



ALBANIAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE

2016

Annual evaluation report for the Internal Quality Assurance

Academic year 2015-2016

Albanian university is a private Higher Education institution, independent and secular, licensed in April 2004, by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania.

The year 2016, marks for this institution the twelfth year of offering first-cycle and integrated university study programs and since the academic year 2008-2009 it offers first-cycle, second-cycle and third-cycle study programs, such as: specializations and doctoral programs.

The internal institutional evaluation report for the academic year 2015-2016 reviews the activity of the main actors of AU focusing on the mission and objectives, the academic staff, the curricula, the student formation policy, the scientific research policy, career development, developmental strategies, etc. The report summarizes analytical descriptions of the current situation, measurable indicators and the review by standards of the categories defined in the handbook for internal evaluation, the conclusions reached, as well as the recommendations regarding the improvement of the teaching quality, raising the structures and the level of scientific research in the upcoming years.

AU VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

The Vision of “AU” is to become an institution of higher education, acknowledged for the competence of its graduates, its well-rounded programs and its interdisciplinary orientation. The goal of this institution is to influence society through educational, scientific-research, economic, intellectual and cultural initiatives.

“AU” aims to develop a thrilling and challenging process of teaching and research, adequate infrastructure: qualitative library, sufficient laboratories, contemporary technology, safe and beautiful environment.

“AU” works to meet the required standards by means of the continuous and rigorous self-evaluation, measuring its success by the credible indicators of student profit from the aesthetic, scientific and professional aspect which will guarantee their place in society as educated citizens, confident for their economic success and their quality of life.

“AU” aims to make all the members of its community find the necessary intellectual and cultural stimulus in this institution, provided they are from all regions of the country and wider, from all social and age categories, but all engaged in the world of ideas.

The mission of “Albanian University” is to ensure qualitative university and postgraduate education and to offer first-class professional preparation in education, medical sciences,

engineering and economic applied sciences, social sciences and law, teaching and public administration, etc.

“Albanian University” offers the preparation and graduation of students for a wide spectrum of knowledge, necessary for the development of the future career, and that creates opportunities to ignite the passion for updating knowledge through lifelong learning. In this institution students prepare for a different world, as contributors through knowledge and service.

Following educational, scientific, economic and social developments in the country and abroad, “AU” is engaged to respect and preserve the values regarding the diversity of the ethnic social and curricular elements, reflecting a global consciousness. Thus, “AU” remains open to recruit students of different social and national categories, taking care to remain engaged in perfecting the teaching process, scientific research, civic and cultural education, in the context of offering a public service for all in an open society.

“AU” believes in the versatile preparation and development of students, as the necessary pillars to serve the society as educated and qualified citizens. Evaluating and implementing experiences from the tradition of teaching and scientific research, “AU” supports and promotes new methods and approaches for the professional and cultural development of the students. To this end, numerous opportunities are created even in collaboration with The Student Council for the proactive learning, cultural and artistic programs, as well as for the participation in activities that are recreational and useful for the public and serve the community.

Guided by values and focused on people, this institution aims to use the knowledge it transmits to the students to change the future of their lives, thus contributing in a productive and prosperous society.

In fulfilling its mission, the institution provides an elastic academic offer, supported by the teaching and learning preponderance, thus promoting an active participation of its students, applied scientific research acknowledged and influential in the country, collaboration with businesses and enterprises, therefore playing a key role in the developments of the networks that support international relations among our partners and collaborators.

“Albanian University” has a short-term strategy and a long-term strategy of fulfilling the aims and goals incarnated in its vision and mission. Therefore, AU aims to be an advanced institution of higher education. The strategy widely involves the pursue of the main orientations which are important for future success. These strategic developments are identified and expressed through a number of interrelated objectives.

“Albanian University” represents one of serious, credible, professional and competitive alternatives in the flow of the many developments of Higher Education which aims to offer standards, quality, contemporary preparation and compliance with the labor market.

“Albanian University” is oriented towards the development and expansion of the boundaries of values and towards new methods of research and development, thus aiming to prepare capable specialists who undertake and respond with dignity to the challenges of living in an open society.

The mission of Albanian University is the development and expansion of the boundaries of knowledge through good education and intellectual, social and cultural growth of the students, thus contributing in the benefit of the community with the aspiration of an intellectual environment that nurtures critical, creative thinking, with values, principles and academic institutional ethics. As a private university but with an important public mission, Albanian University stimulates its students to the exploitation of research and reflections for important issues of the national and international community, through a qualitative education and contemporary programs of study.

In continuation to our mission stands the re-dimensioning of university education, the increase of research programs, the promotion of mutual respect amongst students, the support of the development of research in the service of the nation and state, with excellence of our university as the primary goal and the making of it competitive in the labor market.

The mission is issuing a product as compatible as possible with the market, reaching the essential target: “The product that flourishes in the labor market, the professional”!

In the hierarchy of the values of Albanian University, stands the human dimension and volunteering, which is translated as the advantage of will to intellect and action in critical thinking, through mutual activity and productive volunteer work that stimulates the common good.

The value of Albanian University belongs to its students, professors, employees and everyone who contributes in the further development of this initiative. Our objectives are ambitious and long-term, based on the accreditation of the programs and the Statute of Albanian University, we aim to ensure qualitative growth in preparing the generations to respond to market economy, aiming to always be a powerful center of private education in the country.

