



المركز الوطني للتقويم والاعتماد الأكاديمي  
National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation

رؤية  
2030  
الجمهورية العربية السعودية  
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

برنامج تنمية  
القدرات البشرية



هيئة تقويم التعليم والتدريب  
Education & Training Evaluation Commission



# Terminology Guide for the Accreditation and Ranking Digital Platform 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

2026

Model No.: SGR-G07-2025 Version No.: V02

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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## Introduction

This guide serves as a comprehensive record that includes definitions of terms related to the Accreditation and Ranking Digital Platform, specifically those used by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC). The terms and expressions herein refer – unless the context suggests otherwise – to the meanings detailed in this guide as presented next to each of them. It is version V02.2025, where (V02) refers to the second edition of the Saudi Global Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (SGR).

## Terminology Guide for the Accreditation and Ranking Digital Platform

No.	Term	Definition
<b>General Terminology</b>		
1.	<b>Commission</b>	Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC)
2.	<b>Center</b>	National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation
3.	<b>Ministry</b>	Ministry of Education
4.	<b>Higher Education Institutions</b>	Public, private, independent universities and colleges, or national or international institutions licensed to offer post high-school education and award academic or professional qualifications.
5.	<b>College / Faculty</b>	A scientific establishment comprised of a group of academic departments that belong to a general scientific field.
6.	<b>Scientific Department</b>	An academic unit representing a general scientific specialization.
7.	<b>Academic Program</b>	A coherent or sequential set of learning experiences and educational activities that are purposefully designed and organized to achieve predetermined learning outcomes or to accomplish a specified set of educational tasks over a sustained period of time.
8.	<b>Major / Specialization</b>	A series of educational activities or structured communications designed and organized to achieve predetermined learning objectives in a specific disciplinary field, culminating in the attainment of a recognized and defined qualification
9.	<b>Qualification</b>	The official outcome of a learning or training process obtained by a graduate, issued in the form of a document or certificate by a recognized awarding body or educational/training institution.

No.	Term	Definition
10.	<b>Higher Education (Levels 5–8)</b>	Educational programs offering learning activities in specialized fields aimed at deepening understanding and academic focus at the higher education level. These include advanced academic and professional programs and are often built upon outcomes of high-school education.
11.	<b>Ranking of Higher Education Institutions</b>	The ranking of higher education institutions based on specific standards and indicators across various domains.
12.	<b>Global (International) Rankings</b>	Systems that rank higher education institutions worldwide based on a wide range of standards and indicators. These typically focus on core institutional functions such as teaching, research, community service, technical infrastructure, and environmental readiness. Notable global rankings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanghai Ranking.</li> <li>• Times.</li> <li>• Metric Green.</li> <li>• QS.</li> <li>• Webometrics.</li> </ul>
13.	<b>National Rankings of Higher Education Institutions</b>	Rankings established within a country, possibly administered by government or private entities. They differ from global rankings in being tailored to national education systems and utilizing country-specific indicators and standards. These are formally adopted by competent authorities within the state.
14.	<b>Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (SGR)</b>	A mechanism for ranking higher education institutions based on measuring their performance, using a scientific methodology according to fixed criteria and indicators, and through announced procedures. It highlights the strengths of the educational institution as well as opportunities for improvement, depending on its ranking level. The ranking is divided into specific categories, aiming to emphasize the factors that impact the enhancement of education quality, capabilities, and outcomes, to increase competitiveness and improve the institution's standing nationally and globally, while developing its capacities in line with Saudi Vision 2030.

