PAKISTAN MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL
ISLAMABAD

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Date: October, 2026

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 47 of the Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council is pleased to make the following regulations, namely: -

Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Medical Universities and Degree Awarding Institutions.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC)
Islamabad, Pakistan

2026

Table of Contents

Sr. No.	Contents	Page No.
1.	Abbreviations	2
2.	Background and purpose	3
3.	Introduction	4
4.	Standards for Accreditation for Medical/Health Sciences University	5-9
5.	Procedure of Accreditation	9-10
6.	Summary of Accreditation Process	10
7.	Requirements for Accreditation	10-14
8.	Framework of Governance	15

List of Abbreviations

DAI	Degree Awarding Institute
HEC	Higher Education Commission
HEI	Higher Education Institute
PM&DC	Pakistan Medical & Dental Council
CPSP	College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan
PNMC	Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council
PCP	Pharmacy Council of Pakistan
CAHSP	Council of Allied Health Sciences Pakistan
IRBS	Institutional Review Board Services
BASR	Board of Advance Studies & Research



Part-I

ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR A MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES AND DEGREE AWARDING BODIES

Background and Purpose: -

The PM&DC Act 2022 clearly defines the role of PM&DC which is to establish a uniform minimum standard of basic and higher qualifications in medicine and dentistry in the country. For a medical/health sciences university, the domain is quite broad. A medical university should have MBBS and BDS and need to have PG programmes to become Degree Awarding Institution (DAI). The definition mentioned in PM&DC Act 2022, "Pakistan University" means any university established under Pakistan law and having a constituent medical or dental college or both. For a University or a Higher Education Institution (HEI), the mandate is with HEC. Any university not chartered with HEC is not recognized within Pakistan or abroad. The standards and criteria established by HEC are very broad and do not take into account the special nature of health sciences institutions. A medical university cannot be compared with a general university. For Example: HEC does not provide adequate weightage for certain basic and clinical sciences faculties' such as fellowship and memberships from CPSP or other Royal Colleges or American Boards which are the main stream of clinical trainings. The aim of PM&DC is to improve regulation of the University and CPSP PG programmes and to align them with the HEC criteria.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

1. Introduction

1.1 With the influx of new medical colleges in the private/public sector and the up gradation of medical colleges to medical universities the council has decided to formulate guidelines and criteria for accreditation of new and established universities. HEC has guidelines for general universities, which are not directly applicable to the medical/health science universities.

1.2 This document will ensure standardization and establishment of high-quality health science institutions.

1.3 The present document gives directions regarding the criteria for establishing a new university as approved by the PM&DC council. The document ensures that all the legal, structural, organizational, financial, human resource and others requirements as specified in the charter of the university are adhered to. The criteria and framework of governance for medical university is required to be in conformity with the HEC guidelines for all universities.

Definition of Medical University: -

The University must have at least four constituent medical/ dental/ nursing/ health institutes duly accredited by HEC, PM&DC and respective regulatory bodies to apply for accreditation.

Part-II

STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION FOR MEDICAL / HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

These standards are addressed in the Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma for the Medical / Health Sciences University (attached as **Annex-I**) and also in the Medical University Requirements Inspectors Proforma for the Medical / Health Sciences University (attached as **Annex-II**).

Standard No.	Standard Title
1.	Legalities, Organization, Governance and Mission Statement
2.	Institutional Resources
3.	Admission Process
4.	Academic Programs
5.	Assessment Systems
6.	Faculty & Staff
7.	Student Support Services
8.	QEC & Quality Assurance
9.	Research and Scholarship



Standard 1: Legalities, Organization, Governance and Mission Statement

The Medical University must have a clear, documented and approved:

i. Set of legal requirements as per PM&DC guidelines.

ii. Hierarchical system of governance.

iii. Policies and procedures for any organization/ constituent institution/ committee/ body/ group.

iv. Job descriptions for every position.

v. Mechanisms for dissemination of all policies and procedures related to governance, services and resources. (including regulations, notices and announcements)

vi. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of compliance for the minutes of each of the bodies/ committees.

vii. Mechanisms for monitoring progression and improvement.

viii. Policies and procedures for avoiding conflict of interest at the level of each statutory body.

ix. Plans, policies and procedures for providing institutional autonomy.

x. Initiatives taken by Vice Chancellor for academic growth and development.

xi. Policies and procedures about the use of emergency powers.