The values we believe in:

- Quality in every academic initiative;
- Integrity and organizational correctness;
- Collegiality and participation in decision-making;
- Volunteering and responsibility in meeting the educational standards;
- Responsibility and academic freedom;
- Preservation of ethics and building credibility.

The strong pillars of “Albanian University” for trust and success are the orientation towards the European Space for Higher Education, first class professionalism and devotion, continuous and

constant cooperation and partnership with the students and other factors that motivate and promote progress.

“Albanian University” creates great opportunities in order to achieve full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential that is necessary in a world without borders.

Priorities of “Albanian University” institution

The priorities of “AU” are:

- The great number of Study programs that it offers in the first cycle of studies(Bachelor), all for high demand jobs and with great employment opportunities;
- High academic standards as evidenced by the high percentage of the staff with scientific titles and degrees;
- High public and institutional credibility;
- Increasing compliance with the curricula of the advanced programs in the country, in the region and wider;
- Infrastructural and laboratory indicators according to the required standards.

1. Study programs

- Study programs offered during the academic year and their performance,
- Active and inactive programs,
- Programs that are accredited during the academic year, the ones that must be re/accredited in the following year.

During the academic year 2015-2016, 13 study programs were accredited, of the 35 for which the institution applied. Specifically:

- Bachelor in “Business Management”
- Bachelor in “Design”
- Bachelor in “English”
- Bachelor in “Mechatronics Engineering”
- Bachelor in “Teaching for Elementary Education”
- Bachelor in “Teaching for Pre-school Education”
- Bachelor in “Physiotherapy”
- Bachelor in “Nursing”
- Professional Master in “Banking and financial management”
- Professional Master in “Business administration”
- Professional Master in “Surgical nursing”
- Master of Science in “Information technology”
- Master of Science in “Electronic engineering”

Furthermore, this academic year the institution has applied for the accreditation of 11 study programs, (4 Bachelor, 3 integrated study programs, 3 Master of Science and 1 specialization) out of which 7 programs (4 Bachelor + 3 integrated ones) have already been accredited since 2010 and now are in process of re-accreditation.

*For further information see data in the table below!

By the end of this academic year, AU aims to accredit all programs of study that it offers and furthermore it aims to attain institutional accreditation.

Table 1

FACULTY	DEPARTAMENT	STUDY PROGRAMME	ACTIVE / IN-ACTIVE (2015-2016)	ACCREDITATION STATUS
FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES	DEPARTAMENT OF STOMATOLOGY	Master of Science in Stomatology	Active	Decree no. 388, dated 1.12.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)
		Specialization in Surgery	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Specialization in OMF Surgery	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Specialization in Orthodontics	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Specialization in Implantology	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Specialization in Endodontics	In- active	Not accredited
		Specialization in Pediatric Dentistry	In- active	Not accredited
		Specialization in Prosthodontics	In- active	Not accredited
		Specialization in Periodontology	In- active	Not accredited
	DEPARTAMENT OF PHARMACHY	Master of Science in Pharmacy	Active	Decree no. 462, dated 14.10.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)

FACULTY OF APPLIED AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES		Doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences	Active	In process of Accreditation
	DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND PHISIO THERAPY	Bachelor in Nursing	Active	Decree no. 239, dated 09.05.2016
		Bachelor in Physiotherapy	Active	Decree no. 238, dated 09.05.2016
		Professional Master in Surgical Nursing	Active	Decree no. 242, dated 09.05.2016
	DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE	Master of Science in Architecture	Active	Decree no. 445, dated 1.10.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)
		Bachelor in Design	Active	Decree no. 439, dated 25.08.2016
		Doctorate in Architecture	In-Active	-
	DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING	Bachelor in Information Technology	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Bachelor in Electrical Engineering	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Bachelor in Electronic Engineering	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Bachelor in Mechatronic Engineering	Active	Decree no. 436, dated 25.08.2016
		Bachelor in Computer Engineering	Active	In process of Accreditation
		Master of Science in Information Technology	Active	Decree no. 383, dated 8.07.2016
		Master of Science in Electronic Engineering	Active	Decree no. 380, dated 8.07.2016
Master of Science in Mechatronic Engineering		Active	In process of Accreditation	
Master of Science in Computer Engineering		Active	In process of Accreditation	

	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES	Bachelor in Finance Banking	Active	Decree no. 541, dated 1.12.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)
		Bachelor in Business Management	Active	Decree no. 240, dated 09.05.2016
		Professional Master in Banking and Financial Management	Active	Decree no. 441, dated 25.08.2016
		Professional Master in Business Administration	Active	Decree no. 440, dated 25.08.2016
		Professional Master in Health Management	In-Active	-
		Master of Science in Banking Management	Active	Decree no. 327, dated 7.08.2012
		Master of Science in Business Administration	Active	Decree no. 327, dated 7.08.2012
		Doctorate in Finance	In-Active	-
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES	DEPARTMENT OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES	Bachelor in Juridical Sciences	Active	Decree no. 541, dated 1.12.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)
		Professional Master in Criminal Science	Active	Decree no. 585, dated 27.11.2012
		Professional Master in Private Law	Active	Decree no. 585, dated 27.11.2012
		Master of Science in Juridical Sciences (5 profiles)	Active (3 profiles)	In process of Accreditation
		Doctorate in Criminal Law and Procedure	In-Active	-
		Doctorate in European Law on Contracts	Active	In process of Accreditation
	DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	Bachelor in General Psychology	Active	Decree no. 541, dated 1.12.2010 (In process of

