



QEC-DUHS ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Welcome to the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) of Dow University of Health Sciences. I am honored to lead a team of dedicated professionals committed to ensuring and enhancing the quality of education and academic processes at our esteemed institution.

Our purpose at the QEC is to foster a culture of continuous quality improvement across all aspects academic and University life. We work tirelessly to uphold and exceed the highest academic standards, aligning our efforts with national and international quality assurance frameworks. Through rigorous evaluation, strategic planning, and innovative initiatives, we aim to provide an enriching and transformative educational experience for our students.

With the support of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students, we engage in comprehensive self-assessment processes that allow us to identify strengths and areas for enhancement. By nurturing an environment of collaboration, accountability, and transparent communication, we empower our university community to actively contribute towards our journey of academic excellence.

Our commitment to quality extends beyond the confines of our lecture halls. We continuously seek feedback from all stakeholders, valuing their insights as a catalyst for positive change. Through this inclusive approach, we ensure that our university's systems, processes, programs, and service offerings reflect the evolving needs of our diverse student body and the demands of an ever-changing world.

I encourage you to learn more about our initiatives, accreditation efforts, and the various ways we contribute to elevating the overall educational experience of students at DOW University. We are driven by a shared vision of making a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your interest in the Quality Enhancement Cell at DUHS.



Ms. Sanam Soomro

Director- Quality Enhancement Cell
Dow university OF Health Sciences

1. The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC)

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at DUHS was established in 2006 as one of the first 30 Quality Enhancement Cells formed under the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) Quality Assurance framework. Since its establishment, QEC has played a central role in promoting a culture of continuous quality improvement by systematically monitoring academic programs, faculty performance, research activities, and the overall student learning experience.

QEC ensures that the university's Quality Management System remains aligned with HEC quality assurance policies and internationally recognized best practices. It develops, coordinates, and implements Self-Assessment Reports (SARs) for all academic programs, enabling evidence-based evaluation of teaching, learning, and program effectiveness. Working closely with Quality Management System (QMS) coordinators and SAR Program Teams, QEC gathers and analyzes feedback from students and faculty to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The findings are used to support curriculum enhancement, improve teaching methodologies, and strengthen institutional preparedness for accreditation.

In addition, QEC oversees and facilitates the accreditation processes of all degree programs, ensuring compliance with the standards and requirements of relevant professional and regulatory bodies, including the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council, and other allied health authorities. These efforts help maintain the academic quality and professional recognition of DUHS graduates at both national and international levels.

QEC also manages the collection, verification, and reporting of institutional data required for participation in national and international university rankings. Through systematic performance monitoring and data-driven quality assurance practices, the Cell supports institutional planning, continuous improvement, and the enhancement of DUHS's reputation and visibility in the global higher education community.

1.1. Yearly Progress and Recognition

The QEC submits a Yearly Progress Report to HEC, which consistently places DUHS among the top-performing institutions. Its effectiveness is not only measured by compliance but also by how it shapes strategic decision-making at DUHS. The QEC's influence extends to the design of faculty training workshops, research dissemination support, and continuous improvement in program delivery.

1.2. QEC Score- Annual Performance Report

Year	QEC Score in Annual Performance Report by HEC Pakistan
2023-24	95.16 %

1.3. QEC Expansion to Affiliated Colleges

Recognizing the importance of extending quality assurance practices across its expanding academic network, Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) established the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) – Affiliated Colleges Department in 2023 following the recommendations of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The department was created to

integrate affiliated colleges into the university's institutional quality assurance framework, ensuring uniform implementation of academic quality standards and regulatory requirements across all partner institutions.

The QEC Affiliated Colleges Department works in close collaboration with HEC, professional accreditation councils, and affiliated colleges to monitor institutional performance, identify quality gaps, and implement continuous improvement strategies. Its key functions include supporting the implementation of quality assurance policies, strengthening faculty performance evaluation systems, facilitating curriculum review in accordance with regulatory standards, promoting innovative teaching and learning practices, and ensuring compliance with accreditation requirements. The establishment of Quality Assurance (QA) Cells within affiliated colleges has further strengthened institutional coordination, improved communication and reporting mechanisms, and facilitated the effective implementation of quality enhancement initiatives throughout the affiliated network.