The Mission Statement must:

i. Be aligned with the vision of the university.

ii. Be realistic and feasible.

iii. Demonstrate a clear institutional commitment to social accountability, achievement of competencies and health needs of Pakistan.

iv. Be documented and approved by the competent forum.

v. Be developed with participation of the major stakeholders.

vi. Be made known to all stakeholders.

vii. Undergo review and update by documented and approved policies.

Standard 2: Institutional Resources

The Medical University must have a clear, documented and approved:

i. Funds and assets as per PM&DC guidelines.

ii. Master plan for the infrastructure of the entire university including any campuses as per PM&DC guidelines.

iii. Description of the physical resources present in each building / program as shown in the master plan.

iv. Allocation of physical resources which match the university's mission and goals.

v. Have a transparent and feasible system of procurement along with its regulations and standard operation procedures.

vi. Department of Human resources with designated staff and office space.

vii. Policies and procedures for Human Resources management.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

Standard 3: Admission Process

The Medical University must have clear, documented and approved:

i. Policy for monitoring the eligibility criteria implementation at the institutional level as per respective council guidelines. (PM&DC/CPSP/PNMC/CAHSP/PCP others)

ii. Policy for ensuring that the institutions have fair and efficient admissions system.

Standard 4: Academic Programs

The Medical University must:

i. Have clear policies and procedures for design, development, approval and implementation of academic programs.

ii. Have documented information regarding accreditation status of the individual programs.

iii. Ensure that programs accredited by the university have been approved by the respective board of studies/ competent forum of the individual institution.

iv. Develop guidelines for appointment of deans/ directors of the constituent and affiliated institutions.

v. Ensure that the institutions comply with the standards defined by the respective councils. (PM&DC/ PCP/ PNMC)

vi. Develop, implement and ensure the credit transfer policy of the university.

vii. Keep a record of student drop outs and expulsions along with possible reasons.

viii. Ensure incorporation of contemporary educational methods for all its academic programs.

Standard 5: Assessment system

The Medical university must:

i. Have adequate, dedicated space for planning and administering examinations.

ii. Have adequate, dedicated personnel for planning and administering examinations and for dealing with all issues related to them.

iii. Have documented, approved terms of reference, job descriptions, policies & procedures developed for the complete spectrum of examination-related activities.

iv. Have suitable technology for examination development, result analysis & finalization and result dissemination.

v. Have involved a qualified medical educationist to oversee quality of examinations and of results before they are finalized and disseminated.

vi. Develop & implement policies and procedures for transparent and fair assessment system.

vii. Make its policies and procedures known to relevant stakeholders.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

Standard 6: Faculty and Staff

The Medical University must:

i. Define the criteria for eligibility of faculty positions for all its academic programs as per respective Council (PM&DC/CPSP/PNMC/CAHSP/PCP others) guidelines.

ii. Have clear policies regarding hiring, promotion, feedback, retention, grievances, termination, financial benefits, etc.

iii. Ensure that institutes provide protected time to faculty for their professional development.

iv. Have evidence of policies, procedure and implementation of faculty development program.

v. Ensure adequate student faculty ratio for all its programs.

vi. Ensure fair and transparent mechanisms for faculty appraisal and promotions.

vii. Have defined policies for full time, part time faculty, dual appointments, visiting and adjunct faculty.

viii. Have adequate facilities for faculty recreation (e.g. gym, primary care clinic etc.)

ix. Have procedures implemented to obtain faculty and staff satisfaction.

x. Provide evidence of using faculty and staff satisfaction for developing the quality of its programs.

xi. Ensure confidentiality for faculty information (e.g.: safety and access to personal files of the faculty and staff).

xii. Transparent and robust mechanism to ensure timely payment of salaries to faculty and staff at rates at least at par to the public sector health universities.

Standard 7: Student Support Services

The Medical University must:

i. Have a guideline document for students professional, efficient and smooth educational experiences.

ii. Have policies and procedures for students' financial support.

iii. Have policies and procedures for student record storage, record maintenance and data confidentiality.

iv. Develop, implement and ensure the migration/transfer policy for the students.

v. Have policies and procedures for student support including: housing, health care facilities, counseling, mentorship, recreation etc.

vi. Have a method of obtaining and using feedback from students for improving the quality of its programs.

vii. Have availability of library, books, internet and supporting staff.

viii. Have a mechanism to address students' complaints, appeals, grievances and disputes.

ix. Have specific policy for disabled/ handicapped students.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

Standard 8: QEC & Quality Assurance

The Medical University must:

i. Provide evidence for establishment of quality assurance department/ quality enhancement cell with clearly defined responsibilities.

ii. Ensure that the processes are in place for QEC surveys.

iii. Allocate appropriate budget for the QA activities and the implementation of the improvement plans.

