

Self-Assessment Report

College of Pharmacy/ Alsafwa University

1. Mission and outcomes

Introduction

In the core of Alsafwa University College's Pharmacy Department, there's a strong commitment to its mission and achieving outcomes that reflect not just academic excellence but also values like social responsibility, research success, community involvement, and preparing for further education. This section takes a closer look at how the department's mission statement developed and spread.

Findings and Evidence

The Pharmacy Department at Alsafwa University College has been guided by its mission statement since it started. This commitment is clearly shown in the Arabic version posted on the college website and placed in all department laboratories. This means they want everyone – students and staff – to see and live by the mission every day.

SOWC Analysis

Strengths

The department's mission gets reviewed and updated yearly on the website, showing their commitment to getting better. This helps keep the mission in line with changing educational standards and what society needs.

Weaknesses

The mission statement is only available in Arabic, which might make it hard for some people to understand. Also, the way it's shared with staff and students may not be reaching everyone, so they might need to rethink how they spread the word.

Internal Challenges

In the past, the Quality Assurance Department mainly handled mission matters, but now there's a move toward a more teamwork approach, involving more people.

External Factors

There aren't clear rules from the Ministry of Higher Education about what the mission should include. So, the department needs to take the lead and set its own standards.

الرؤيا

يسعى قسم الصيدلة ليكون متميزا في أدائه فيما يخص تدريس العلوم الصيدلانية خدمة للمجتمع ومؤسساته الصحية كما يسعى الى ان يكون جاذبا للكفاءات العلمية من جهة ومحط انظار الطلبة الراغبين بدراسة الصيدلة من جهة أخرى.

الرسالة

رفد الخريجين بالعلوم الصيدلانية النظرية والعملية لتخريج صيادلة اكفاء قادرين على تقديم الخدمات الصيدلانية للمجتمع والمؤسسات الصحية. العمل على تطبيق الجودة لتنمية التطور العلمي في المجال الصيدلاني من خلال تعزيز بيئة تعليمية حديثة تهدف الى تنمية قدرات الطلاب ومهاراتهم للعمل في الصيدليات الخاصة ومصانع الادوية والمؤسسات الصحية والبحثية والتعليمية.

الاهداف

توفير كوادر صيدلانية بخبرات علمية ذات مستوى عالي والتطلع الى منافسة الخبرات الاقليمية والعالمية. تشجيع الطلبة نحو البرامج الصيدلانية التخصصية المستقبلية لممارسة مهنة الصيدلة بكافة اشكالها وبصورة أعمق وأكثر خدمة للمجتمع بما في ذلك الولوج الى الدراسات العليا. حث الطلبة على التفاعل الإيجابي مع مشكلات المجتمع الصحية والجانب الانساني ووضع الحلول المناسبة للمساهمة بتطوير الثقافة الصحية للمجتمع. توفير الاجهزة والبرامج المتطورة لتحفيز البحث لدى الطالب في مختلف العلوم الصيدلانية والتطبيقية.

2. Educational program

Introduction

The Educational Program serves as the backbone of Alsafwa University College's Pharmacy Department, embodying a commitment to fostering a dynamic and comprehensive learning environment. This section investigates the foundational principles guiding curriculum design, the diverse teaching and learning methods employed, and the strategies in place to empower students to actively shape their educational journey.

Findings and Evidence

Comprehensive Curriculum

The Ministry of Higher Education outlines a clear and comprehensive curriculum, encompassing both theoretical and practical teaching methods. This curriculum strikes a balance between various pharmacy disciplines, promoting collaboration between practical and theoretical sessions.

Clinical Pharmacy Emphasis

The clinical pharmacy component places a strong emphasis on evidence-based medicine, enhancing critical thinking skills. This focus is evident through numerous courses, including pharmacy training, panel discussions, workshops within the Clinical Pharmacy Laboratory, hospital training with therapeutic drug monitoring sessions, and pharmacoeconomical analysis.

Fundamental Sciences Integration

The pharmacy curriculum incorporates fundamental biomedical sciences, behavioral and social sciences, pharmacy ethics, and clinical sciences. From physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and biostatistics to biochemistry and organic chemistry, the program encompasses a well-rounded education. The pharmaceutical medicine segment emphasizes ethics and communication skills, culminating in the clinical pharmacy sciences.

Feedback Mechanisms

To ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness, the college actively seeks feedback from the community and society. Post-graduation, monitoring of alumni through social media groups provides insights into their performance, enabling continuous improvement based on real-world outcomes.