			Reaccreditation)
		Professional Master in School Psychology	Active In process of Accreditation
		Professional Master in Clinical Psychology	Active Decree no. 327, dated 07.08. 2012
		Master of Science in School and Developmental Psychology	Active In process of Accreditation
		Master of Science in Clinical Psychology	Active Decree no. 327, dated 07.08.2012
		Master of Science in Legal Psychology	Active In process of Accreditation
		Master of Science in Psychology Counseling	Active In process of Accreditation
		Doctorate in Clinical Psychology	Active In process of Accreditation
	DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES	Bachelor in Political-Administrative Sciences	Active Decree no. 541, dated 1.12.2010 (In process of Reaccreditation)
		Professional Master in International Relations and Diplomacy	In-Active Decree no. 585, dated 27.11.2012
		Professional Master in Public administration and governance	Active Decree no. 499, dated 18.10.2012
		Professional Master in Security Studies	In-Active In process of Accreditation
		Master of Science in International Relations (2 profiles)	In-Active Decree no. 499, dated 18.10.2012
		Master of Science in Public administration (2 profiles)	Active Decree no. 499, dated 18.10.2012
		Doctorate in International Relations	In-Active -
		Doctorate in Administrative Sciences	Active In process of Accreditation

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ENGLISH	Bachelor in Teaching for Elementary Education	Active	Decree no. 381, dated 8.07.2016
	Bachelor in Teaching for Preschool Education	Active	Decree no. 241, dated 09.05.2016
	Bachelor in English	Active	Decree no. 437, dated 25.08.2016
	Professional Master in Pedagogy with profile in “Didactics”	Active	Decree no. 29, dated 31.01.2013
	Professional Master in Pedagogy with profile in “Education Management”	Active	Decree no. 29, dated 31.01.2013
	Master of Science in Teaching for Elementary Education	Active	In process of Accreditation

2. Pedagogical Staff

- Academic staff, statistics, staff quality, professors’ work measured through survey, processing of questionnaires.
- Overview of issues of concern that the students have introduced with their answers represented in a table.

Albanian University in the academic year 2015-2016 had an academic staff composed of 545 professors of whom, 204 engaged full-time and 341 part-time.

In comparison to the academic year 2014-2015, (of 432 professors, 171 full-time) we see an increase with 11.3% of the overall number of professors. Specifically, in the academic year 2015-2016, in the Faculty of Medical Sciences 22 professors holding academic titles were engaged full-time (1 Prof. Dr., 1 Associate Professor and 20 Doctors of Science) of 152 overall that constitute the effective academic personnel in this faculty.

In the Faculty of Applied and Economic Sciences, in the academic year 2015-2016 were engaged 14 full-time professors with academic titles (3 Prof. Dr, 2 Associate Professors and 9 Doctors of Science) of 85 that is the overall total of the effective academic personnel in this faculty. *In the Faculty of Social Sciences*, were engaged 22 professors with academic degrees and titles (2 Prof. Dr, 4 Associate Professors and 15 Doctors of Science) of 104 overall.

In the academic year 2016-2017 AU aims to increase the full-time academic personnel with academic degrees and titles up to 70%.

The institution has a detailed database of the members of the academic personnel involved in the study programs and of the persons responsible for the organization of the different programs of study. Likewise, the institution has a full list of the academic personnel for each semester, the assistant teaching-scientific personnel and the administrative one.

For the realization of the study programs are engaged professors from other departments and part-time professor from the University of Tirana and other institutions related to education. Approximately 70% of the teaching program that is offered at our institution is provided by the full time staff.

It is seen that the institution has hired scientific-teaching assistant personnel for the realization of the laboratory classes and for the maintenance of the laboratories and the school environments. For the instruction, guidance and supervision of the students in their professional practice, the institution has hired at least one tutor/instructor for every 12 students.

The part-time professors of AU work in the centers of scientific research. This way, they try to relate their research work with the theories they promote to the students. The students together with the professors are required to do work that requires their wide involvement in the preparation of questionnaires, surveys, the use of statistics and their interpretation. Students learn to observe, be investigative, come to conclusions and present their findings during all the semesters. A considerable place is occupied by the analysis of the management and administrative work in our tradition and its comparison to foreign practices.

For the further qualification of its employees, even this year the institution has organized specific programs related to scientific information, participation in national and regional conferences and seminars, organization of conferences in the institution etc.

From the observations and verifications done in this academic year it is noticed that the work of the staff is not focused only in the courses and classes: the greatest part of the staff covers some courses, but never exceeding the number two in a semester. Their presence at school goes beyond the classes (lectures and seminars): students can contact the teaching staff in special meetings and consultation.

The staff has held regular meetings within the department for its self-qualification, as well as for important decision making regarding teaching, students and other issues. During the academic year 2015-2016, the institution has organized various information days and weeks, distributing information brochures such as program manual, program plans and other materials that raise the public awareness regarding the teaching values and scientific research in AU.

The institution has noticeably organized activities with a social and integrating character for the scientific academic as well as assistant personnel.

