

# **University of Engineering & Technology Mardan**



## **Graduate Program Review Report 2024-25**

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**



# Graduate Program Review (GPR) Report

## 1. Introduction

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, a Graduate Program Review (GPR) was conducted at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Mardan. The purpose of the review was to assess the academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and compliance of graduate programs with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and internal standards. This review was conducted in accordance with the relevant expectations outlined in the Graduate Education Policy (GEP-2023) and aligned with the overarching principles of the PSG-2023 framework. The GPR process is designed to foster a culture of academic excellence, self-assessment, and quality enhancement, while offering an objective evaluation of the university's graduate program delivery and development trajectory.

### 1.1 Composition of the GPR Review Committee

The following GPR Committee was constituted in accordance with GEP-2023 guidelines and included both internal and external members to ensure objectivity and breadth of expertise:

| S.No | Name                     | Designation                                                            | Role                     |
|------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1    | Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahid | Dean of Management Sciences, Bahria Business School, Bahria University | <i>External Reviewer</i> |
| 2    | Prof. Dr. Ibrar Ali Shah | Chairman, Dept. of Computer Software Engineering, UET Mardan           | <i>Internal Member</i>   |

The review team was supported by the QEC team, Director Post Graduate Studies, Deputy Registrar Academics, Program Team Members, and other staff, ensuring a smooth and well-coordinated review process.

### 1.2 Programs Evaluated

A total of three (03) PhD programs and five (05) MS/MSc programs from across five different departments were evaluated, detail of which is given below.

| S.No | Department                           | Program                    |
|------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Department of Electrical Engineering | PhD Electrical Engineering |
| 2    |                                      | MSc Electrical Engineering |



|   |                                             |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | Department of Computer Software Engineering | PhD Computer Software Engineering |
| 4 |                                             | MSc Computer Software Engineering |
| 5 | Department of Telecommunication Engineering | PhD Telecommunication Engineering |
| 6 |                                             | MSc Telecommunication Engineering |
| 7 | Department of Computer Science              | MS Computer Science               |
| 8 | Department of NHS                           | MS Mathematics                    |

## 2. Summary of Observations and Areas Needing Improvement

During the course of the review, several observations were made across academic, administrative, and support domains of the University. These observations are summarized below and require immediate and long-term remedial action(s):

### 2.1 Strategic and Institutional Planning

- The GPR presentation lacked a comprehensive overview of the University's achievements, national/international rankings, and sustainability initiatives.
- The University's Strategic Plan beyond 2025 was not available.
- The existing Strategic Plan lacks SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- The 2023 Graduate Education (GE) Policy, although adopted, has not been implemented as required from Fall 2023.
- The Mission and Vision statements of individual departments were missing.

### 2.2 Academic Program Standards

- No provision of GRE/admission test by the University in the University rules.
- PhD program duration as per provision in the University rules (Postgraduate Prospectus, 2024, Clause-2.5.5 (c) ) may exceed the HEC maximum permissible limit of 8 years
- The GE policy has not been implemented University-wide.
- Minutes of statutory body meetings were not fully available for verification.
- The withdrawal policy for courses lacked formal documentation.
- The minimum duration for MSs/MS programs should be set at 1.5 years, but current implementation was inconsistent.
- MSc/MS course codes did not align with the GE policy and National Qualification Framework (NQF), particularly in disciplines like Computer Science.
- The Relevancy Assessment Committee (RAC) was not constituted or functioning.
- Program roadmaps were not documented or approved.





### 2.3 Sustainability, SDGs, and International Benchmarking

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mapping was absent in courses and research.
- The university has not yet applied for Times Higher Education (THE) or QS Rankings.
- R&D budgets and their utilization reports were not available.

### 2.4 Facilities and Student Support

- Postgraduate (PG) labs and facilities were missing and inadequate.
- A faculty workload distribution policy was not in place.
- Budgets and activities of student clubs and societies were undocumented.
- Scholarships and fellowships for PG students were inactive.
- A consultancy policy existed, but consultancy projects were not being properly recorded.
- No records or evidence of faculty and student awards were available.
- The university lacked a Learning and Professional Development Center.
- There was no defined faculty and student development policy.
- An Activity and Research Calendar was not available.
- Student and employee handbooks were missing.
- A proper program launching mechanism, i.e., conducting feasibility, surveys etc, was not documented.
- Course codes were not formally sponsored or issued by the Examination Section.
- Daycare and medical facilities for staff and students were absent.
- Guidance and Evaluation Committees (GECs) for PG students were not established.
- No Ethical Review Committee (ERC) was available for research and PG students.
- The library lacked academic databases and proxy access services.
- The Alumni Association was inactive.

### 2.5 Program-Specific and Administrative Concerns

- The PhD Software and Telecom programs has E-NOC email approvals but required formal NOCs from HEC.
- Some MSc/MS programs, especially in Electrical Engineering, had high intakes which was near to violating the Faculty-to-Student (FTS) ratio set by HEC.
- Cafeteria and recreational facilities for students and faculty needed upgrades.

## 3. Recommendations

1. Prepare a comprehensive Strategic Plan 2025–2030 with SMART KPIs.
2. Institutionalize and implement the GE policy, ensuring compliance in all academic units.
3. Establish clear and approved admission and program criteria for MS and PhD programs.
4. Build capacity through a Learning and Professional Development Center.
5. Activate and document scholarship, fellowship, consultancy, and awards programs.



6. Apply for international rankings (THE, QS) and integrate SDG targets into academic and research activities.
7. Enhance PG facilities, including labs, libraries, daycare, medical, and recreational infrastructure.
8. Establish necessary committees (GEC, ERC, RAC) and update all policies per HEC guidelines.
9. Include MS/MSc. by course work plan.
10. Minimum duration of MS/MSc. shall be 1.5 years.
11. Create student and employee handbooks, a research calendar, and roadmap documents for all programs.
12. Strengthen stakeholder engagement and ensure availability during future reviews.

#### 4. Conclusion

The Graduate Program Review of UET Mardan on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 highlighted several critical areas that require immediate and sustained attention. While the university exhibits potential in its academic offerings, addressing the identified gaps will be essential to ensure compliance, quality assurance, and institutional excellence. A follow-up review is recommended on priority to assess progress against these observations.

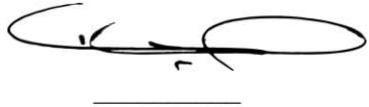
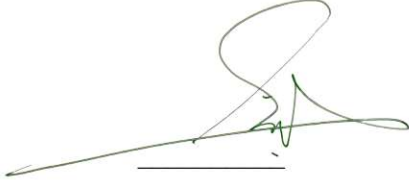
| S.No | Program                           | Status |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1    | PhD Electrical Engineering        | OK     |
| 2    | MS Electrical Engineering         | OK     |
| 3    | PhD Computer Software Engineering | OK     |
| 4    | MS Computer Software Engineering  | OK     |
| 5    | PhD Telecommunication Engineering | OK     |
| 6    | MS Telecommunication Engineering  | OK     |
| 7    | MS Computer Science               | OK     |
| 8    | MS Mathematics                    | OK     |



### Review Team Signatures

This report is hereby submitted as the official outcome of the GPR review conducted at UET Mardan from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### Signed:

| S.No | Name                                                                               | Role                      | Signature                                                                           |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.   | Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahid                                                           | External Reviewer         |  |
| 2.   | Prof. Dr. Ibrar Ali Shah                                                           | Internal Reviewer         |  |
|      |  | Director QEC              |  |
|      |                                                                                    | Honorable Vice Chancellor |                                                                                     |