No.	Term	Definition
15.	<b>Ranking Standards</b>	Benchmark standards used as a basis for ranking and classifying higher education institutions. These standards aim to provide a unified framework for measuring multiple dimensions such as quality of education, academic efficiency, research output, community service, and knowledge transfer. The standards include specific criteria and requirements that higher education institutions must meet to ensure a defined level of quality and excellence. They also enable objective comparisons between institutions, contributing to improved overall performance and enhancing competitiveness and innovation in the higher education sector.
16.	<b>Ranking Categories</b>	Sets designed to classify higher education institutions according to specific standards and indicators, with each category focusing on a particular area that highlights aspects of excellence and development opportunities within higher education institutions.
17.	<b>Educational Category</b>	Includes educational performance indicators and applies to all higher education institutions.
18.	<b>Comprehensive Category</b>	Includes educational and research performance indicators and other domains, and is applied to universities with research activity, according to criteria defined by the Ranking.
19.	<b>Ranking Data Governance</b>	The process of organizing and managing ranking data through the implementation of unified policies and standards to ensure data accuracy and consistency across its types. This process supports governance, platform development, and transparency in higher education ranking systems.
20.	<b>Data Cleansing</b>	A process aimed at achieving the highest levels of data quality used in ranking by correcting fields that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorrect.</li> <li>• Missing.</li> <li>• Incomplete.</li> <li>• Duplicated.</li> <li>• Inconsistent with expected results.</li> </ul>

No.	Term	Definition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formatted inconsistently with the predefined data formatting rules.</li> <li>Outliers (either too small or too large compared to norms).</li> </ul>
21.	<b>Ranking Indicators</b>	A set of qualitative and quantitative metrics used to assess the performance of higher education institutions against target performance standards.
22.	<b>Target Value</b>	The expected or benchmark value based on an indicator, determined by national, international, or peer comparison performance standards.
23.	<b>Indicator Code</b>	A serial code composed of letters and numbers, used to distinguish each indicator and indicate its classification category, main domain, and subdomain.
24.	<b>Indicator Weight</b>	The percentage weight of the indicator's impact within the matrix according to the specified domain.
25.	<b>Sub-Domain</b>	A component consisting of a set of homogeneous indicators with a shared reference framework, grouped under the title of the sub-domain. Sub-domains are designed to assess the educational institution through a number of coherent indicators, such as: indicators related to learning outcomes, educational environment, alignment with labor market needs, research impact, and other relevant areas.
26.	<b>Main Domain</b>	The highest aggregation level in the hierarchical structure for describing indicators. The weights of main domains are calculated by summing the weights of their associated subdomains. Main domains aim to provide a comprehensive view of institutional performance and facilitate comparison, such as: quality of teaching and learning, community service, research activity, and others.

No.	Term	Definition
27.	<b>Evidence</b>	Attached documents that verify the accuracy of the data entered into the digital platform and are authenticated by the competent authority. Examples include: (a document indicating the number of students extracted from the academic or administrative systems of the educational institution, or a document specifying the number of faculty members issued by the Human Resources Department), or documents prepared in accordance with the templates approved by the General Department of Ranking Programs.
28.	<b>Data Quality Elements</b>	<p>These refer to the criteria that ensure the suitability of data for its intended purpose. The following characteristics must be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Accurate:</b> Data must be entered correctly and free from errors.</li> <li>2. <b>Complete:</b> Data is free of missing values.</li> <li>3. <b>Digital:</b> Data is in a numerical/digital format.</li> <li>4. <b>Time-Bound:</b> Data falls within the defined reference period.</li> <li>5. <b>Time-Stamped:</b> Data is submitted within the designated deadlines.</li> <li>6. <b>Verified:</b> Data is validated for accuracy, completeness, and confidentiality.</li> <li>7. <b>Approved:</b> Data is approved in accordance with the governance of roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>8. <b>Evidence-based:</b> Supporting evidence is attached for all entered data fields.</li> </ol>
29.	<b>Digital Platform</b>	An online portal dedicated to higher education institutions and their academic programs to facilitate the processes of academic accreditation and the Saudi ranking system by submitting required data and information.