Therefore, during this academic year AU has organized several qualification and developmental professional programs headed by the Rector and Vice/rectors for the scientific research and studies in the field of teaching. The programs had as their object capacity enhancement for the

use of contemporary methodology in teaching, development of contemporary curricula, specifics of student teaching, recognition of development trends in higher education according to Bologna process, cooperation with research and development centers, career counseling, internal and external evaluation of higher education, accreditation process, etc.

IQAO(Internal Quality Assurance Office) notices a serious and qualitative effort in building a system of selection and engagement of the academic personnel, as well as of the scientific assistant personnel based on correctness, transparency, meritocracy and development quality of the study program. AU uses evaluation methodology for all teaching and scientific research activities that are part of the general work of the institution. Likewise, it has invested for the training and enhancement of professional capacity.

The work of the professors for the year 2015-2016 has been positive. Their commitment has been maximal and responsible, which is reflected in the students’ results, as well as in the students’ response to the questionnaires conducted specifically to this aim. As in every academic year, even this year, at the end of each semester students’ questionnaires were conducted electronically, precisely before the exam session, in order for the results to be reflected as objectively as possible. This procedure that by now has become a tradition in AU, enables the academic and administrative staff to reflect upon the work done during the whole year, from the students perspective.

Despite for the fact that almost all respondents state that they are satisfied with Albanian University and they would recommend it to others, they have expressed dissatisfaction regarding some aspects listed in the table below.

Table 2

No.	STUDENTS’ CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS
1	Uncertainty regarding the diploma recognition from European countries and The United States of America
2	The small space of the classrooms
3	The library has a few titles in Albanian, it is required its enrichment
4	Penalization of students due to absences
5	Lack of parking area

3. Infrastructure

- The location where lectures and practice take place, computer laboratories, other laboratories etc.
- Library– unavailable textbooks that need to be ordered.
What are the needs for the new academic year?

Albanian University has contemporary surroundings where lectures, seminars and laboratory classes take place, in every building where the students of the 3 Faculties take their classes. The university infrastructure is modern: with spacious classes, equipped with the necessary technological tools. The university has conference halls, equipped with computer, video projectors, big screens, flipcharts, etc.

The classrooms have comfortable cupboards and desks, arranged in a circle, to facilitate not only big group work but also small group work.

Videotapes and CD-s are part of several classes; the professors use movies and documentaries as the starting point of debates and discussions on specific themes.

The institution has made available for the students of different study programs, textbooks compiled by its professors. Written lectures also occupy a significant place for the courses and new curricula. Preliminary efforts are made to provide qualitative auxiliary literature.

The prevailing teaching practice in “Albanian University” is the one that, for every course or course-unit, the professor instructs the students on the basic literature and the recommended literature. The basic literature is mainly the one that is used even in other public and private universities in Albanian language. A number of the basic textbooks are publications of “AU-Press”.

For the basic literature are recommended even textbooks translated by different publishing houses, as well as texts in foreign language. In every case, the professor provides the students with written lectures. Auxiliary literature is also planned and reflected in the syllabus of every course or course unit. The e-book fund is also created.

Furthermore, the university makes available for students 3 libraries, 1 in each faculty, which contain literature from different fields and disciplines. Also available for students are the online libraries QUESTIA, as well as ELSEVIER (particularly for the students of the Faculty of Medicine). The library works from 8.00- 16.00, and in special occasions, such as for example during the exam session it is open with extended hours. The library is continuously enriched with contemporary literature. Thus, from 2.241 textbook titles that were available for the students last year, in the academic year 2016-2017 the library is enriched with 142 titles and simultaneously we are waiting for a supply of new texts which have already been ordered.

**For details see the table below!*

Table 3

FACULTY	SURFACE (m ²)	LECTUR E HALLS	SEMIN AR HALLS	COMPUTER LABORATORY HALL	LABORAT ORIES	LIBRARY
Faculty of Medical Sciences (The building of former – Supreme Court + former- International Hotel + Raiffeisen building)	2267.4 + 1834.69 + 452.4= 4.554.49	6	9	1	24	1 hall- 40 seats 1126 book titles + ELSEVIER + QUESTIA
FACULTY OF APPLIED AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES (Dep. of Architecture & Dep. of Engineering – Kavaja str. building)	1901.69	6	7	1	8	1 hall- 35 seats 815 book titles + 28 new titles + QUESTIA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES + Dep. of Economic Sciences (former- Estrada building)	3996	9	11	1	0	1 hall - 26 seats 300 book titles + 114 new titles +QUESTIA

4. Financing

- Financing of scientific activity and staff qualifications,
- Financing of student activities.

In Albanian University, financial resources are generally related with the student tuition fees. 17% of these sources of income are spent for the rent of the buildings and other services related

to it (maintenance, cleaning, heating, etc), and 59% of the income resources are spent for the wages and insurance of the employed staff (academic and administrative), as well as to cover the expenses related to advertisements, internet service, equipments and devices, consumption goods and obligations to the state.

In this academic year there has been no direct financing for the training and participation of the academic staff in scientific activity in the country and abroad, but it is made possible the facilitation of the economic expenses giving the staff opportunities for:

- Free attendance in Scientific Conferences organized by the University.
- Publication of full articles in the journal ‘OPTIME’ without financial obligations.

