

Learning outcomes-based assessment of students' performance at Medical schools in Saudi Arabia

Learning Outcomes [LOs] for the undergraduate medical programs offered in Saudi universities include substantial scientific knowledge relevant to medical practice and the ability to apply required knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. According to National Qualification Framework (NQF), these learning outcomes are grouped into five domains, viz. Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility, Communication, Information Technology, and Numerical Skills, and Psychomotor Skills.

To assess the achievement of these learning outcomes by the students, academicians are employing several approaches depending on the nature of the LOs included in each course of the program. We, at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU), regularly assessing the achievement of student LOs as mandated by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Assessment [NCAAA]. We use various qualitative rubrics and other indirect methods to be employed in evaluating the achievement of each of the five domains of learning outcomes of all the undergraduate programs, including the medical program offered at IAU.

Accordingly, several Key Performance Indicators [KPIs] are developed to monitor the achievement of each learning outcome. A unique methodology has been adopted to fix the target, internal and external benchmarks. Besides, we have a systematic way to gather the students' feedback, and such data is used as an indirect way to assess the achievement of LOs. An exclusive online application, 'UDQuest' is developed by the university to facilitate this process. This way of measuring the direct and indirect assessment of learning outcomes achieved by the medical student will help the educational policy planners to devise appropriate strategies to improve the quality of the medical programs across other Saudi universities.