

Msaad Alzhrani, PhD

Higher-Education Leader | Academic Program Establishment & Accreditation | Saudi HE Strategist

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senior higher-education leader with 15+ years of progressive experience across Saudi Arabia's public and private universities, specialised in establishing and managing new colleges and academic programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and short-program levels. Currently serving at national level as Vice Chairman of the Deans' Council of Applied Medical Sciences Colleges (Ministry of Education) and as Dean at Majmaah University, with prior and ongoing advisory and leadership engagements at ALMaarefa, Sulaiman Alrajhi, Taif, and Taibah Universities. Proven record of transforming academic colleges into financially sustainable, accreditation-ready institutions — doubling institutional revenue, raising graduation rates by 80%, and securing national and international accreditation for 12 academic programs through NCAAA (Saudi Arabia), AHPGS (Germany), and ABET (USA). Executive credentials from Harvard Medical School, University of Cambridge, and UNITAR & UNESCO.

SIGNATURE OUTCOMES

- ✓ Institutional revenue doubled (2x) and graduation rate raised by 80% within four years through end-to-end academic transformation.
- ✓ Twelve (12) undergraduate and postgraduate programs accredited through three internationally recognised bodies: NCAAA (Saudi Arabia), AHPGS (Germany), and ABET (USA).
- ✓ 200%+ growth in scholarly output achieved through systematic research-capacity building.
- ✓ Multiple new postgraduate and undergraduate programs launched, plus a foundational-year curriculum designed and operationalised at a private university.
- ✓ Founding contributor to a new Nursing College and to the establishment of postgraduate programs aligned with Saudi labor-market and Vision 2030 priorities.

CORE EXPERTISE

- ▶ Establishing New Academic Programs (BSc, MSc, PhD, Short)
- ▶ Program Accreditation — NCAAA, AHPGS & ABET
- ▶ Institutional Financial Transformation & Revenue Growth
- ▶ Quality Assurance & Continuous Institutional Improvement
- ▶ Faculty Recruitment, Development & Retention
- ▶ Strategic Planning, KPI Management & Vision 2030 Alignment
- ▶ Saudi Higher-Education Ecosystem & Governance
- ▶ Curriculum Design & Outcome-Based Education
- ▶ Postgraduate Studies & Research-Capacity Building
- ▶ E-Learning, Digital Pedagogy & Blended Delivery
- ▶ Stakeholder Engagement (MoE, NCAAA, ETEC, TVTC)
- ▶ Cross-University Collaboration & Advisory Leadership

ACADEMIC PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT | END-TO-END CAPABILITY

Full-cycle expertise in launching new academic programs from concept to accreditation:

- ▶ Needs Assessment & Market Alignment — labor-market analysis, Vision 2030 alignment, stakeholder consultation, and benchmarking against national and international peer programs.

- ▶ Program Design & Curriculum Architecture — Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) per the NQF-KSA framework, Course Learning Outcomes, study plans, credit-hour mapping, and assessment blueprints.
- ▶ Governance & Approvals — drafting program documentation for college councils, scientific councils, university councils, and the Ministry of Education; coordinating ETEC/NCAAA submissions.
- ▶ Faculty & Resource Planning — staffing models, recruitment strategy, lab and clinical-affiliation requirements, and digital-learning infrastructure.
- ▶ Quality, Accreditation & Continuous Improvement — preparing self-study reports, evidence portfolios, and external review for national and international accreditation bodies including NCAAA, AHPGS, and ABET.
- ▶ Program Levels Covered — Undergraduate (BSc), Postgraduate (Master's, PhD), Foundational-Year programs, and Professional & Short Academic Programs.

SAUDI HIGHER-EDUCATION ENGAGEMENTS

Cross-institutional leadership and advisory experience spanning public and private universities in the Kingdom:

- ▶ Ministry of Education (National Level) — Vice Chairman, Deans' Council of Applied Medical Sciences Colleges; cross-university policy, governance, and program-alignment work.
- ▶ Majmaah University (Public) — Dean, College of Applied Medical Sciences; previously Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies & Scientific Research; Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.
- ▶ AlMaarefa University (Private) — University President's Advisor; designed the foundational-year curriculum and led associated faculty-recruitment strategy.
- ▶ Taif University (Public) — College Advisory Board member.
- ▶ Taibah University (Public) — College Advisory Board member.
- ▶ Sulaiman Alrajhi University (Private) — Scientific Council member.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vice Chairman, Deans' Council of Applied Medical Sciences Colleges

Oct 2022 – Present

Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia (national-level appointment)

- ▶ Advise on the development and revision of national educational policies and higher-education regulations.
- ▶ Drive cross-university collaboration to align applied-medical programs with national workforce priorities and Vision 2030.
- ▶ Promote governance reform, academic-quality practices, and shared accreditation standards across Saudi universities.