No.	Term	Definition
30.	<b>Authorized Representative</b>	University President, Rector, or College Dean.
31.	<b>Data Responsibility Identification Document</b>	An official approved document through which the institution's authorized data representative designates both the data entry officer and the data verifier as responsible for providing the Education and Training Evaluation Commission with the institution's data. Accordingly, access permissions are granted to the designated individuals for the digital platform. Access credentials are issued only after the document is approved by the authorized data representative and uploaded to the digital platform.
32.	<b>Data Entry official</b>	The person nominated by the authorized data representative, responsible for compiling the required data in the digital platform, ensuring its quality, and entering it in accordance with the specified guidelines.
33.	<b>Data Verifier</b>	The person nominated by the authorized data representative, responsible for reviewing the data entered into the digital platform, verifying its quality, and approving the Data Quality Commitment Document upon completion of the review process.
34.	<b>Data Approver</b>	A person appointed by the head of the higher education institution, responsible for the final approval of the data entered into the digital platform following initial approval by the data verifier. This person is responsible for submitting the approved data to the Education and Training Evaluation Commission.
35.	<b>Timeframe for Indicator Calculation</b>	The reference period that aligns with the required data, determined by academic year, calendar year, or fiscal year.
36.	<b>Ranking year</b>	The specific timeframe designated by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission for collecting the required data during the academic year.

No.	Term	Definition
37.	<b>Academic Year</b>	A period covering two or more semesters, or a complete academic term, and may include three or more levels of study, or at least two accredited study levels.
<b>Quality of Teaching and Learning (Educational Outputs)</b>		
38.	<b>Graduate Knowledge and Skills Assessment</b>	A process for evaluating the knowledge, skills, and values acquired by graduates from academic programs, through the results of standardized or specialized tests, surveys, and other approved tools, with the aim of assessing the knowledge and skills of graduates from higher education institutions.
39.	<b>Value -added</b>	A statistical measure aimed at determining the amount of academic progress or achievement growth made by students as a result of the educational process in a specific institution, by comparing their performance at the end of the educational period with their performance at the beginning, taking in to account factors that may affect the outcomes.
40.	<b>Jahiziya Test</b>	A standardized test for graduates of higher education institutions that measures their readiness for the labor market.
41.	<b>Professional Educational Occupation License Test</b>	Professional Educational Occupation License Test is a standardized assessment designed to measure the extent to which candidates meet the national general and subject-specific educational standards. It determines whether the candidate possesses the minimum level of knowledge and skills required to practice the teaching profession. The exam consists of two parts: A General Education Test and a Specialized Subject Test

No.	Term	Definition
42.	<b>Examinations for Health Specialties</b>	The examinations administered by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (such as the SMLE, SDLE, SNLE, and others) serve as standardized assessment tools to evaluate the professional competence, theoretical knowledge, and practical skills of healthcare practitioners across various specialties. These examinations aim to ensure that candidates meet the minimum required level of knowledge and ability to safely and effectively practice their healthcare profession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They also serve as a basis for granting professional classification and licensure.
43.	<b>Pre-test (Baseline Measurement)</b>	Assessment of students' knowledge and skills at the beginning of the academic program or upon entry into the higher education institution.
44.	<b>Post-test Measurement</b>	Assessment of students' knowledge and skills at the end of the academic program or upon graduation from the institution.
<b>Quality of Teaching and Learning (Educational Process)</b>		
45.	<b>On-time Graduation</b>	Refers to graduation within the minimum duration of the academic program, excluding any academic terms or years not counted toward the program's official length, such as deferred semesters. For example, if the standard duration of a program is four years and the student was admitted in the first semester of the 2020/2021 academic year, then on-time graduation is defined as completion by the end of the 2024/2025 academic year.
46.	<b>Minimum Study Duration</b>	The minimum theoretical duration of an academic program, used for the purpose of ranking the program at a specific level or for determining completion of a given level.

No.	Term	Definition
47.	<b>Theoretical Study Duration</b>	The period - expressed in academic years, academic units, or credit hours - required to deliver an academic program, assuming regular participation on a full-time basis.
48.	<b>Student Admission Scores</b>	Scores determined by higher education institutions to assess the extent to which students meet the admission requirements for their academic programs. These scores are based on students' performance in high-school education, the General Aptitude Test, and the Achievement Test, and are calculated using a weighted percentage that reflects their readiness for higher education.
49.	<b>Modes of Learning</b>	Various modes of instruction, including: in-person learning, blended learning, distance learning, self-directed learning, and other instructional formats.
50.	<b>General Aptitude Test</b>	A test that measures verbal and quantitative abilities related to learning processes – such as analytical, deductive, and inferential reasoning – for high school graduates of all tracks who seek admission to higher education institutions.
51.	<b>Academic Achievement Test for Scientific Tracks</b>	A standardized test that measures the academic attainment of test-takers in natural and applied sciences (general track, health and life sciences track, computer and engineering sciences track) during high-school education in selected common subjects.
52.	<b>Academic Achievement Test for Theoretical Track</b>	A standardized test that measures the academic attainment of test-takers in the humanities (Shari'ah track and business administration track) during high-school education in selected common subjects.
53.	<b>Student Admission Rate</b>	A numerical ratio representing the proportion of admitted students to the total number of applicants meeting admission criteria.

