

College of Computer Science and Information

Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

Strategic plan 1435/1438



Contents

Introduction.....	2
Vision and mission.....	2
Goals.....	2
SWOT Analysis.....	2
PEST Analysis.....	2
Strategic Goal.....	2



Introduction

This strategic plan describes the way in which the College of Computer and Information Sciences at the Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University is to carry out its business, in order to take it from its current position as one of oldest and pre-eminence universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in both Education and Research. These academic departments in the college have their own specific plans which describe in more detail the actions to be taken to achieve our goals. In addition, the College and the two programs offered are supported by educational, operational, IT and marketing plans that collectively constitute an integrated holistic set of activities aimed at continuous improvement in our education and research activities.

In broad terms the College desires to be the best of its type in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, achieving excellence is the key driver for all college activities, indicators are being developed to monitor progress and ensure that the College is on track to achieve the aims set out here.

This plan starts by outlining the college current situation and goes on to identify the steps to be taken in the year 1435 H and beyond. It identifies the chief areas for change but necessarily lacks details in some areas which is expressed in the plans for each Research and the operational, IT and marketing areas.

This is a collegiate plan and is guided by College committees and specialist working parties. It has been formulated by inclusive groupings of staff encompassing as wide a representation from the College as possible and will continue to be developed in this way.



Vision and mission

Vision

CCIS vision is to be a regionally and globally leading college in teaching, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and community service.

Mission

CCIS mission is to provide, through innovative teaching and research, science and technology education aimed at producing a new generation of highly motivated, competent, skilful, innovative and entrepreneurial scientists and professionals to help the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia become a leading knowledge-based economy.



Goals

The university as a cultural and intellectual institution aims to promote knowledge offering undergraduate as well as postgraduate studies. One of the most important aims is to promote translating and publishing as the university has its own print house. Moreover, the university achieves its goals within the Islamic Shari'a.

- Develop high quality academic programs.
- Adopt a quality teaching process that ensures highly effective learning.
- Promote high quality, innovative and multi-disciplinary applied research.
- Respond to the needs of local and regional industry/government in line with the University's Research priorities and the National Technology Plan.
- Construct effective partnership with the industry, government and other organizations to ensure an effective, goal-oriented outcome that is well aligned with their needs.
- Develop and maintain an active international cooperation with academia, industries, government and non-government organizations.
- Provide community-based outreach programs.



SWOT Analysis

Internal factors

STRENGTHS

- Imam University has built a good reputation in Saudi Arabia.
- Programs and curricula were designed according to ACM guidelines.
- The courses references are efficient in meeting the expectations of staff and students.
- The university's effort in updating the CS Program objectives and outcome in order to satisfy the changing market needs.
- Faculty members are well qualified, dedicated and have a strong background.
- Funding for research that increases continuously the number of publications.
- Facilities are available and well equipped and there are a good potential to expand them.
- Good student to faculty ratio.
- Strong leadership, good department chair

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of training and continuous education for staff members to earn professional certificates.
- Many lacks of the basic knowledge and skills required in a CS student.
- Poor cooperation with other institutes or universities inside or outside the kingdom.
- Poor cooperation with the experience and talent from outside the department.
- Lack of medium/long term research plan.
- The structure of research groups is not yet defined, only individual research efforts.
- Insufficient well defined managerial procedures to support faculty and students.
- Little student participation in co-op program and internships.
- Shortage of female faculty members.
- Inefficient contribute in community services and development.

External Factors

OPPORTUNITIES

- A Growing IT labor market in Saudi Arabia increases the need of graduates in CS and related fields
- Development of new programs and departments. There is a shortage (or non-existence) of some departments in Saudi Arabia (e.g. Bio-Informatics)
- Possibility of research funding from Imam University's internal sources and from outside sources (e.g. KACST)
- Good potential and capability to start PhD program.
- Expand opportunities so that our faculty can participate in local, regional and international seminars and workshops.
- Activating cooperation and partnership with international universities
- Continuing education to keep up with the members of the faculty of the ongoing developments
- Develop interdisciplinary research and projects
- Build up the department from recent joining staff members

THREATS

- Less financial support by the government or university authorities.
- Heavy dependency on expatriate faculty.
- Resistance on the part of agencies and departments to develop outs.
- Non-availability of the ingredients to attract expertise and competencies
- Salary compression/market-place competition.
- There is a high competition between imam graduates and other graduates from international and local universities in work area.

