and assessment.
- Learners are represented on policy and decision making bodies.
- Learners complete evaluation forms which are used in programme and course review.



9.5.1 The institution engages in consultancy services for the community, industry and other stakeholders.

9.5.1 A Consultancy
Committee sets
guidelines for the
involvement of staff in
consultancy, and
monitors this
involvement.



Criterion 9.5 - Indicators

- Minutes of the Consultancy Committee meeting (reflecting appropriate practices).
- Reports (examples of research in the community).



9.6 The institution conducts research to measure and advise on recommendations for improvements in:

(a) efficiency of operations and services

(b) achievement of stated goals and objectives.

9.6.1 Systems are in place to conduct institutional research geared towards producing data to enhance the operations of the institution and to ensure the attainment of objectives.



Criterion 9.6 - Indicators

 Reports of institutional research, information on how research is used.



Breakout Room Activity

- Discuss the assigned criterion with a view to answering the following question:
 - What gap/s if any exist in the criterion as presented?
 - What implication/s does this gap have for revising Criterion 9 in the UCJ Standards for Distance Education?



Breakout Room Debrief

 Each group will report the outcome of their dialogue in the main room.



What next?

Summary and session wrap up.



Reference

 UCJ (2014) Standards for Distance Education Policy Document. The University Council of Jamaica.