



# Education & Training Quality Surveys

#نشارك\_لنطور



## Terminology Guide For Higher Education Quality Surveys

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# سهم الله في كل عمل نجدد

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>General Terms .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Higher Education .....	5
Higher Education Institutions .....	5
Higher Education Quality Surveys .....	5
Target Groups .....	5
College .....	6
Scientific Department.....	6
Educational (Academic) Program.....	6
Major.....	6
Qualification .....	6
Electronic Platform for Surveys .....	6
<b>Student Survey Terms.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Student Survey .....	7
Intermediate Diploma Students.....	7
Bachelor's Degree Students .....	7
Higher Diploma Students.....	7
Master's Degree Students .....	7
Doctoral students.....	7
Institutional Information .....	8
Student Orientation Programs.....	8
Learning Environment.....	8
Registration Procedures .....	8
Course .....	8
Program Learning Outcomes.....	8
Program Objective .....	9
Communication Skills.....	9
Digital Literacy Skills.....	9

At-Risk Student.....	9
Support for Outstanding and Gifted Students .....	9
Academic Advising .....	9
Facilities for Extracurricular Activities.....	10
Educational Experience.....	10
<b>Graduates Survey Terms .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Higher Education Graduates .....	10
Higher Education Graduates Survey.....	10
Field (Cooperative) Training .....	10
Professional Preparation.....	11
Skills Record .....	11
Career Day.....	11
Self-development.....	11
Critical thinking .....	11
Post-graduation support.....	11
<b>Faculty Members and Equivalent Survey Terms .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Faculty members and their equivalents .....	12
Faculty members and their equivalents survey .....	12
Research sources .....	12
E-learning.....	12
Distance learning .....	13
Executive rules for faculty members and their equivalents.....	13
Community service .....	13
<b>Employers Survey Terms .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Employers' Survey .....	13
<b>References.....</b>	<b>14</b>

## Introduction

This glossary outlines the terms and definitions associated with the indicators of higher education quality surveys, with the purpose of clarifying the concepts adopted in the surveys currently in use.

No.	Term	Definition
<b>General Terms</b>		
1	<b>Higher Education</b>	Post-secondary education leading to the awarding of an academic degree, ranging from the Intermediate Diploma to the Doctorate, in accordance with the levels defined in the National Qualifications Framework of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2	<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.
3	<b>Higher Education Quality Surveys</b>	Higher Education Quality Surveys are systematically developed tools, administered annually, to capture the perspectives of various beneficiaries. They serve to identify strengths and areas for improvement, support continuous development of educational inputs, processes, and outputs, enhance the academic environment, and align educational outcomes with labor market needs in accordance with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.
4	<b>Target Groups</b>	Specific groups of higher education stakeholders include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students (Intermediate Diploma/Bachelor's/ Higher Diploma/Master's/Doctorate).</li> <li>▪ Graduates (Intermediate Diploma/Bachelor's/ Higher Diploma/Master's/Doctorate).</li> <li>▪ Faculty members and their equivalents.</li> </ul>

No.	Term	Definition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers.</li> </ul>
5	<b>College</b>	A scientific establishment comprised of a group of academic departments that belong to a general scientific field. [6]
6	<b>Scientific Department</b>	An academic unit representing a general scientific specialization. [6]
7	<b>Educational (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. [4]
8	<b>Major</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. [4]
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. [5]
10	<b>Electronic Platform for Higher Education Quality Surveys</b>	An electronic platform affiliated with the Education and Training Evaluation Commission, which enables members of higher education affiliates, employers, and stakeholders regarding the quality of education, the learning environment, graduates' skills, and the relevant regulations, bylaws, and provisions.