No.	Term	Definition
54.	<b>Instructional/Academic Unit</b>	A weekly theoretical lecture (or clinical session) with a duration of no less than fifty minutes, or a weekly practical or field session with a duration of no less than one hundred minutes. The instructional unit is delivered consistently over the course of an academic semester.
55.	<b>Teaching Load</b>	The number of teaching units assigned to a faculty member (or equivalent), with the maximum teaching load defined as follows: <b>Professor:</b> 10 teaching units. <b>Associate Professor:</b> 12 teaching units. <b>Assistant Professor:</b> 14 teaching units. <b>Lecturer:</b> 16 teaching units. <b>Teaching Assistant:</b> 16 teaching units.
56.	<b>Faculty Members</b>	Holders of Doctoral Degrees from among Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors.
57.	<b>Full-Time Faculty Workload</b>	The standard number of academic work units equivalent to 35 working hours per week, encompassing teaching, scientific research, academic advising, office hours, participation in academic committees, and other duties assigned by the competent authorities within the university.
58.	<b>Part-time Adjunct Faculty Members</b>	Faculty members from outside the higher education institution who are engaged to teach accredited instructional units within the academic plans during the academic year.
59.	<b>Fully Released Faculty Members</b>	Faculty members who are not assigned teaching duties due to being on leave or being assigned administrative or research responsibilities.
60.	<b>Partially Released Faculty Members</b>	Faculty members who fulfill a portion of their teaching load - ranging from one-quarter to three-quarters of the full load - due to being assigned administrative or research responsibilities.

No.	Term	Definition
61.	<b>Faculty Members and their Equivalents</b>	Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, and those classified as equivalent to faculty members in accordance with the regulations - such as Lecturers and Teaching Assistants.
62.	<b>Students</b>	All enrolled students at the educational institution.
63.	<b>Intermediate Diploma Students</b>	Students pursuing a university degree at Level 5 (all academic higher education programs below the level of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent), in accordance with the levels specified in the National Qualifications Framework. This does not include students enrolled in the Associate Diploma programs.
64.	<b>Bachelor's Students</b>	Students pursuing a first university degree at Level 6 or long-duration first degree programs at Level 7, in accordance with the levels specified in the National Qualifications Framework.
65.	<b>Higher Diploma Students</b>	Students pursuing a second university degree at Level 6, in accordance with the levels specified in the National Qualifications Framework.
66.	<b>Master's Students</b>	Students enrolled in postgraduate programs leading to a master's degree (second university degree), in accordance with Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework. This definition does not include sponsored students or those enrolled in doctoral programs (Level 8).
67.	<b>Doctoral students</b>	Students enrolled in advanced postgraduate programs. During these programs, they complete specialized studies at Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework, which is the highest university academic qualification. These programs aim to qualify students for a doctorate degree by completing requirements that include coursework and conducting original research that contributes to their field.