SOWC Analysis

Strengths

The program boasts a comprehensive curriculum, employing effective and modern teaching methods. Regular monitoring of alumni performance through social media groups provides a valuable feedback loop for continuous improvement.

Weaknesses

The centralized structure for all Iraqi pharmacy faculties limits flexibility for modifications and improvements. Additionally, an internal challenge stems from staff working under pressure due to inadequate human resources, posing challenges in implementing all intended teaching methods.

External Factors

The influence of governmental prestigious Iraqi universities in curriculum updates may pose a challenge, making it challenging for newly established colleges like Alsafwa University College to contribute significantly.

3. Assessment of students

Introduction

At Alsafwa University College's Pharmacy Department, the assessment of students is a well-structured process overseen by a dedicated team consisting of academic leadership, department heads, and assessment committees. The responsibility for the assessment policy lies with this collaborative group, ensuring accountability and efficient decision-making. The college places a strong emphasis on the reliability and validity of assessments, employing regular reviews, standardized testing tools, and external validation measures. This meticulous monitoring process helps maintain the credibility of assessments. To align assessment practices with educational objectives and learning methods, the college engages in collaborative efforts with faculty, instructional designers, and educational experts. This intentional alignment ensures that assessments effectively measure student learning outcomes. Assessment methods are designed not only to measure outcomes but also to demonstrate whether educational objectives are met or not, fostering a culture of continuous improvement in both teaching methods and assessment strategies.

Findings

The assessment of students at Alsafwa University College follows a traditional format, with a clear governance structure involving the Head of Department and the Examination Committee. The examination process consists of two exams per semester, including mid-term and final examinations. Notably, final exams incorporate a unique feature of a second trial for each assessment, enhancing the evaluative process. The assessments primarily utilize a paper-based format, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation aligned with the curriculum. This traditional

approach reflects a structured and systematic method for evaluating student performance within the academic framework of the pharmacy department.

SWOC analysis

Strengths:

Clear Governance Structure: The involvement of the Head of Department and Examination Committee provides a clear and accountable governance structure for the assessment process.

Structured Assessment Calendar: The inclusion of two exams per semester (mid-term and final) offers a structured and consistent assessment schedule.

Weaknesses:

Limited Innovation in Assessment: The traditional assessment approach may lack innovation, potentially hindering the exploration of alternative and more dynamic evaluation methods.

Second Trials Complexity: While the second trial for final exams adds a layer of evaluation, its implementation might introduce complexities in logistics and administration.

Opportunities:

Incorporate Technology: There is an opportunity to leverage technology to enhance assessment methods, such as incorporating online assessments, interactive platforms, or digital tools.

Diversify Assessment Formats: Exploring diverse assessment formats beyond traditional paper-based exams could provide a more comprehensive evaluation of student understanding and skills.

Challenges:

Resistance to Change: Introducing new assessment methods or formats might face resistance from faculty or stakeholders accustomed to traditional approaches.

Logistical Challenges with Second Trials: Implementing second trials for final exams may pose logistical challenges, requiring careful planning and coordination.

This SWOC analysis highlights the current strengths and weaknesses in the assessment structure at Alsafwa University College's Pharmacy Department while identifying potential opportunities for improvement and the challenges that may need to be addressed.

4. Program Evaluation at Alsafwa University College's Pharmacy Program:

Evaluation Process:

The pharmacy college conducts regular program evaluations involving curriculum reviews, student assessments, and feedback mechanisms to ensure alignment with accreditation standards and industry requirements.

Analysis of Staff and Student Opinions:

The college actively solicits and analyzes opinions from staff and students through surveys and feedback sessions. The results inform decision-making and continuous improvement initiatives.

Involvement of Principal Stakeholders:

Principal stakeholders within the college, including faculty, administration, and students, actively participate in program evaluation through committee memberships, regular meetings, and collaborative workshops.

Wider Stakeholder Involvement:

The college seeks input from a broader range of stakeholders, including industry professionals, alumni, and regulatory bodies, to ensure a comprehensive perspective in the evaluation and development of the pharmacy program.

SWOC Analysis:

Strengths:

Outstanding faculty expertise.

State-of-the-art facilities.

Robust industry connections.

Weaknesses:

Limited funding for research.

Inconsistent technology infrastructure.

Faculty shortages in specific areas.