Through the integration of affiliated colleges into a unified quality assurance framework, DUHS has expanded its commitment to academic excellence beyond its main campuses, fostering consistency, accountability, and continuous quality improvement in health sciences education across its affiliated institutions. This initiative has further reinforced the University's leadership in advancing quality assurance and medical education in Pakistan.

1.4. Impact of Quality Assurance at DUHS

The implementation of a comprehensive quality assurance system at DUHS has significantly strengthened institutional governance, academic standards, and organizational performance by promoting a culture of continuous quality improvement, accountability, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making. Since the establishment of the Quality Enhancement Cell in 2006, the University has institutionalized systematic mechanisms for program self-assessment, student and stakeholder feedback, faculty evaluation, institutional performance review, and accreditation monitoring, resulting in sustained improvements in teaching, learning, research, and administrative effectiveness.

These quality assurance initiatives have contributed to consistently strong performance in the Higher Education Commission's Quality Enhancement Cell evaluations and have enhanced the University's recognition in national and international university rankings, particularly for its contributions to global health and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being). The expansion of quality assurance practices to affiliated colleges has further strengthened institutional cohesion by ensuring that uniform quality standards are implemented across the University's broader academic network.

Although institutional rankings may fluctuate due to evolving global benchmarking methodologies and increasing international competition, DUHS has maintained a strong trajectory of academic and institutional advancement. The University's quality assurance framework continues to support strategic planning, accreditation readiness, academic innovation, and continuous improvement. Moving forward, sustained investment in faculty development, digital quality assurance systems, research excellence, international collaborations, and stakeholder engagement will remain essential for further strengthening DUHS's position as a leading health sciences university in Pakistan and enhancing its global reputation.

1.5. Effectiveness of QEC-DUHS

The QEC at DUHS consistently achieves strong recognition from HEC. Its Yearly Progress Report for 2025–2026, like in previous years, has been rated as top tier, reflecting the effectiveness of its processes. This demonstrates DUHS's commitment to meeting and exceeding HEC's requirements for academic quality, program evaluation, and institutional effectiveness across teaching, learning, and research standards.

Status as of 2025 - 2026	
QEC Assessments	
No. of Academic Programs Assessed through Self-Assessment Reporting	- Completed for All degree awarding programs. - A total of Twelve 12 SARs has been prepared in accordance with the new HEC Revamped Quality Assurance Framework – Pakistan Precepts, Standards, and Guidelines (PSG-2023) for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. - These reports cover the following programs: BS Cardiovascular Technology, BS Forensic Science, BS Radiologic Technology, BS Healthcare Management and Leadership, BS Accounting and Finance, BS Dental Hygiene, BS Dental Technology, BS Optometry and Visual Sciences, BSMT- Respiratory and Critical Care Technology, BSMT- Surgical Technology, BSMT- Clinical Laboratory Sciences, BSMT- Cardiovascular Perfusion Sciences. - Each SAR has been developed in line with the standards defined under the new Guideline of PREE
No. of Courses Assessed (Course-Wise Assessment Evaluations)	1830 Courses Assessed Online
No. of Faculty Assessed (Student-Teacher Evaluation as Prescribed by HEC)	954 Faculty Assessed Online
Number of Programs with National or International Accreditations	77 Programs are Accredited

1.6. HEC Student Feedback Forms: QEC-DUHS conducts the following surveys for feedback evaluation in all the degree-awarding programs of DUHS:

Faculty Survey	Alumni Survey
Employer Survey	Faculty Resume
Faculty Course Review Report	Teacher Evaluation Form
Research Student Progress Review Form	Survey of Graduating Students
Survey of Department Offering Ph.D. Programs	Student Course Evaluation Questionnaire

2. QUALITY INITIATIVES FY 2025 – 2026

The quality initiatives for the Year 2025-2026 are the following:

2.1. Program Accreditation and NOC

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) facilitated the submission of No Objection Certificate (NOC) applications for several academic programs to the Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC). The University also obtained Higher Education Commission (HEC) NOCs for multiple programs after meeting all required quality and regulatory standards.