No.	Term	Definition
68.	<b>Full-time Student Enrollment</b>	The number of study units a student is permitted to register for in a given semester (or academic year), with the maximum and minimum limits determined by the educational institution.
69.	<b>Deferred Semester</b>	The period during which a student is permitted to postpone their enrollment or studies at the university for acceptable reasons, without losing their right to resume studies within the approved deferral period, in accordance with the university's regulations.
70.	<b>Applicants to the Educational Institution</b>	High-school graduates who have applied for admission to the educational institution during a specific academic year, regardless of whether they have been accepted or not. This definition includes all individuals who have met the application requirements and completed the initial registration process.
71.	<b>Admitted (New) Students</b>	High-school graduates who have been accepted to study at the educational institution in the specified academic year.
72.	<b>Enrolled Students</b>	Students who are officially recorded in the university's records under a university ID number and maintain an active institutional status, including regular (active) students, those on an approved excuse, those on an approved deferment, and visiting students.
73.	<b>Registered Students</b>	Students who are actually present and attending classes, excluding those who have deferred, withdrawn, discontinued their studies, had their enrollment suspended, or have been dismissed.
74.	<b>Unregistered Students</b>	Students who are enrolled at the university but are not currently attending classes. This includes students who have deferred, withdrawn, discontinued their studies, had their enrollment suspended, or have been dismissed.
75.	<b>Withdrawn Students with Approved Leave</b>	Registered students who have formally submitted an official request to withdraw from study at least four weeks prior to

No.	Term	Definition																												
		the start of final examinations for semester-based programs, or at least eight weeks prior for programs operating on a full academic year system.																												
76.	<b>Permanently Withdrawn Students</b>	Enrolled students who have permanently ended their affiliation with the educational institution before completing their academic program.																												
77.	<b>Interrupted Students</b>	Enrolled students at the educational institution who have discontinued their studies for one or more academic semesters without submitting any official request for apology or deferral.																												
78.	<b>Graduates</b>	Students who fulfilled graduation requirements and earned an academic degree during the academic year. This includes those graduating at the end of the first, second, or summer semester (if applicable).																												
79.	<b>Field of Study</b>	<p>The broadest category or domain of educational program content, within which the fields of specialization offered by higher education institutions and post-secondary technical and vocational education are classified, in accordance with the Unified Saudi Ranking of Educational Levels and Fields of specialization issued in 1441 AH and approved by the Council of Ministers on 27 Muharram 1442 AH (corresponding to 15 September 2020). The fields are outlined in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Code</th> <th>Field</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Field</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>00</td> <td>General Programs and Qualifications</td> <td>06</td> <td>Information &amp; Communication Technologies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01</td> <td>Education</td> <td>07</td> <td>Engineering, Manufacturing &amp; Construction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02</td> <td>Arts and Humanities</td> <td>08</td> <td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries &amp; Veterinary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>03</td> <td>Social Sciences, Journalism &amp; Information</td> <td>09</td> <td>Health &amp; Welfare</td> </tr> <tr> <td>04</td> <td>Business, Administration &amp; Law</td> <td>10</td> <td>Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>05</td> <td>Natural Sciences, Mathematics &amp; Statistics</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Code	Field	Code	Field	00	General Programs and Qualifications	06	Information & Communication Technologies	01	Education	07	Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction	02	Arts and Humanities	08	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Veterinary	03	Social Sciences, Journalism & Information	09	Health & Welfare	04	Business, Administration & Law	10	Services	05	Natural Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics		
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No.	Term	Definition								
80.	<b>Technical Fields</b>	<p>Scientific fields that encompass disciplines in science and technology, as defined in the Unified Saudi Ranking of Educational Levels and Fields. These include:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Field</th> <th>Field</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Statistics</td> <td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Veterinary Sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information and Communication Technology</td> <td>Health and Welfare</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engineering, Manufacturing, and Construction</td> <td>Services</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Field	Field	Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Statistics	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Veterinary Sciences	Information and Communication Technology	Health and Welfare	Engineering, Manufacturing, and Construction	Services
Field	Field									
Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Statistics	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Veterinary Sciences									
Information and Communication Technology	Health and Welfare									
Engineering, Manufacturing, and Construction	Services									
81.	<b>Learning Environment</b>	The physical and pedagogical space in which the educational process occurs. It includes the facilities and infrastructure used in teaching and learning activities within the educational institution.								
82.	<b>Student Survey</b>	A quantitative measurement tool comprising multiple statements designed to capture students' perceptions regarding the quality of teaching and learning processes within the educational institution. It is administered periodically.								
83.	<b>Faculty Members and their Equivalents Survey</b>	A quantitative measurement tool consisting of a set of statements aimed at identifying the opinions of faculty members and those equivalent to them regarding the quality of teaching and learning processes, as well as the readiness of the institution's infrastructure. It is administered on a regular basis.								
84.	<b>Student Retention</b>	Represents the efforts undertaken by the educational institution to retain its students and prevent dropout. It is measured for newly admitted students by calculating the difference between the number of students admitted (two years prior) and the number of those who successfully completed the first and second years of the academic program in the ranking reference year.								