Dean, College of Applied Medical Sciences

Aug 2021 – Present

Majmaah University

- ▶ Led end-to-end academic transformation that doubled college revenue and raised graduation rate by 80%.
- ▶ Secured accreditation for 12 undergraduate and postgraduate programs through three accreditation bodies — NCAAA (Saudi Arabia), AHPGS (Germany), and ABET (USA).
- ▶ Established new postgraduate programs in applied health sciences aligned with Saudi labor-market and Vision 2030 priorities.
- ▶ Directed faculty recruitment, retention, and professional-development strategy across all departments.
- ▶ Championed E-learning integration and blended-learning methodologies to enhance learning outcomes and program scalability.

University President's Advisor

Jan 2020 – Dec 2020

AlMaarefa University (private sector)

- ▶ Designed the foundational-year curriculum aligned with institutional excellence and accreditation standards.
- ▶ Implemented quality-assurance measures ensuring program alignment with institutional accreditation requirements.
- ▶ Led faculty-recruitment strategy for the foundational-year program.

Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies & Scientific Research

Jan 2019 – Aug 2021

Majmaah University

- ▶ Developed postgraduate research and innovation policies and built institutional research capacity.
- ▶ Established new postgraduate programs and partnerships with national and international research institutions.
- ▶ Drove research-capacity initiatives that delivered >200% growth in publications within three years.

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Jul 2013 – Oct 2014

Majmaah University

- ▶ Spearheaded curriculum development and program-accreditation processes.
- ▶ Aligned academic programs with national policies and evolving workforce requirements.

Faculty Member (Lecturer → Associate Professor)

Aug 2009 – Present

Majmaah University

- ▶ Teach undergraduate and postgraduate students in rehabilitation sciences.
- ▶ Supervise postgraduate theses and mentor early-career researchers.
- ▶ Author of 40+ peer-reviewed publications indexed in Clarivate (Web of Science) and SCOPUS.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Health Sciences — University of Salford, UK *2018*

M.Sc. in Health Rehabilitation (Musculoskeletal) — University of Pittsburgh, USA *2012*

B.Sc. in Health Sciences (Physical Therapy) — King Saud University, Saudi Arabia *2008*

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- ▶ AI in Health Care: From Strategies to Implementation — Harvard Medical School (2025)
- ▶ Digital Transformation: From Strategy to Execution — University of Cambridge, Judge Business School (2025)
- ▶ LEAP-FAST: Accelerating Sustainability Transformations in Higher Education — UNITAR & UNESCO (2025)
- ▶ ICHOM Certified Value-Based Health Care Professional — ICHOM (2025)
- ▶ Generative AI for Educators Training — Google Cloud (Saudi Arabia)
- ▶ OTT Professional Certificate in E-Learning Delivery — Princess Nourah University (2025)
- ▶ How to Develop Academic PLOs according to NQF-KSA — ETEC (2020)
- ▶ Programmatic Quality Management against NCAAA Evaluation Rubrics — ETEC (2020)
- ▶ Academic Leadership Development Workshop — Washington DC, USA (2011)
- ▶ Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) — APMG International (2020)
- ▶ The 4 Essential Roles of Leadership — FranklinCovey (2019)

GOVERNANCE & ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

University Council • College Council • Scientific Council (Majmaah University) • Scientific Council (Sulaiman Alrajhi University) • College Advisory Boards (Taif & Taibah Universities) • Strategy & Planning Committee • Quality Assurance & Accreditation Committee • Curriculum Development Committee (Majmaah & AlMaarefa) • Postgraduate Programs Establishing Committee • Nursing College Founding Committee • Faculty Recruiting Committee • Professional Development Committee

LANGUAGES

- ▶ Arabic (Native) • English (Full Professional Proficiency).