2.2. QEC in Affiliated Colleges

Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) have been established in all affiliated colleges with dedicated staff to implement internal quality assurance activities under the guidance of DUHS. This ensures that all affiliated colleges follow the University's quality standards.

2.3. Reorganization of the QEC – Affiliated Colleges Department

In line with the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) revised Terms of Reference (ToRs), DUHS established a dedicated QEC – Affiliated Colleges Department. This has improved coordination, monitoring, and implementation of quality assurance activities across affiliated colleges.

2.4. Oversight of Affiliated Colleges

The QEC – Affiliated Colleges Department provides quality assurance support and oversight to more than 40 affiliated colleges. It works closely with these institutions to ensure that their academic and administrative practices comply with DUHS and HEC quality requirements.

2.5. Surveys and Feedback

The QEC ensures that mandatory HEC online surveys are conducted regularly. The survey results are analyzed and shared with college management and faculty members to identify areas for improvement. Consolidated reports are submitted to HEC every year.

2.6. Annual Reporting

The QEC coordinates the submission of required reports from affiliated colleges, including the Yearly Performance Review (YPR), Higher Education Statistics (HES), HEC Monitoring Template, and Program Review for Effectiveness and Enhancement (PREE). These reports help monitor institutional performance and support continuous quality improvement.

Implementation of HEC Quality Assurance Standards (PSG-2023)
DUHS has adopted the Pakistan Precepts, Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PSG-2023), approved by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). These guidelines provide a national framework for maintaining and improving the quality of higher education. The QEC is implementing these standards across the University and its affiliated colleges to strengthen academic quality, institutional performance, and continuous improvement.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF QUALITY ASSOCIATIONS/NETWORKS

QEC has valuable memberships of different associations/networks at International/National levels:

S.No	Memberships in Quality Associations/Networks
1.	International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education- INQAAHE
2.	Member of the Learning Innovation Division, HEC Pakistan since 2005.
3.	Member of Tailories Network since 2009.
4.	Member of Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education-PNQAHE
5.	United Nations Academic Impact- UNAI Member Listing

3.1. Accreditations Of Degree Awarding Programs From Accreditation Councils

1. MBBS program at Dow Medical College (DMC) - Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
2. MBBS program at Dow International Medical College (DIMC) - Accredited Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
3. Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program at Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan Institute of Oral Health Sciences (DIKIOHS) – Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
4. Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program at Dow International Dental College (DIDC) – Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
5. Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) program at Dow Dental College (DDC) – Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
6. Pharm D program at Dow College of Pharmacy (DCOP) - Accredited by the Pakistan Pharmacy Council (PPC).
7. Post RN Nursing program at Institute of Nursing (ION) - Accredited by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).
8. BS Generic Nursing program - Accredited by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).
9. Post RN BSM, Midwifery program at the Institute of Nursing and Midwifery- Accredited by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC)
10. Master of Nursing (MSN) program- Accredited by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).
11. MPhil (Pharmaceutical Sciences) at Dow College of Pharmacy (DCOP) - Accredited by the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan (PCP).
12. MPhil (Basic Medical Sciences) at School of Postgraduate Studies- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
13. Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) program at Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan Institute of Oral Health Sciences (DIKIOHS) - Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
14. Master of Public Health (MPH) at School of Public Health- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
15. MS in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (MSBE) at School of Public Health- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)

16. Master in Health Professional Education (MHPE) at Dow Institute of Health Professionals Education- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
17. Master of Surgery (MS) at Department of Postgraduate Studies- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
18. Doctor of Medicine (MD) program at Department of Postgraduate Studies- Accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)
19. BBA & MBA Programs are in the process of accreditation from the National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC).
20. BS Medical Technology (Clinical Laboratory Sciences) at Dow Institute of Medical Technology - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
21. BS Surgical Technology at Dow Institute of Medical Technology - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
22. BS Perfusion Technology at Dow Institute of Medical Technology - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
23. BS Respiratory Therapy at Dow Institute of Medical Technology - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
24. BS Clinical Ophthalmic Technology at Dow Institute of Medical Technology - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
25. Doctor of Physical Therapy at Dow Institute of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
26. BS Nutrition Sciences at School of Public Health - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
27. BS Psychology at Dr. A.Q. Khan Institute of Behavioral Sciences - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)
28. BS Dental Technology at School of Dental Care Professionals (SDCP) - Accredited by Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC)