No.	Term	Definition
<b>Student Survey Terms</b>		
11	<b>Students' Survey</b>	A periodic survey administered to students in higher education institutions to measure multiple dimensions, including the quality of student orientation, the effectiveness of the educational process, and the readiness of the educational environment and infrastructure, among others.
12	<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.
13	<b>Bachelor's Degree 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 defined in the National Qualifications Framework.
14	<b>Higher Diploma Students</b>	Students pursuing a second university degree at Level 6, in accordance with the levels defined in the National Qualifications Framework.
15	<b>Master's Degree 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).
16	<b>Doctoral students</b>	The students enrolled in advanced postgraduate programs complete specialized studies at Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework, which is the highest university academic qualification. These programs aim to prepare students to obtain a doctoral degree by fulfilling requirements

No.	Term	Definition
		that include coursework and conducting original research contributing to the specialization.
17	<b>Institutional Information</b>	Information of interest to the beneficiaries, published on the educational institution's website, such as vision and mission, descriptions of services and academic programs, study regulations, and related matters. etc.
18	<b>Student Orientation Programs</b>	Programs implemented by the educational institution for new students (such as orientation meetings), through which university policies, academic departments, the academic portal (if available), academic advising activities, and other matters of concern to students are explained.
19	<b>Learning Environment</b>	Refers to the overall setting in which the educational process takes place, encompassing the educational approach, cultural context, physical environment, infrastructure, learning tools and resources, and the technologies utilized within the institution.
20	<b>Registration Procedures</b>	Electronic procedures for enrolling in available courses, along with the policies and deadlines for courses add/drop as defined by the academic calendar.
21	<b>Course</b>	A study subject within each program plan that includes a number, code, and content description. It is subject to monitoring, assessment, and development within each department, and may be taught independently or have prerequisites or co-requisites. [3]
22	<b>Program Learning Outcomes</b>	Statements that describe what a learner (student) should acquire, understand, and be able to do at the end of the program. They represent the final result of the learning process. [8]

No.	Term	Definition
23	<b>Program Objective</b>	Specific statements describing what the program aims to achieve, whether in operational, educational, research, or community aspects. [8]
24	<b>Communication Skills</b>	The ability to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical knowledge and to convey specialized knowledge, skills, and complex ideas effectively to diverse audiences.
25	<b>Digital Literacy Skills</b>	The ability to use a variety of digital tools and applications, both basic and specialized information and communication technologies, and to adapt them for processing, analyzing, and managing data and information, supporting and/or enhancing specialized research and projects. [5]
26	<b>At-Risk Student</b>	A student whose academic performance shows a decline compared to the previous year, or who is academically delayed or demonstrates frequent absences. Support measures for at-risk students typically include academic, psychological, and social counseling, accompanied by continuous and regular follow-up.
27	<b>Support for Outstanding and Gifted Students</b>	Providing support to students who excel academically or stand out in a specific scientific field. The support provided includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motivating outstanding students to pursue innovation.</li> <li>▪ Guiding faculty members and their equivalents to diversify their expertise by engaging students in various activities.</li> <li>▪ Encouraging students by granting material and moral incentives as well as certificates of excellence.</li> </ul>
28	<b>Academic Advising</b>	A task assigned to faculty members to support students in overcoming academic challenges throughout their educational journey. This includes providing guidance, introducing students to academic regulations and policies, assisting them in selecting an appropriate major, and helping them address

No.	Term	Definition
		social or academic issues that may adversely affect their performance.
29	<b>Facilities for Extracurricular Activities</b>	General facilities within the educational institution, including cultural facilities (such as museums, libraries, and conference halls), sports facilities (such as stadiums and swimming pools), religious facilities (such as mosques), and recreational facilities (such as restaurants and green spaces), among others.
30	<b>Educational Experience</b>	The overall academic and social experiences of student on campus, including teaching, campus facilities, extracurricular activities, and academic and technical support services.
<b>Graduates Survey Terms</b>		
31	<b>Higher Education Graduates</b>	Includes graduates of higher education institutions in the first semester, the second semester, and the third semester (summer), if applicable.
32	<b>Higher Education Graduates Survey</b>	A periodic survey administered to graduates of higher education institutions that measures several areas, including professional preparation, personal, professional, and technical skills, among others.
33	<b>Field (Cooperative) Training</b>	A program aimed at achieving the highest degree of alignment between what the student studies in their field of specialization and the requirements of employers. This is accomplished through collaboration between the educational institution and employers to train students in applying their academic learning within the actual work environment, according to defined regulations.

