



Exit Exam (Achievement Examination)

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- Context :** The AAU exit exam relates directly to the CAA Standard (2.4. Continuous Quality Enhancement) as well as to the Standard (3.10 Program Effectiveness). The exam serves to provide the institution with detailed up-to-date feedback on the students' performance in program outcomes which helps develop the programs and courses.
- Objective :** The AAU exit exam aims at measuring the students' attainment of the program learning outcomes as well as their performance in the individual courses/domains relevant to their specializations. This is highly important in higher education as it serves as a point of reference for program enhancement.
- Description :** AAU developed the exit exam in 2011 to measure the effectiveness of the program LOs upon the students' graduation. Colleges and departments developed the exam based on the program LOs and the specialization's domains/subjects. The exams were prepared using the latest methods in testing with reference to local and international test banks. The exam is conducted twice a year; at the end of the first semester and at the end of the second semester for the students expecting to graduate at the end of that semester. Every semester, a new exam is prepared and the questions are added to create a vast test bank of questions for later exams. At the moment, AAU conducts online exit exams for all programs offered; both undergraduate and graduate. Once the students take the exam, the results are analyzed by the IT center. The Deans' council, college councils, and department councils examine the results extensively to identify points of strengths and areas for development in the academic programs. The detailed results allow colleges and departments to identify the exact LOs and domains where the students excel and those which need improvement. The students taking the exam realize the importance of the exam and take it seriously. This is a result of the continued encouragement of colleges and departments for students to sit for the exam. In the future, AAU is considering giving the exam yet more importance by looking into how to link it to practicum courses at the various departments where applicable. In addition, the exam can also be prepared in tandem with the Qualifications Framework (QF).



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Evidence : The AAU experience has been successful throughout the two past years. The students' attendance rates have reached more than 90% although the exam does not directly affect the student's scores or graduation. In addition, the quality of achievement in the various program LOs and domains has improved significantly since improvement has taken place in the light of the exams' results.

Benefits: Exit Exams (Achievement Examinations) can be vital to the improvement of academic programs' quality and effectiveness. These benefits can help improve the quality of programs across institutions in the UAE. Moreover, this poses a good area for cooperation between academic institutions as they can compare results and work jointly to improve the quality of higher education as a whole.

External Reviewer Comment:

“Measurement of the achievement of Program Outcomes is challenging, and often more difficult than the assessment of the more specific Course Learning Outcomes. The Exit Examination provides a quantitative measure of the success of a program, drawing upon the constituent courses in an attempt to identify strengths and weaknesses in the program delivery that can then be addressed subsequently in curriculum review processes. The assessment system clearly offers potential for performance benchmarking and for demonstrating alignment with QFEmirates”.

The following is an analysis of the Exit Exam results which is based on Program Learning Outcomes

No	Program Learning Outcomes	Course Name										Total Questions	Average	Percentage
		MIS	BSA	DSS	PM	DBM	WE	C++	BDC					
1	Apply the principles of systems analysis and design to fundamental business systems within the organization.	1-5	6-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	16	17	17	2.13	17%		
2	Integrate MIS in different organizational levels and business functions.	18-22	23-25	26-27	28-29	30-31	32	33	34	17	2.13	17%		
3	Explain and develop an effective project plan.	35-39	40-42	43-44	45-46	47-48	49	50	51	17	2.13	17%		
4	Apply effective collaboration skills in IT project teams.	52-56	57-59	60-61	62-63	64-65	66	67	68	17	2.13	17%		
5	Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills in IT solutions.	69-73	74-75	76-77	78-79	80-81	82	83	84	16	2	16%		
6	Design and develop a database using general principles and standards.	85-89	90-91	92-93	94-95	96-97	98	99	100	16	2	16%		
Total Questions		30	16	12	12	12	6	6	6	100				
Average		5	2.67	2	2	2	1	1	1					
Percentage		30%	16%	12%	12%	12%	6%	6%	6%					

MIS: Principles of MIS (0506203) BSA: Business System Analysis and Applications (0506323) DSS: Decision Support Systems (0506306) PM: Project Management (0506426)	C++: Introduction to Programming Languages (0506219) DBM: Database Management Principles and Applications (0506321) WE: Web Engineering (0506423) BDC: Business Data Communications (0506427)
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