Standard 9: Research and Scholarship

The Medical University must:

i. Describe the research priorities, policies and facilities.

ii. Have a research department facilitating research and scholarly activities among faculty and students.

iii. have approved policies and procedures of scientific committees, IRBS & BASR etc.

iv. Have its own policy document for providing scholarships.

v. Promote and reward research done by the faculty, staff and students.

Part-III

PROCEDURE OF ACCREDITATION

2. Submission of Application

2.1 Following the completion of preliminary legal and financial requirements, the authorized representative of the University shall submit a comprehensive evaluation report in accordance with the Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma along with a non-refundable bank draft/pay order of Rs.100,000/- in the name of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council. An application shall be considered only when the fee is credited to the account of the PM&DC. The application shall be sent to the Federal Government through Minister In-charge (M/o NHSR&C) along with two copies of the Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma for Medical/Health Sciences University with a soft copy on email for scrutiny of legal and financial documents.

2.2 Scrutiny

2.2.1 On the basis of the documents submitted by the university, the inspection department will forward the documents to legal and finance departments for scrutinization.

2.3 Site inspection

2.3.1 PM&DC will then appoint inspectors as per composition of inspection team at **Annex-III** and they will be using the Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma report submitted by the University for ensuring the 09 standards defined by PM&DC for the universities are met.

2.3.2 The inspection will include physical verification of the infrastructure and available facilities. This is to ensure that the institution has the ability and capacity to run the academic programmes. During the visit the inspectors will be meeting with administrators,

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

teaching staff, students and support services staff. A visit to the library and other learning resources will also be conducted. The documents and IT facilities provided as evidence for 09 standards will also be reviewed by the inspectors. The inspectors will use the Medical University Requirements Inspectors Proforma for scoring. The university has to achieve 90% marks to qualify for accreditation.

2.4 Recommendation for accreditation

2.4.1 The inspectors will give their report and recommendations to the PM&DC. If the inspection report is satisfactory (the university has to acquire 90% score exclusive of mandatory requirements). The Executive Committee (E.C) will deliberate and forward the case for approval to the PM&DC Council. The Council will recommend to the Federal Government through Minister In-charge for issuance of Notification under Section 21 or 29 of PM&DC Act, 2022 as the case may be. If the institution does not qualify the report will be considered by Executive Committee and deficiencies report shall be communicated to the institution for rectification of deficiencies. Once deficiencies have been rectified by the institution, complete re-inspection by same team shall be carried out accordingly. The charter document must be in line with the Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002.

2.5 Summary of The Accreditation Process for new universities

2.5.1 Fulfill the legal formalities and ensure that all physical, human and financial resource requirements are complete.

2.5.2 Meet the academic and other requirements and submit the application to PM&DC under Section 21 & 29 of PM&DC Act, 2022 as the case may be. The report should ensure that all standards as specified by PM&DC are met for acquiring the NOC as a university.

2.5.3 The Inspection / Legal / Finance Departments of PM&DC will review the documents and if no major deficiencies (all mandatory evidences are attached) are found it will plan a physical inspection of the institution.

2.5.4 The inspectors report will be considered by the Executive Committee of PM&DC.

2.5.5 After approval from the Executive Committee of PM&DC, the Council of PM&DC will be recommended and forward the name of institution / qualification granted / awarded by it to the Federal Government through Minister In-charge for inclusion in the relevant schedule.

Part-IV

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION OF A MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

The accreditation requirements for a new university shall be governed by the following conditions:

General Requirements:

i. The prospective university applying for accreditation should have a Medical / Dental College as constituent and affiliated institutes imparting degrees in Nursing and Allied Health Sciences / Pharmacy to qualify. The university should have a minimum of 75% of the programs in Medical/Health Sciences. These may include undergraduate programs such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, etc. These programs may include in addition to MBBS/BDS, post graduate programs in any of the basic and/or clinical sciences.

ii. The medical university applying for accreditation must have at least 4 post graduate programs (Masters, PhD) in Health Science disciplines duly accredited by HEC, PM&DC and the previous affiliating university.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

iii. The medical university applying for accreditation must have contributed to research. There should be at least 50 research papers/year published by the faculty and students of the university in HEC/PM&DC recognized journals having minimum 0.75 impact factor to qualify for accreditation.

iv. The medical/health sciences university applying for accreditation must have an affiliated or constituent tertiary care hospital with laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and allocated beds for free treatment.