PEST Analysis

Political

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a monarch ruled by King Abdullah. The country adheres Islamic law (Sharia). The country is politically stable and undergoing political reforms. Political stability of any country affects the development of education.

Saudi Arabia is a major political influence. Saudi Arabia is custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, Mecca and Medina. With that comes a great deal of responsibility including the preservation of the Muslim religion. Its status in the Islamic world is very strong and has also led to an increase in its participation in international relations.

The Ministry of Higher Education is responsible for the kingdom universities and colleges, and also coordinates post-secondary programs. It also supervises scholarships of Saudi students studying abroad. It works on expanding the higher education institutions. National commission for assessment and academic accreditation has been established to ensure that the quality of that institutions. The department of quality and academic accreditation was established at Al-Imam University since March 2006 in order to guarantee a high-level quality services whether to programmatic or institutional sides.



PEST Analysis

Economic

Saudi Arabia is one of the richest countries in the world. It has the biggest oil reserves. The government budget has increased in the past few years. Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University takes the Third place regards government funding allocations with 3.815.770.000.

Saudi Arabia's workforce needs educated and well-trained workers. There has been a rise in the number of young Saudi professionals graduating from Saudi universities. Imam University has recently added colleges in sciences, information technology, economics and business, engineering and medicine to meet the rapidly increasing needs for educated professionals in modern Saudi society.

The Saudi government has published an expansionary budget for 2014. The budget reflects an increase in capital spending, in line with the government's wider economic and social objectives including the need to tackle unemployment among Saudis and increase job creation. With the Kingdom's massive investment new job opportunities will be created in the market.



PEST Analysis

Social

The total Saudi population as 1434H amounted 29,994,272 million with a growth rate 2.7%. Imam University is located in Riyadh which is the capital city of Saudi Arabia and it is in the middle of all of the kingdom regions. According to population and houses census in 1431H the population are 5.254.560 people. Hence Riyadh city is considered one of the fastest growing cities in the world. These statistics show that the demand of the higher education will increase in the future.

Women higher education in the Kingdom is witnessing a novel development in term of development programs, initiatives, and strategies. Imam University inaugurated first female section on 1404H. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz opened the construction works of the Female student educational area at Imam University on 1426H in order to provide highly educational opportunities for women to meet needs of society. The New campus for female students increases the student body considerably.

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic state. Its religion is Islam, and its constitution is the holy Qur'an and the prophet's (peace be upon him) Sunnah. Its language is the Arabic language. The cultural environment in Saudi Arabia is highly conservative.

In 2012, the Saudi unemployment rate was 12.1 percent. Expatriates make up 50.6 percent of the workforce in Saudi. University of Imam added many colleges to meet the needs of the market of a well-trained labor.



PEST Analysis

Technical

There are huge efforts to make IT integral part of the Saudi Arabian educational system. Students will expect professors to be able to use advanced information technologies on a variety of platforms. The college of computer and information sciences uses many educational technologies such as blackboard, smart classroom and well-equipped labs to develop the process of education.

Distance education and electronic learning are beginning to drive changes in education system. Imam University established the Deanship of e-Learning and Distance Education. Lectures are transmitted live via the internet on a daily basis, and these transmissions are also recorded and uploaded onto a web site for students to watch at their convenience. Student-lecturers communication occurs via emails, forums, and virtual classrooms.



Strategic Goal

Goal 1: Develop high quality academic programs.	
Strategy	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine and assess current programs and services to enhance national, and international reputations. 2. Ensure that curricula conform to the international Top tier colleges. 3. Update current curricula with active topics and trends that are related to the marketplace. 4. Achieve accreditation for academic programs. 	
Required resources	Equipments and Human resources
Time frame	The time of the strategic plan
Responsibility	Vice Dean for Development and Quality
The audience	Students
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from the marketplace as one of the college constituencies • Programs accreditation • Number of new developed courses • Percentage of employed bachelor graduates one year after graduation • Quality of employers and graduates and types of jobs
Expected Benefits	Accredited programs College reputation Attract outstanding students.