Opportunities:

Increasing demand for specialized pharmacy services.

Collaboration potential with industry partners.

Emerging technologies in pharmaceutical research.

Challenges:

Evolving accreditation requirements.

Competitive landscape with neighboring institutions.

Regulatory changes impacting curriculum.

5. Students

Introduction

Alsafwa University College prioritizes a student-centered approach in its pharmacy program. Admission criteria include academic performance and standardized test scores, with a designated body overseeing the selection policy. The intake of pharmacy students aligns with the college's capacity to maintain an optimal learning environment. Counseling services are available to support students in academic and personal matters. Alsafwa University College likely encourages student input on curriculum matters, showcasing a commitment to involving students in shaping their educational experiences. For the latest and specific details, it is advisable to check the official website or directly contact Alsafwa University College.

Findings

The admission criteria for Alsafwa University College's pharmacy program are regulated by the Ministry of Higher Education. The responsibility for selecting students lies with the Ministry of Higher Education, ensuring a standardized and fair process. The college operates at near-full capacity, indicating a high demand for its programs. Additionally, a dedicated committee is in place to assist and support students, offering guidance and counseling whenever needed. However, in terms of curriculum matters, there is no current provision for student contributions to the design or changes in the curriculum. This lack of involvement suggests a potential area for future consideration in enhancing student engagement and participation in shaping their educational journey.

SOWC Analysis:

Strengths:

Fair Admission Rules: The college follows fair rules for admitting students set by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Helpful Committee: There is a committee that helps and supports students, which is a good thing for their well-being.

Opportunities:

High Demand: Many people want to join the college, so there's a chance to grow and offer more programs. **Better Learning:** By involving students more in planning what they learn, the college can make classes more interesting.

Weaknesses:

Limited Student Involvement: The lack of student involvement in curriculum design or changes represents a weakness, as it may hinder the development of a more student-centric educational approach.

Challenges:

Capacity Constraints: The almost full capacity of the college may pose challenges in accommodating the growing demand for its programs, necessitating careful planning and potential expansion strategies.

6. Academic staff/faculty

In the pharmacy college, it's important to have teachers with the right skills to teach different things. The college has policies to make sure that the teachers have a good balance of skills needed for the lessons. They also have rules about recognizing and rewarding teachers for their teaching, research, and other helpful activities. The college pays attention to how many students each teacher has, making sure it's right for the different parts of what students need to learn. They also have programs to help teachers learn more and get feedback on how well they teach. This helps the teachers improve and makes sure students get the best education.

Findings:

Diverse and Balanced Staff: The pharmacy college has a good variety of special staff for all pharmacy branches and basic biomedical science, making sure there's a good balance.

Effective Teaching Monitoring: The head of the department is good at keeping an eye on how well the teachers are doing, making sure the teaching process goes smoothly.

Low Student-to-Staff Ratio: There aren't too many students for each teacher, which is good because it means students can get more attention.

Moderate Continuing Education: The college is somewhat good at helping teachers learn more and improve, making sure they stay updated on the latest knowledge and teaching methods.

SWOC Analysis:

Strengths:

Diverse Staff: The college has many different staff members for pharmacy and biomedical science, creating a good balance.

Effective Monitoring: The head of the department keeps a close eye on teaching, making sure things go well.

Low Student-Teacher Ratio: There aren't too many students for each teacher, which means better attention for students.

Weaknesses:

Moderate Continuing Education: The college could do a bit more to help teachers learn and improve their skills.

Opportunities:

Staff Development: There's a chance to invest more in helping staff grow and develop their skills.

Challenges:

Balancing Growth: As the college grows, there might be challenges in keeping the right balance among staff and maintaining the low student-to-teacher ratio.

Educational resources

Introduction

Ensuring the availability and effectiveness of educational resources is crucial for a thriving academic environment. In this context, the pharmacy college employs various strategies to review the adequacy of its educational resources and facilities. This includes assessing the availability of necessary facilities and patients for clinical teaching. Additionally, the college has established policies governing the use of information and communication technology, recognizing its significance in modern education. Moreover, the pharmacy college explores collaborations with other educational institutions, fostering a spirit of shared learning. Access to expert pharmacy education units and the analysis of student and graduate performance further contribute to the continuous enhancement of the educational experience. This multifaceted approach reflects the college's commitment to maintaining high standards and staying abreast of advancements in pharmacy education.

Findings:

Resource Evaluation: The college regularly checks if there are enough materials for teaching. Results show they keep things up-to-date and well-stocked.