3.2. Seminars/Workshops & Training Events by QEC

i. Guest Speaker Session on 'From Quality Control to Quality Intelligence' by QEC

Dow University of Health Sciences successfully hosted an impactful Guest Speaker Session titled "From Quality Control to Quality Intelligence" on 8th May 2026, bringing together Academic Professionals, Quality Practitioners, and Higher Education Stakeholders from various Universities for an engaging dialogue on the future of Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The session was delivered by Muhammad Wasif, Professor, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and Director (QEC), NED University of Engineering & Technology. He conducted an interactive two-hour



session that attracted approximately 159 online participants and 25 in-person attendees. The discussion focused on the transformation of traditional quality assurance mechanisms into intelligent, data-driven systems powered by artificial intelligence and analytics. Participants explored the shift from compliance-based approaches to intelligence-driven quality ecosystems, the use of real-time dashboards in place of retrospective audits, and the increasing role of AI in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). The speaker highlighted how meaningful analytics, faculty engagement, and intelligent systems are becoming essential components of institutional excellence and sustainable improvement in higher education. The session provided participants with practical insights, contemporary perspectives, and actionable strategies to strengthen quality enhancement practices within their respective institutions, further reinforcing the University's commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and continuous institutional development. The event was held under the esteemed leadership of Dr. Jahan Ara, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Ojha Campus, DUHS, organized by Ms. Sanam Soomro, Director QEC, and facilitated by Ms. Salma Tariq, Ms. Urooj Hayat, Mr. Muhammad Owais, and Mr. Niaz Hussain, whose combined efforts ensured the effective planning, coordination, and successful execution of the session.



ii. Seminar on "Best Practices in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Malaysian Universities" – NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi

The Director, QEC attended the seminar on "Best Practices in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Malaysian Universities" to gain insights into internationally recognized quality assurance practices. The seminar provided valuable knowledge on institutional quality systems, continuous improvement, and best practices that can be adapted to enhance quality assurance at DUHS.

iii. Seminar on "From Compliance to Continuous Improvement: Operationalizing PSG-2023 in Pakistani Universities" – Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi

The Director, QEC participated in this seminar to strengthen understanding of the implementation of the HEC's Pakistan Precepts, Standards and Guidelines (PSG-2023). The session focused on shifting from regulatory compliance to a culture of continuous quality improvement in higher education institutions.

iv. Seminar on "Identifying Key Performance Indicators for Higher Education Institutions" – Sindh Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

A QEC representative attended the seminar on "Identifying Key Performance Indicators for Higher Education Institutions" to enhance understanding of institutional performance measurement. The seminar emphasized the role of meaningful

performance indicators in strategic planning, quality monitoring, and evidence-based decision-making.

v. Training on "Developing Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Framework for HEIs" – ICCBS, University of Karachi

The QEC Manager participated in a training program on "Developing Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Framework for Higher Education Institutions" at ICCBS, University of Karachi. The training focused on strengthening internal quality assurance systems, improving academic quality processes, and promoting continuous institutional improvement.

vi. Session on "SDG-Linked Education, Sustainability and Curriculum Internationalization" – Karachi Institute of Economics and Technology (KIET), Karachi.

The Director, QEC contributed to a session on "SDG-Linked Education, Sustainability and Curriculum Internationalization," highlighting the importance of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainability principles, and global perspectives into higher education curricula to improve academic quality and international relevance.



vii. 6th International Conference of Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE)

The Deputy Director, QEC attended the 6th International Conference of the Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE). The conference provided a platform for sharing experiences, discussing emerging trends in quality assurance, and strengthening collaboration among higher education institutions to promote continuous quality enhancement.