No.	Term	Definition
85.	<b>Student Dropout</b>	Refers to the discontinuation of students' enrollment due to academic failure, dismissal, interruption, withdrawal, or any other reason that leads to leaving the educational institution.
<b>Quality of Teaching and Learning (Academic Accreditation)</b>		
86.	<b>Accreditation</b>	An official certification issued by a recognized body confirming that an institution or program has met or exceeded the minimum standards of academic accreditation for a specified period.
87.	<b>Academic Accreditation</b>	An official certificate issued by a recognized authority, indicating that the institution or program has met the minimum required standards for academic accreditation for a specified period. It includes <b>institutional accreditation</b> , classified as full or conditional, and <b>programmatic accreditation</b> , classified as national or international.
88.	<b>Full Institutional Accreditation</b>	A certificate issued by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation, confirming that the higher education institution has met quality standards for academic accreditation for a specified period.
89.	<b>Conditional Institutional Accreditation</b>	A certificate issued by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (NCAAA), indicating that the program has met the required academic accreditation and quality assurance standards for a specified period.
90.	<b>Full Programmatic Accreditation</b>	A certificate issued by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (NCAAA), confirming that the academic program has fully met the required quality and accreditation standards for a specified period.
91.	<b>National Programmatic Accreditation</b>	Accreditation granted by the Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (NCAAA), indicating that the program meets the national quality and academic accreditation standards

No.	Term	Definition
92.	<b>International Programmatic Accreditation</b>	An official document issued by an internationally recognized and independent body authorized to conduct quality assurance and academic accreditation activities, after obtaining approval from the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (NCAAA) to accredit specific post-secondary education programs. The accrediting body must be based in a country with a high-quality higher education system.
93.	<b>Conditional Programmatic Accreditation</b>	A certificate issued by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation (Etimad), indicating that the program has met the required academic accreditation and quality assurance standards for a specified period.
94.	<b>Academic Programs</b>	A set of courses, activities, and learning experiences designed to achieve specific objectives and learning outcomes over a defined period, the successful completion of which leads to the awarding of an academic degree or specified qualifications.
95.	<b>Program with Valid Accreditation</b>	Programs that have obtained programmatic accreditation, where the ranking reference year falls within the officially defined accreditation period of the program.
96.	<b>Active Programs</b>	Academic programs in which student admission is still ongoing.
97.	<b>Accreditation-Eligible Program</b>	A program licensed by the Ministry of Education from which at least one cohort of students has graduated and student admission is still ongoing.
98.	<b>New Program</b>	A program licensed by the Ministry of Education from which no cohort has yet graduated.

No.	Term	Definition
<b>Research Activity (Research Impact)</b>		
99.	<b>Ranked Journals</b>	Peer-reviewed scientific journals specialized in publishing scholarly and research papers in international databases such as:  A. Scopus databases B. Web of Science databases
100.	<b>SciVal Tool</b>	An advanced scientific analysis tool developed by a leading global specialized company, used to evaluate and analyze the research performance of universities, institutions, and researchers.
101.	<b>Scopus Database</b>	A global database containing abstracts and references from articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals, used to track scientific publications and research citations worldwide.
102.	<b>Web of Science Databases</b>	A global database specialized in indexing and analyzing scientific research through its coverage of high-quality peer-reviewed journals. It provides tools to measure research impact and track citations.
103.	<b>Arabic Citation Index Database (RACI)</b>	A specialized scientific database that facilitates access to bibliographic information and citations for research published in peer-reviewed Arabic scientific journals.
104.	<b>ARCIF Tool</b>	A tool for measuring the impact and citation references of Arabic academic or research journals.
105.	<b>Scientific Citation (Istishhad)</b>	Refers to citing newly published research to previously published studies, serving as a tool to measure the originality, strength, and significance of the research.
106.	<b>Quartile Rankings (Q1–Q4)</b>	Scientific journals in each core field are classified into four quartiles based on their number and impact factor. Journals with the highest impact factors are placed in the first quartile (Q1).