v. The tertiary care hospital (constituent or affiliated with the university) must have 500 beds to qualify as a medical/health sciences university.

vi. The governing body of the university MUST be as per Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002.

vii. For a medical/dental college or a Degree Awarding Institute (DAI) to qualify and to become a Medical University it should have been in existence for more than 15 years and should have graduated at least 10 batches of MBBS/BDS.

viii. The Medical/Dental college or DAI applying for accreditation as university should have the required infrastructure and separate faculty for the postgraduate programmes.

ix. The Vice Chancellor / Pro-Vice Chancellor / Rector / Vice Rector / Provost / Vice Provost must be a Medical / Dental Doctor having eligibility from PM&DC as Professor as per Regulations for the Appointments / Promotions of Faculty / Teaching Staff / Examiners / Principals / Deans / Vice Chancellors in Undergraduate / Postgraduate Medical & Dental Institutions / Medical Universities of Pakistan-2025. These leaders must have a proven record of academics, scholarship and health management as HoD/ Associate Dean/ Dean/ Principal. The guidelines for hiring these leaders must be in line with the PM&DC guidelines.

x. University administrative positions must be full time and these include: Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Director Academics and Director ORIC. These positions require persons with MBBS / BDS degrees duly registered with PM&DC. The positions of academic nature (VC, Pro-VC, Director Academics, Director ORIC, Deans/ Associate Deans) must be filled by PM&DC registered Professors.

3. Legal and procedural

3.1 The prospective University in the Private Sector should have fulfilled all legal formalities and registration by the relevant authorities as per the Companies Ordinance / Societies Registration Act. This is not required for the Public Sector universities.

3.2 The charter of the university as approved by parliament / relevant body should be enacted.

3.3 The sponsoring body of the university should be a Society / Trust or a Foundation registered / constituted under the relevant regulations of Companies Ordinance / Trust Act / Societies Registration Act. This shall not be required in case the institution is in the public sector;

(i) A copy of the registration deed along with a Memorandum of Association will be supplied to examine the objectives and credentials of the members. A brief profile of each member of management should also be provided;

(ii) The Chancellor / Vice-Chancellor / Rector / President / Provost of the university / institution shall apply to the PM&DC and submit 5 copies of the feasibility report / corporate plan including the soft copy keeping in view the Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma for Medical / Health Sciences University.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

3.1 Institutional and academic

3.1.1 The site selection should conform with the zoning regulations of respective local bodies / authorities. The site selected for the institution must be suitable from academic point of view. The University in the Private Sector should have fulfilled all legal formalities and registration by the relevant authorities as per the Companies Ordinance / Societies Registration Act. This is not required for the Public Sector universities.

3.1.2 The charter of the university developed for recommendations by HEC for consideration and approval by Relevant Parliament / legislative body must be in line with the Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002.

3.1.3 The building in which the educational institution is to be located must be suitable, and that provision will be made in conformity with the statutes and the regulations for (a) the residence of students, in the hostels established and maintained by the institution, (b) the supervision, physical and general welfare of students.

3.1.4 For the university, the sponsor must have to make available at least 10 acres with 3 acres in the metropolitan city area (with at least 50,000 square feet covered area of the constructed Academic / Administration block in the city) and in case of an institute at least 3 acres of land, depending on the location having potential for further development. Established in a building owned by the legal entity (or possessed at least 33 years lease) that had been granted the ownership documents.

3.1.5 All criteria defined in form Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma for Medical / Health Sciences University should be met, such as, number of departments, teaching and non-teaching staff, lecture halls, libraries, laboratories, internet, hostel, composition of Senate and Syndicate Members.

3.1.6 The organizational structure of the institution should ensure that mandatory requirements as detailed in Medical University Self Evaluation Proforma for Medical / Health Sciences University are met and the standard and quality of teaching and efficiency of the system must be ensured;

3.1.7 The regulatory framework and mechanism are established for regulating academic and administrative matters of the institution;

3.1.8 The educational institution should have developed guidelines / rules for establishing accountability, efficiency and discipline of its faculty, staff and students.;

3.1.9 The qualifications and strength of teaching staff should be as per the PM&DC criteria.

3.1.10 There should be provision for fee exemptions for at least 10% of students on need basis;

3.1.11 It is imperative to ensure that 20% of the institutional budget is maintained for research;

3.1.12 The accreditation shall be granted to the university and the sub-campuses if applied for. Campuses not included in the initial accreditation form will not be accredited and the university will have to apply again for their inspection and approval.