No.	Term	Definition
34	<b>Career Preparation</b>	Services provided by the educational institution to prepare students for professional life through workshops and training programs. These programs aim to equip students for the labor market and may include, for example: professional workshops, professional résumé writing, job interview guidance, job search strategies and techniques, work ethics, time management, understanding the labor market, among others.
35	<b>Student Skills Record</b>	A document that records all activities and training programs completed by the student (according to specific conditions and regulations). This document is used as evidence of the personal and professional non-academic skills developed by the student during their study period.
36	<b>Career Day</b>	A forum organized by the educational institution that brings employers together with its graduates. It enables employers to meet graduates and present available job opportunities under one roof, in addition to informing those employers about the programs and academic specializations offered by the institution.
37	<b>Self-development</b>	A process in which an individual improves their personal, professional, spiritual, and emotional abilities and skills, contributing to their personal growth and development.
38	<b>Critical thinking</b>	The ability to discern and make judgments through disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, and guided by evidence and proof, before deciding whether to accept or reject an idea.
39	<b>Post-Graduation Support</b>	Support provided by higher education institutions to their graduates after graduation, represented by continuous engagement with them. This support includes, for example, involving them in public and scientific events and development plans, providing appropriate services, offering information

No.	Term	Definition
		about available training and employment opportunities within the educational institution and in both the private and public sectors, assisting them in obtaining jobs aligned with their fields of study and the requirements of the labor market, introducing the public and private sectors to the competencies of university graduates from various disciplines annually, and inviting graduates to university events.
<b>Faculty Members and Their Equivalents Survey Terms</b>		
40	<b>Faculty members and their equivalents</b>	Professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and their equivalents (lecturers and teaching assistants are classified with faculty members according to the regulations). [6]
41	<b>Faculty members and their equivalents' survey</b>	A survey directed at faculty members and their equivalents, administered periodically, measuring several areas including the quality of the educational process, readiness of the educational environment and infrastructure, organizational climate, support and development, among others.
42	<b>Research sources</b>	All scientific materials relied upon by the researcher to collect information and data in support of their study. These include peer-reviewed articles, theses, books, scientific reports, conferences, dissertations, abstracts, and electronic sources published in databases and in national and international libraries.
43	<b>E-learning</b>	The use of educational, information, and communication technologies to enhance the efficiency of the educational and training process in all its forms and to ensure its quality. [1]

No.	Term	Definition
44	<b>Distance learning</b>	Education or training conducted using information and communication technology tools and applications or other alternatives such as printed materials and worksheets, where the teacher/faculty member or trainer is spatially separated from the learners or trainees. It may be synchronous or asynchronous. [5]
45	<b>Executive rules for faculty members and their equivalents</b>	Rules governing the employment affairs of university staff (whether Saudi or Non-Saudi), including faculty members and their equivalents. These rules clarify the provisions of the executive regulations and include faculty salaries, rewards, and allowances. They also regulate the appointment and promotion of Saudi faculty members, their secondments, assignments, transfers to other positions within or outside the university, and their return to academic positions.
46	<b>Community service</b>	Sustainable practices undertaken by the educational institution in the field of community service, aimed at developing society, solving its problems, and meeting its needs, in accordance with specific regulatory frameworks and in coordination with relevant sectors.
<b>Employers Survey Terms</b>		
47	<b>Employers' Survey</b>	A periodic survey administered to employers to assess several areas, including graduates' personal, professional, and technical skills, their readiness for the labor market, and other related aspects.

## References

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4. Unified Saudi Classification of Educational Levels and Specializations (1441 AH).
5. National Qualifications Framework in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2nd Edition, 2023).
6. Universities Law, First Edition (2020).
7. Regulations for the Affairs of University Staff and Their Equivalents, Faculty Members and Equivalents (1417 AH).
8. Academic Specialty Standards (Concept, Importance, and Application), Introductory Brochure, First Edition, September 2023.



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