No.	Term	Definition
107.	<b>Top 10% Citation Rate</b>	The proportion of peer-reviewed papers ranked among the top 10% most cited globally within their field. This reflects a high impact in terms of subject matter, citation frequency, and publication visibility.
<b>Research Activity (Research Productivity Rate)</b>		
108.	<b>Published Books</b>	Scientific works or academic textbooks published in accordance with the standards, regulations, and procedures approved by the Scientific Council of the educational institution.
109.	<b>Peer-Reviewed Books</b>	A peer-reviewed book is one that has undergone scientific evaluation by a specialized committee, confirming the validity of its academic content for publication and dissemination.
110.	<b>Indexed Scientific Papers</b>	Scientific papers published in databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, and other similar databases.
111.	<b>Scientific Output</b>	Research outputs including published scientific papers, books, academic theses, and patents.
<b>Research Activity (Research Expenditure)</b>		
112.	<b>Actual (Executed) Budget</b>	The budget expended at the end of the fiscal year, reflecting the actual expenditures and revenues realized during that financial year.
113.	<b>Planned (Estimated) Budget</b>	The budget set at the beginning of the fiscal year, representing projected expenditures and anticipated revenues for the upcoming financial year.
114.	<b>External Research Funding</b>	Financial support provided by an entity external to the educational institution to implement faculty research projects, in accordance with the institution's approved policies, regulations, and governing procedures.
115.	<b>Internal Research Funding</b>	Financial support provided by the educational institution to implement faculty research projects, in accordance with the

No.	Term	Definition
		institution's approved policies, regulations, and governing procedures.
116.	<b>External Entities</b>	Any entity outside the educational institution, whether local or international.
<b>Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (Innovation)</b>		
117.	<b>National Patent</b>	A legal document issued by the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) granting exclusive rights to an inventor and preventing others from using the invention without consent
118.	<b>International Patent</b>	It is an exclusive protection document granted to the inventor by a recognized authority, provided that the invention is new, involves an inventive step, and is industrially applicable
119.	<b>Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)</b>	A Saudi governmental authority dedicated to regulating, promoting, and protecting intellectual property fields in accordance with global best practices. SAIP supplies the Saudi Ranking framework with a portion of the data related to indicators of registered patent activity.
120.	<b>Patent Application</b>	A formal request indicating that the applicant seeks protection through a patent. It includes the invention title, the applicant's and inventor's information, a description of the invention, the relevant technical field, and the claims defining the scope of protection being sought, along with a summary of the invention.
121.	<b>Applicant</b>	The individual registered with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (or its international equivalent) as the person requesting the protection document.
122.	<b>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</b>	A specialized agency of the United Nations, responsible for promoting and protecting intellectual property worldwide through cooperation with member states and international organizations. WIPO data is utilized within the Saudi Ranking framework to calculate a portion of the indicator related to registered patent activity.

No.	Term	Definition
<b>Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (Knowledge Transfer)</b>		
123.	<b>Global Research Awards</b>	prizes granted by international institutions to researchers who have conducted distinguished scientific research, with the aim of promoting innovation in scientific inquiry, fostering competitive spirit, and enriching knowledge through high-impact studies. Examples include the Nobel Prize and the King Faisal Prize.
124.	<b>Technology Commercialization</b>	The process of converting research ideas and various intellectual property activities acquired by the educational institution (or its affiliates) into marketable products or services. This process involves collaboration among researchers, entrepreneurs, industry experts, and investors.
<b>Employment</b>		
125.	<b>Full-Time Employment</b>	The standard number of working hours as defined by the employing entity.
126.	<b>Monsha'at</b>	The Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority "Monsha'at" is a Saudi governmental entity established in 2016 by a decision of the Council of Ministers. It possesses legal personality and enjoys financial and administrative independence and is organizationally affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce. Monsha'at aims to regulate, support, develop, and foster the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by designing and implementing programs and projects that promote a culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship, providing administrative, technical, and financial support, stimulating venture capital initiatives, enhancing enterprise productivity, and increasing their contribution to the gross domestic product, in accordance with international best practices and in cooperation with both the public and private sectors.
127.	<b>Entrepreneurs</b>	An individual who takes the initiative to establish a new venture or develop an innovative idea and transform it into a commercial enterprise or startup, assuming the associated