The university aims to pay special attention to the financing and qualification of the academic staff in the country and abroad, thanks to the collaborations that the university now has for several years with its foreign partner universities.

5. Teaching

- Implementation of the academic year, supported by the professors’ reports for their courses.
- Providing university lectures and texts in hardcopy and electronically, etc.

In the academic year 2015-2016, the academic calendar was implemented at satisfactory parameters in all programs of study that were active.

The reason for not implementing the academic calendar at 100% in some courses is related to:

- a. Official holidays, mainly occurring on weekdays such as Monday and Tuesday;
- b. Attendance of the pedagogical staff in several National and International Conferences.
- c. In exceptional cases, absences of the academic staff for personal and health reasons.

Generally, for all courses there is basic literature, with the exception of some specific courses in master’s level. The student is provided with basic literature and simultaneously is provided with extra materials electronically from the professor of the course. For the courses where basic literature is lacking, the student is provided with lectures prepared from the professor, that the student can find in the university photocopy area as well as electronically. A copy of the lecture is deposited even in the respective department.

In the future, AU aims to provide basic textbooks for all courses. The professors are working for the publication of their lecture cycles.

From a continuous observation and from the questionnaires completed by the students it results that the staff uses interactive teaching methods; what is noticed from the very beginning of the lectures and seminars is the good and careful preparation of the professors; adaptation of different sciences with the culture of the our population. The professors treat education and educational problems regarding our life, illustrating their lectures with our problems from different texts that they used for the teaching preparation and assignments.

“Albanian University” through IQAO has used evaluation methodologies, measuring and evaluating instruments for the performance of each study program, such as:

- continuous control of the students during the semester period,
- evaluation of the performance of the professors and all pedagogical staff, detailed documentation of the realization of the teaching plan of every course and every professor,
- extraction of statistical information on students’ pass rate and level
- continuous control of the quality of the study program and the innovations that the professors bring forward in every course.

The evaluation has covered topics, essays, the professional practice in public and private subjects, group work, the independent work of the students, adhering ethical criteria and creating outlet for internal self-evaluation. During the semester different types of evaluations were conducted such as: discussions, electronic presentation, group work, individual analysis of an educational issue, etc. Of an important significance for the study programs have been the work of the students, who have paid a lot of attention to scientific research from different resources and did not simply reproduce the lectures and school texts.

The assessment of every assignment is seen to have been done in accordance with the degree of difficulty that it represents. But IQAO notices that the evaluation not always is clear for the students who demand more arguments provided in a written form in the correction of their professors.

Through the evaluation of predetermined assignments in the courses and modules it has been examined the acquisition of the course and the students are assessed by points. The preliminary teaching elements are planned to be worth 40 possible points. Whereas the final examination is planned to be worth up to 60 points. The course assignments are planned to be worth 10 up to 20 possible points and participation in seminars, laboratories, etc. is planned to be assessed by up to 10 points. The assessment by points is converted in corresponding grades, according to an escalation that is predetermined by the institution and is reflected in every syllabus. As for the written form of control, all exams are seen to have been bar-coded. In the conclusion of the program the overall average qualification is calculated for every student and this is communicated to them electronically and in a personalized manner.

In this way, “Albanian University”, for the conduct of the evaluation and the verification of the quality, has preliminarily used even this year direct and indirect methods:

Indirect methods:

- a. Student surveys for every aspect of the study program.
- b. Surveys for the assessment of the didactics, curricula, teaching;
- c. Conceptual questions;
- d. Interviews;

Direct methods:

- a. Hearings in auditoriums;
- b. Assessment with grades /points of the term papers;
- c. Preliminary and final tests; demonstrations for the modules, practice in educational centers and institutions.
- d. Evaluations of assignments done by students(course assignments to analyze conceptual understanding, electronic presentations, group work, oral presentations);
- e. Observations of the performance of the assignments/practice;

Teaching is affirmed to be of a very good level. Contacts with students revealed that the professors strive to be as close as possible to the students, helping the students with difficulties in learning in completing the given assignments through individual work. Quality measurement was often done by the head of the department who participated in special classes or from the interpretation of the data resulting from the midterm tests or the different course assignments.

6. Students

- Exam pass rate and average grade results for every study program,
- Problems regarding transferring studies, remarks on the university life, extracurricular activities, etc.

The students’ entry quality varies according to the schools they have attended and their personal progress.

The students’ entry and exit number through years almost has no big fluctuations. But in many occasions students pass the academic year even though they have not passed all courses. The regulation allows the continuation of studies when the student has received passing grades for courses with over 30 credits ECTS in an academic year.

Registration and Pass rate

Table 4

Academic year 2015-2016	
FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES	2040 students
FACULTY OF APPLIED AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES	1790 students
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES	2685 students