Facility and Patient Review: The pharmacy college looks at its facilities and patients available for teaching. They ensure there's enough for clinical lessons and make improvements as needed.

Technology Use Policy: The college has clear rules on how to use technology for teaching, recognizing its importance.

Educational Collaboration: They're open to working with other schools, promoting shared learning experiences.

Access to Expertise: The college has access to expert pharmacy education units, showing a commitment to high-quality teaching.

Performance Analysis: The pharmacy college regularly looks at how well students and graduates are doing, helping them improve teaching methods

SWOC Analysis:

Strengths:

Well-Stocked Resources: The college keeps teaching materials up-to-date and available.

Facility and Patient Focus: Regular checks ensure there's enough for clinical teaching.

Clear Tech Rules: The college has clear rules for using technology in education.

Collaboration Readiness: Openness to working with other schools promotes shared learning.

Access to Expertise: Having access to expert pharmacy education units is a strength.

Weaknesses:

Moderate Collaboration: There could be more collaboration with other educational institutions.

Opportunities:

Improved Collaboration: More collaboration can enhance learning experiences.

Challenges:

Balancing Growth: As the college grows, maintaining resource quality might be a challenge.

Governance and administration

In the pharmacy college, the way things are managed and led is called governance. This includes looking at how well the leaders do their jobs. They check if the leaders are following the college's goals and if they're doing a good job. The college also makes sure that the right resources, like money and materials, are used in the best way to reach its goals. The staff helps with administrative jobs to keep everything running smoothly. The pharmacy program is regularly checked to make sure it's managed well and meeting the college's standards.

Findings:

Clear Governance Structure: The pharmacy college has a clear leadership structure with roles like the Dean, department heads, and college committee.

Unclear Administrative Divisions: Some smaller administrative roles are not well-defined, lacking clear job descriptions.

Lack of Clear Financial Management: The college lacks a clear financial system that all staff members follow, and there's no transparent promotion system in place.

Supportive Academic Leadership: Academic leaders are very supportive of the staff, offering incentives for exceptional performance.

SWOC Analysis:

Strengths:

Clear Governance Structure: The pharmacy college has a well-defined governance structure with key roles identified, including the Dean, department heads, and a college committee.

Supportive Academic Leadership: Academic leaders are notably supportive, providing incentives for staff excellence.

Weaknesses:

Unclear Administrative Divisions: Smaller administrative divisions lack clarity in their roles, causing potential confusion.

Lack of Clear Financial Management: The absence of a clear financial management system and a transparent promotion process may create uncertainty among staff members.

Opportunities:

Improved Administrative Clarity: There is an opportunity to define and communicate the roles of smaller administrative divisions for better organizational clarity.

Establish Clear Financial Protocols: Implementing clear financial management guidelines and a transparent promotion system could enhance overall organizational structure.

Challenges:

Defining Administrative Roles: Clearly outlining the roles of minor administrative divisions may pose a challenge. **Implementing Financial Protocols:** Establishing clear financial management and promotion systems may face resistance and require careful implementation.

Research

Introduction

In a pharmacy college, it's important to have a lively research environment. Departments should balance teaching, research, and clinical service to provide a well-rounded education. Students should get chances to do research at any point in their pharmacy studies. The college needs a plan to make sure research is developed and included in the schedule. This way, everyone benefits from new knowledge and ideas in the field of pharmacy.

Finding

Strong Support for Undergraduate Research: The college demonstrates a high level of support for undergraduate research initiatives, fostering an environment that encourages student involvement in research activities.

Limited Contribution to Postgraduate Research Collaborations: There is a lower level of contribution or collaboration with other universities for postgraduate research, suggesting potential opportunities for increased engagement and collaboration.

Funding Support for Staff Publications: The college provides financial support for the publication of staff members, indicating a commitment to disseminating research findings and supporting the professional development of faculty.

SWOC Analysis:

Strengths:

Undergraduate Research Support: The college strongly supports undergraduate research, creating a positive learning environment.

Weaknesses:

Limited Postgraduate Collaboration: There is less collaboration with other universities for postgraduate research, presenting an opportunity for growth.

Opportunities:

Enhanced Postgraduate Collaboration: There is an opportunity to increase collaboration with other universities for more robust postgraduate research.

Challenges:

Sustainable Funding Model: Maintaining funding support for staff publications may pose a challenge in the long run.