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		risks with the aim of achieving economic growth or social impact.
128.	<b>Alignment of Graduate Jobs with Fields of specialization</b>	A tool used to measure the alignment between higher education and labor market needs within the educational institution. It is based on a survey developed by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission to assess the degree to which graduates' jobs align with their academic specializations.
<b>Community Service</b>		
129.	<b>Community Service</b>	Services provided by the institution to meet the needs of its surrounding communities, with a focus on engaging with developmental priorities. Community service is recognized as the third mission of universities and aims to activate their societal role by contributing to social responsibility and voluntary engagement.
130.	<b>Social Responsibility</b>	The educational institution's sustained commitment to serving the community under a structured and legislated framework of social responsibility. This is implemented through an institutional governance system that defines the overarching framework for engagement by faculty, staff, and students through university platforms, in effective partnership with other sectors, to contribute to community development based on approved performance indicators, thereby supporting the Kingdom's Vision and the dimensions of sustainable development.
131.	<b>Responsible Course</b>	An academic course in which educational, field-based, and interactive activities are integrated to serve the community, with the aim of fostering and strengthening students' awareness of their roles and responsibilities toward society and preparing them to be active participants in sustainable community development.
132.	<b>Responsible Research</b>	Applied scientific research whose outcomes have been implemented in practice by providing innovative and effective solutions to address societal issues and challenges. It

No.	Term	Definition
		originates from the scientific research stream and fulfills its strategic objectives aimed at generating a tangible and sustainable positive impact on community development.
133.	<b>Responsible Project</b>	A practical, applied project stemming from the community service stream that fulfills its strategic goals by delivering high-quality services and sustainable programs that meet community needs and contribute directly to its development and advancement.
134.	<b>Expenditure on Social Responsibility</b>	The financial expenditure incurred by the university through direct spending to implement social responsibility outcomes during the ranking reference year, including spending on responsible projects, responsible courses, and responsible research.
135.	<b>Total Expenditure on Social Responsibility</b>	The total monetary value expended by the university to implement social responsibility outcomes over a defined period (fiscal year).
136.	<b>Ratio of Social Responsibility Expenditure to Total Budget</b>	The percentage of expenditure on social responsibility outcomes relative to the university's total budget, used to assess the institutional prioritization of social responsibility.
137.	<b>Efficiency of Social Responsibility Expenditure</b>	The ratio of social responsibility outcomes (such as responsible courses, responsible projects, and responsible research) to the total expenditure on social responsibility.
138.	<b>Voluntary Work</b>	Any effort or task offered by a person voluntarily, without compulsion or reward, aimed at serving the community and its development.
139.	<b>Volunteer</b>	Anyone who performs volunteer work freely, without expecting any material or moral compensation.
140.	<b>National Volunteer Portal</b>	A Saudi platform that provides a secure and organized environment for volunteering by connecting volunteers with volunteer opportunities across the Kingdom.

No.	Term	Definition
141.	<b>Health Volunteering Platform</b>	An electronic platform for registering volunteers under the supervision of the Health Volunteering Center at the Ministry of Health. The platform connects entities offering health-related volunteering opportunities with individuals interested in providing voluntary health services.
142.	<b>Beneficiary Entities</b>	Non-profit organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, that benefit from volunteer work.
143.	<b>Volunteering Opportunities</b>	Tasks and roles designed by entities providing volunteer opportunities, in accordance with the models approved by the authorities responsible for volunteer work.
144.	<b>Supervisory Entities</b>	Entities responsible for the direct technical or administrative oversight of volunteer work, whether in the government or non-profit sector.

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National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation



برنامج تنمية  
القدرات البشرية



هيئة تقويم التعليم والتدريب  
Education & Training Evaluation Commission



# Terminology Guide for the Accreditation and Ranking Digital Platform

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

2026

Model No.: SGR-G07-2025

Version No.: V02