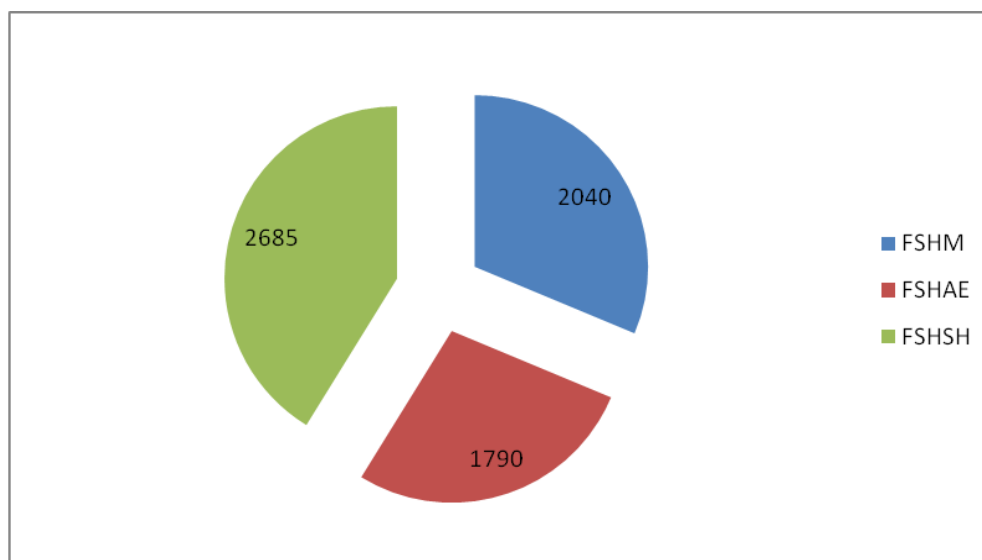


Table 5

Academic year 2015-2016

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES		
Master of Science in Stomatology	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	90%	6.3
Viti II	94%	7.46
Viti III	95%	6.97
Viti IV	86%	6.6
Viti V	94%	7
Master of Science in Pharmacy	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	90%	7.44
Viti II	95%	6.32
Viti III	85%	5.81
Viti IV	92%	6.8
Viti V	94%	6.5
Bachelor in Nursing	Pass rate	Average grade

Viti I	96%	6.5
Viti II	95%	6.6
Viti III	94%	6.8
Bachelor in Physiotherapy	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	90%	6.59
Viti II	94%	6.85
Viti III	88%	7.1
Professional Master in Surgical Nursing	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	94%	7.59
FACULTY OF APPLIED AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES		
Bachelor in Finance- Banking	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	60%	5.882
Viti II	93%	6.25
Viti III	97%	6.4
Bachelor in Business Management	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	66.00%	6.02
Viti II	80%	6
Viti III	84%	7.14
Master of Science in Banking Management	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	68%	6.88
Viti II	79%	6.96
Master of Science in Business Administration	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	92%	7.2
Viti II		
Professional Master in Banking and Financial Management	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	93%	7.39
Viti II	85%	7.10
Professional Master in Business Administration	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	71%	6.9
Viti II		
Bachelor in Design	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	78.7%	7.75
Viti II	79%	7.92
Viti III	67%	8.4
Master of Science in Architecture	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I		

Viti II	50%	6.97
Viti III	40%	7.39
Viti IV	31%	8
Viti V		6.9
Bachelor in Electronic Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	47%	5,46
Viti II	46%	5,65
Viti III	70%	6,47
Bachelor in Computer Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	61%	5.29
Viti II	31%	4.97
Viti III	56%	6.42
Bachelor in Information Technology	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	50%	5,00
Viti II	42%	5,26
Viti III	69%	6,8
Bachelor in Mechatronic Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	61%	4.95
Viti II	49%	4.94
Viti III	76%	6.09
Bachelor in Electric Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	58%	5.07
Viti II	52%	5.117
Viti III	78%	5.98
Master of Science in Information Technology	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	93%	6.99
Viti II	99%	7.49
Master of Science in Electronic Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	85%	6.94
Viti II	95%	6.91
Master of Science in Mechatronic Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	84%	5.79
Master of Science in Computer Engineering	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	88%	6.26

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES		
Bachelor in General Psychology	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	87%	6.65
Viti II	86%	6.8
Viti III	96%	7.65
Bachelor in Political-administrative Sciences	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	70%	6.2
Viti II	85%	6
Viti III	81%	6.64
Bachelor in Teaching for Elementary school	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	89%	7.3
Viti III	91%	8.27
Bachelor in Teaching for Preschool	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	94%	7.7
Viti III	100%	8.08
Bachelor in Juridical Sciences	Pass rate	Average grade
Viti I	80%	6.8
Viti II	67%	6
Viti III	79%	6.6

At the beginning of every academic year, part of the students who decide to continue their studies in “Albanian University” are even the students who transfer their studies from other public or private universities.

Based on the Transfer of Study Regulation of “Albanian University”, firstly the interested student deposits a file with the required documentation. This file is assessed by the commission of study equivalence and transfer, established in every faculty. In the conclusion of the review of the file, a decision is taken from the commission of study equivalence and transfer. The decision is communicated to the student who then decides if he-she will transfer the studies or not.

In the academic year 2015 – 2016, 418 students overall transferred their studies in “Albanian University”.

The ratio: internal, external academic personnel/student for the first and second cycle study programs was **1:12**. Thus, meeting the required standards satisfactorily, in order to insure qualitative education and accomplishment of the objectives of the study program.

The full-time academic personnel has taught 70% of the classes of the study programs.

The centers that provide information on employment opportunities and offer counseling services constitute a special structure of “Albanian University”. The Career Center has actively supported the students with their career plans and compliance with the labor market. Many of the students, who attended this academic year, work full-time.

To meet this standard, the institution has offered special modules with authentic professional character that have imparted knowledge from the socio-economic fields, entrepreneurship and has also organized standardized professional practices.