3.1.13 Approval / accreditation of the university does not automatically mean approval of their courses / degrees. They will have to apply as per PM&DC guidelines for approval and accreditation of courses and degrees.

3.1.14 Academic structure in terms of departments, faculties: The identification and

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

classification of roles, responsibilities and terms of reference of Boards of Studies, Academic Council / Committees etc., should be clearly spelled out.

3.1.15 Admission regulations: Regulations for admission, entry standards and the required qualification for admission in a particular course should be clearly identified.

3.1.16 The university must have a department of Medical / Health Science Education with full time faculty and a director with major qualification in Medical/Health Professions Education (MMEd/MHPE).

3.1.17 Inspectors will ensure presence of regulations and SOPs for assessment/examination system.

3.1.18 The University must have a Quality Enhancement Department with offices. The department should be headed by a MBBS/ BDS Professor with relevant experience. Student supervision and quality assurance must be clearly outlined in the application. Quality assurance arrangements and professional level of administrative & technical support for quality assurance are to be provided.

3.1.19 The university should have an established Department of Research / ORIC headed by a director who should be a MBBS/ BDS Professor with relevant experience. The head should have proven record of grants and publications. The department should have designated office space with computers. The officers and staff should be trained in research and have related experience. This should be in accordance with the HEC guidelines for ORIC.

3.2 Financial:

3.2.1 The university/institution has to ensure that it is financially stable and has the ability to sustain a regular functioning on a long-term basis. To ensure this the university/institution should have enough Endowment Fund in the name of the institution or university as under:

In case of a new university

Endowment Fund (Secured in the name of Trust / Society)	Rs.50.0 million (not applicable in case of public sector university)
Tangible assets in the form of land / building etc.	Rs.100.0 million
Working Capital.	Rs.50.0 million (not applicable in case of public sector university)
Total:	**Rs.200.0 million**

The Endowment Fund may be established in the form of profitable investments such as certificates, shares, units etc. The value of investment, however, will be determined on actual or face value and profit accrued thereon is to be utilized for academic development of the university/institution. The university/institute is required to furnish proof of such an investment. The investment as Endowment Fund would be liable for audit by the SECP and this information will be provided to PM&DC.

3.2.2 The university/institution will have to provide evidence of its annual accounts audited by the competent auditors.

3.2.3 Tuition fee framework with the details of fee, admission and other charges should be given separately.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

3.3 Contextual and Cultural

3.3.1 The prospective university/institute shall be required to strictly comply with the constitutional provisions, ideology of Pakistan and law and abide by social, religious, ethical and cultural ethos and values and respect cultural and religious sensitivities.

3.3.2 The prospective university/institute will have to work within the framework of the Education Policy and other law or policy framed/amended by the Government of Pakistan / Provincial Government/PM&DC from time to time.

3.3.3 The institution is bound to restrict to teaching, research and co- curricular activities. Political or other activities detrimental to national, religious, social or local culture shall be forbidden.

3.4 Monitoring

3.4.1 PM&DC may ask periodic reports, returns and other information, enabling it to judge the efficiency and effectiveness of the institution;

3.4.2 The PM&DC may carry out periodic inspections for monitoring with or without prior notice.

3.4.3 The PM&DC will have full powers to take any adverse action against the institutions such as, stop admissions, closure of an institution, if it has been found indulging in any subversive or unlawful activity, or it avoids/overlooks provisions of laws etc.;

3.4.4 The PM&DC will be the competent authority to grant accreditation, approve training site, validate courses register as qualification, and syllabi of the university / institute, which shall be subject to quality standards set by PM&DC. The accreditation will be withdrawn if found that the institution is unable to satisfactorily demonstrate its ability and commitment to achieve and maintain national academic standards;

3.4.5 The university/institute shall be liable to provide facilities to the representatives of the PM&DC, the Pharmacy Council, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council, Council of Allied Health Sciences Pakistan or such similar relevant organizations for visitation to enable them to verify that the university / institute is maintaining appropriate academic standards.

3.5 Inspection requirements

3.5.1 In order to physically verify the infrastructure and available facilities, PM&DC (Inspection Department) will ensure that all mandatory evidence is present and only then the team will be formulated. The inspection team will then conduct a detailed survey of the institution with regard to physical, human, technical, financial and academic resources. The required essential documents shall be made available to the inspectors before starting the inspection.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

Part-V

FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNANCE
(As per Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002)

The model framework of the governance of a university or an institution of higher education has been provided for the information of the concerned. The institution aspiring to apply for charter should refer to the Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002 for ensuring appropriate Governance.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Islamabad

Registrar
PM&DC