Goal 2: Adopt a quality teaching process that ensures highly effective learning.

Strategy

1. Offer professional development support and training programs for faculty and staffs.
2. Encourage and support faculty members who engaged in high quality teaching and the development of curricula.
3. Improve the student learning assessment process.
4. Integrate effective technology with academic instruction.
5. Enrich teaching and learning with distinctive learning strategies.

Required resources

Equipments and Human resources

Time frame

The time of the strategic plan

Responsibility

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

The audience

Students

Measures

- Feedback from the marketplace as one of the college constituencies
- Students evaluation on the quality of their learning experiences.
- Student achievement, retention and successful completion of their programmes.

Expected Benefits

Improve the university ranking
 Improve students' skills and Academic experiences.
 Increase students recruiting

Goal 3: Promote high quality, innovative and multi-disciplinary applied research.

Strategy

1. Forming research groups.
2. Encourage and support faculty research activities.
3. Allocate resources and develop a comprehensive infrastructure and support system to encourage research.
4. Support outstanding graduate students research.

Required resources

Research labs, Human resources and support project equipments.

Time frame

The time of the strategic plan

Responsibility

Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research

The audience

Faculty members and students

Measures

- Ratio of publications in the previous years per number of faculty members.
- Increase the high number of peer-reviewed papers.
- Number of citations.

Expected Benefits

University ranking and reputation
Become nationally recognized for research

Goal 4: Respond to the needs of local and regional industry/government in line with the University's Research priorities and the National Technology Plan.	
Strategy	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solicit feedback from industry, government, and non-profits on educational offerings and desirable skills. 2. Appoint senior people from outside academia in formal roles such as adjunct faculty and distinguished practitioners, and involve them with faculty and students. 3. Maintain and enhance current college and university alumni programs. 4. Identify appropriate funding agencies and establish strong relationships with them. 5. Support researches that compete for national grant. 	
Required resources	Research labs, Human resources and support project equipment.
Time frame	The time of the strategic plan
Responsibility	Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dean of the college
The audience	Faculty members and students
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and longevity of corporate partners • Number and amounts of funds received from corporate partners • Number of faculty/corporate exchange visits • Impact on educational program
Expected Benefits	Effective community service, College recognition, support national research and technology.

Goal 5: Construct effective partnership with the industry, government and other organizations to ensure an effective, goal-oriented outcome that is well aligned with their needs.	
Strategy	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with industry to motivate research ideas and help solve problems. This one can be done by inviting industry visitors or by encouraging short-term faculty members visit to industry. 2. Increase and promote the value of the corporate partners program to attract, retain, and involve more partners. 3. Provide consulting and training for college partners. 	
Required resources	Equipments and Human resources
Time frame	The time of the strategic plan
Responsibility	Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dean of the college
The audience	Students and faculty members.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of partnerships • Number of training programs and workshops conducted per year.
Expected Benefits	Practice the academic knowledge in industry.

Goal 6: Develop and maintain an active international cooperation with academia, industries, government and non-government organizations

Strategy

1. Visiting professors.
2. Facilitate students exchange programs with other universities.
3. International partnership.
4. Strengthen the cooperation with industry at national and international levels to include academia's contribution, from the cutting edge of research and technology, in industry.

Required resources

Equipments and Human resources

Time frame

The time of the strategic plan

Responsibility

Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dean

The audience

Students and faculty members.

Measures

- Numbers of international cooperation
- Number of visiting professors
- Number of research

Expected Benefits

Extensive networking, at both international and regional levels

Goal 7: Provide community-based outreach programs	
Strategy	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty members and students can dedicate a portion of their time every year to serve the community. 2. Initiate a college volunteers programs. 	
Required resources	Equipments and Human resources
Time frame	The time of the strategic plan
Responsibility	Vice Dean for Development and Quality
The audience	Community
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of faculty members and students who engaged in community services. • Number of volunteer programs
Expected Benefits	Provides opportunities for students to become active contributors to society. Helps students acquire academic skills and knowledge.