From the conversations with students it is revealed that they are satisfied not only with the teaching quality but also with the formal and informal conversations with the pedagogical staff. According to their affirmations, the study programs prepare them to be capable and successful for the labor market, but also to face their personal problems they meet in their daily life.

The requirements of all courses to students are the same. They have to attend lectures and participate in every class, compulsorily. An unjustified absence may influence in the reduction of attendance and participation points.

Apart from the quality of teaching, the extracurricular activities play an important role in the student formation. So, during the academic year 2015 – 2016 the Departments of Albanian University have organized a number of extracurricular activities. Find their list as following:

- Student conference on “*New innovations in the Field of Medicine*”;
- Student conference: “*Environmental Planning and Management*”;
- 5th Student conference on “*Challenges of higher education in the Republic of Albania in the context of European Union Integration*”;
- Student conference on “*Challenges of higher education in the Republic of Albania in the context of European Union Integration*”;
- Student conference on “*Conformity to law-Conception and implementation in social relations*”;
- Open lecture on “*The Serious Crimes Court and its perspective in the context of the justice reform and perspective*”;
- Open lecture on “*Organization and Functioning of the Constitutional Court in the Republic of Albania*”;
- Open lecture on “*Is tolerance, The reason of saving the Jews in Albania during the II World War*”;
- Open lecture on “*The latest developments of the European Union*”;
- Open lecture on “*The rights of female deputies*”;
- Open lecture on “*Evolution of Albanian politics in the last twenty years*”;
- Scientific symposium on “*Violence, its psychological consequences and prevention*”;
- Scientific symposium on “*The role of the psychologist in the court*”
- Open lecture on “*The economic success of Poland during the last 25 years*”;

- Workshop: “*Inequality of Opportunities and Income inequality*”;
- Scientific symposium on: “*Managing by projects*”;
- Open lecture on: “*Conjectural and /or structural policies: The case of Albania* ”;
- Student conference: “*Customer Relationship Management*”;
- Workshop on “*B&B*” *Dental implants*;
- Workshop on “*Theoretical-practical course of implant surgery in patients*”;
- Open lecture on: “*Techar-therapy in Physiotherapy*”.

7. Scientific Research

- The activities conducted during the year by the professors and students, conferences, projects, publications, etc.

In the beginning of every academic year, each department compiles its scientific research work plan in compliance with the strategy for development of scientific research in “Albanian University”. The annual plan of the scientific work in departments for the academic year 2015 - 2016 comprises the following courses of action:

- a. Scientific activities (working tables, symposiums and conferences);
- b. Scientific work at individual level of the internal and external staff published in national and international publications;
- c. Active participation in the publications of the university scientific journal “Optime”;
- d. Publication of titles, that supplement or serve as the basic necessary literature in all courses of management;
- e. Continuous qualification of the academic staff.

Scientific research is an element of the professors workload in “Albanian University”. Indicators of the scientific research are scientific conferences, publications in journals, research in collaboration with research institutes and agencies in the country and abroad, mentoring of doctoral studies in the country and abroad, etc. Mentoring the work of students of Bachelor and Master programs has been a fundamental aspect of the quality of the pedagogical research staff.

The professors have done research which they have presented in conferences organized from the institution or in conferences organized from other institutions in the country and abroad. AU publishes the periodical journal “OPTIME” which contains scientific writings of the university professors, but also the writings of other researchers not engaged in AU. It is required an increased ratio of authors from different study fields and programs. It is seen a predominance of the writings with medical and psychological character and a small number of writings about applied and economic sciences. From an inspection of the documentation it results that the institution has agreements with some Non Profit Organizations that collaborate with different

study programs transmitting the research results of research activities, as well as contributing in teaching. In different study programs several research activities have been conducted by the students.

The scientific-research activity of Albanian University for this academic year has mainly concentrated in:

- the realization of applied scientific research,
- the support of the academic staff activity, its capacity enhancement and qualification;
- the integration of the scientific research in teaching;
- the creation of a balanced and effective ratio between teaching and scientific research;
- the creation of scientific research methods and skills for students, engaging them with challenging assignments(essays, diploma thesis, and micro thesis for the postgraduate qualification) as well as involving them in the study groups of the projects of the departments or the university. According to article 71/item 3 of the above mentioned law “The third cycle study programs, and to a smaller extent, the second cycle programs are considered research work and are subject to planning.

The university has 3 faculties constituting of 10 departments, one university clinic and scientific research coordinating center. The Department as a teaching and research basic unit involves respective teaching disciplines as well as scientific projects.

Research groups are composed of some or all members of the academic staff of the department, as well as external collaborators. The department notes that they have promoted, coordinated and administered the teaching process and the scientific research activity, respecting academic freedom, group independence or individual work, as well as the administration of the material and financial resources.

The departments have been responsible for the different types of activities that take place within the department: scientific conferences, studies and research, projects, publications, etc., presenting and making them transparent. It should be affirmed that the scientific process is still in its first steps of development. Nevertheless, the institution structure and philosophy continuously promotes the culture of research evaluating it as a basic element of the new millennium university.

The university has welcomed proposals for scientific research and has decided on their progress after discussions in the respective departments. The institution is often seeking the cooperation of other partners that may be other private or public institutions, especially in the field of medicine and teaching. The culture cultivated in the institution is seen to be positive and open to other scientific research actors.

“Albanian University” has predetermined its priorities for the academic year 2016-2017. “AU” has a concrete program related to research priorities.

The need for future cooperation with foreign researchers is increasingly arising thus aiming expansion as well as deepening of regional and international research.

The institution has encouraged its academic staff to participate in research projects with other institutions in the country and abroad.

The university itself has its practice of inviting foreign lecturers for different courses and modules. “Albanian University” even during this year has maintained a rich inventory of scientific conferences and symposiums, disclosed through different projects and publications.

The results of the studies and research are made public in the publications of the journal “OPTIME”. The publishing house “AU” Press has become one of the best promoters of the scientific research activities of the pedagogical staff of the institution. Every activity, book and monogram publication, in Albanian University is promoted in the Book Fairs that take place in Albania every year, where in special days the academic staff make presentations of the work and the publications done in that academic year.

8. Cooperation within the country and abroad

- Agreements signed with different partners for the professional practice as well as for experience exchange.

Albanian University has signed different cooperation agreements with Higher Education institutions in the country and abroad, as well as with business organizations and companies to ensure a teaching process of European standards. Below there is a list of the institutions with which agreements have been signed for the academic year 2015-2016. In the future it aims to increase the number of the cooperation agreements with different institutions and particularly with universities in Europe and beyond, putting emphasis on the mobility of professors and students.

Table 6

No.	Institutional Cooperation Agreement
1	Mediterranean and Middle East University Network Agreement (MUNA)
2	Queen Geraldine (Molecular Diagnostic Center)
3	Iliria College, Institution of Higher Education
4	The Albanian Order of Pharmacists
5	IRS Studio, Finance Auditing
6	Capital Invest JSC
7	ANAS Ltd.

8	Ferlut JSC
9	Alba Trans Ltd.
10	Tirana Auditing 2 Ltd.
11	Inter B.B.K Auditing Ltd.
12	NH Euroconsult Ltd.
13	AK Invest JSC
14	BDO Albania Ltd.
15	ProCredit Bank
16	A.S.C.A Ltd.
17	Mediterranean Business Center
18	Technical Building Central Archive
19	EDS Foundation
20	Institute of Cultural Monuments ICM
21	AAB College, Kosovo
22	Architecture Studio Arkimade
23	Architecture Studio H&S Project
24	University of Padova
25	Center of Physiotherapy Rehabilitation "Balance"
26	Center of Physiotherapy Rehabilitation "Chiropractic Club Albania"
27	"Halili" Physiotherapy Clinic
28	Social – Educational Center "Primavera"
29	Center of Physiotherapy Rehabilitation "Red"
30	Sports Service Agency
31	The International Network of Democratic Therapeutic Communities(INDTC)
32	Regional Education Directory, Durres

9. Administration and Assistant staff

- Role of the secretariat and department assistants,
- Documentation,
- Registers and their completion according to the approved syllabuses,

The secretariat and department assistants have an important role in the information of students, in keeping student records and in coordinating the teaching process. The secretariat compiles the

registers, which are specific for every course and group. The group register is an official document is evidence of and certifies the completion of the class by the professor. This official document also certifies the student attendance in the class and is evidence of the credits that the student has gained in that course as well as the completion of the classes and themes provided by the course syllabus. The assessment of the students is always reflected in the respective documentation during the academic year, in the grade record sheets which the secretariat makes available for the professor of the course in the exam session, and that are finally deposited and stored in the secretariat. The students divided into groups are recorded in the group registers in the beginning of the academic year. The administrative personnel together with the academic staff are actively engaged to fulfill the objectives of the study programs, making extra materials available for students.

10. SWOT Analysis

a. Strengths

- Albanian University is an institution properly organized within the academic fields it offers;
- The institution has a promoting environment and infrastructure for the development of the study programs;
- The academic staff engaged represents a high level of performance in the teaching process;
- All study programs offered in AU are in compliance with the institutional development mission and strategy,
- “AU” has achieved very operational collaborations with other universities in the country and abroad in the context of quality enhancement of the study program;
- The documentation and communication mechanisms are well-developed. The institution strives to be transparent and open with the academic staff, its students, as well as with the wide public;
- The organizational structure is in compliance with the typical approaches provided for by the Albanian legislation;
- The university correctly conducts the evaluation of the performance of its employees;
- The financial resources of the institution are represented as sufficient for the institution stability and credibility in the future;
- The university has a library rich in texts, hard copy textbooks as well as e-books.

b. Weaknesses (issues that need to be improved):

- To facilitate the employment of its graduates abroad, the institution must work harder for the conduct of foreign language courses, offering them as a mandatory teaching aspect;
- Lack of access to EU financing;
- Low-rate involvement of students in the scientific-research activity.

c. Opportunities:

- “AU” shows a strong commitment to being an important partner in the private higher education market; offering a growing standard for the realization of its study programs, it will be capable of successfully competing in the race for quality;
- With its initiatives for the internationalization of the institution until now, offering even third cycle programs, “AU” can gain terrain to achieve high academic and professional levels with its staff and students.

d. Threats:

- A greater engagement of the “AU” structures for the entrance into the space of the European system will surpass the problems regarding cooperation with other institutions and regional and international projects;
- In several specific fields such as, Engineering, pharmacy, etc it is somehow difficult to find academic staff with scientific titles and degrees.

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