

University Research and Extension Agenda 2024-2028



PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA

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UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY AND EXTENSION SERVICES

PLM Research and Extension Agenda 2024-2028 (BOR 5271 dated April 18, 2024)

Rationale

The PLM University Research Agenda is a document that will provide the stakeholders (students, faculty, staff, and administrators) with its research direction. This will ensure that all research undertakings of all involved in research are aligned with the thrust of the university. This offers opportunities for innovative research in various areas to advance human knowledge and to provide research-based solutions to existing problems in local, national, and global settings.

The University Research Agenda is a product of the Academic Conference 2023 where the faculty members of different academic clusters came together to synthesize the college and academic cluster research agenda as one encompassing the vast and diverse research niches of the PLM faculty members while still fulfilling its mandate. The University Research Agenda is crafted to revitalize PLM's commitment to fulfilling its research function which was affected by the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Being a premier chartered local university in the Philippines, PLM is committed to its mission to advance human knowledge through basic study and research to the less privileged but deserving students of Manila and other areas. It aims to develop competent, productive, morally upright professionals, effective transformational leaders, and socially responsible citizens through the delivery of superior standards of instruction, innovative research, and extension that is responsive to the needs of the community.

A. University Research Goals and Objectives

While the university is excelling in producing technically competitive graduates through its instruction, the university admits that for the past three years, it has concentrated its resources and efforts on the delivery of online and hybrid education during the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the country and the university is transitioning to the post-pandemic era, the university will undertake the following goals and objectives regarding its research function:

I. Culture of Research

- The university shall formulate mechanisms and policies that are conducive to the conduct of research in the university. This also includes activities that will improve the research capabilities of students, faculty, and staff.

II. Research Productivity

- The university aims to produce research outputs in the form of publications, presentations, and patents. Activities such as the university research colloquia and the reactivation of the research publication of PLM (PANTAS) will be the avenue for local dissemination of research undertakings of the university.

III. Relevant and Impactful Research Undertaking

- The university will strive to implement and support the conduct of research that is relevant to the current and continuously changing needs of society.

IV. Sustainable Collaboration

- The university shall gear towards implementing research projects that are collaborative in nature. The university recognizes that the walls that define basic disciplines and areas are getting thinner as time progresses. This ensures research that is targeted and considers all aspects of society. With this, the university aims to form long-lasting partnerships with the industry, organizations, and other reputable academic institutions.

SPECIFIC PLANS & TARGETS

Key Result Areas	Activities/Strategies
I. Culture of Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review research policies to ensure that all research are geared towards public interest and addresses goals of the City. 2. Craft research agenda aligned with national and local research priorities. 3. Evaluate existing policies on grants, incentives, and equivalent teaching units. 4. Provide mechanism to collaborate with funding agencies for the conduct of joint research projects. 5. Ensure adequate research funding through careful planning and budget utilization monitoring.
II. Research Productivity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide avenues for research colloquia and research publication. 2. Design and implement research capability building trainings and seminars on current trends and emerging research methodologies across different discipline. 3. Encourage collaborative research through partnerships with other universities. 4. Explore opportunities on hiring research assistants and designation of faculty researchers.
III. Relevant and Impactful Research Undertaking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination with the City of Manila to identify the research needs of the City (data, applied research, systems and inventions). 2. Explore community-oriented action research that will benefit the City of Manila. 3. Design program/solution based on research results to address community needs
IV. Sustainable Collaborations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide avenue for faculty and student exposure for private industry research collaborations. 2. Explore inter-agency research collaborations (CHED, DOST, etc.,) 3. Identify other source of research funds and explore private donors for research. 4. Establishment of networks and consortia from other institutions/agencies to enable collaboration on research work, grants, and use of research facilities.

University Research Themes:

The university research theme is a collection of broad topics in which all research activities of stakeholders are to be aligned. The research themes aim to cover the research expertise of the faculty members of the university, harnessing their diverse specializations and directing them toward a united undertaking. While the university is defining its research

themes, it also recognizes that the monopoly on specific issues no longer belongs to a specific discipline. Thus, the university research themes are defined and described as follows:

1. Natural and Built Environment

This research theme includes undertakings that drive progress in our man-made built environments (e.g. vertical structures) as well as the preservation and nurturing of our natural environment (e.g. ecosystems).

2. Sustainability

Sustainability is defined as *meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. With the advancement of technologies comes our awareness of the effects of such progress on the planet earth. Research under the theme of Sustainability shall focus on outputs that will contribute to either preventing or alleviating adverse effects of technologies to the environment. This may also include initiatives that will have long-term beneficial effects to the environment.

3. Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management

The Philippines, being located at the western part of the Pacific Ocean, is vulnerable to various natural and man-made disasters. We have experienced our fair share of earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions over the years. Thus, it is imperative that this theme be included in a university of public interest. Research under this theme will address our country's preparedness to minimize the risk posed by these disasters. This may include application of novel ICT infrastructures (software and hardware) to disaster risk mitigation as well as the social and health dimensions of this theme.

4. Cultural and Heritage Preservation

The university is located at the historic *Intramuros* - the center of political, religious, and military power in the 16th century when the country is under the colony of Spain. This fact combined with our mandate to advance human knowledge for public interest highlights the importance of giving priority to the preservation of culture and heritage, though this may include time periods other than the colonial period. Research under this theme covers both the living and non-living aspects of culture and heritage from the precolonial period up to the present.

5. Accessible Quality Education

Being one of the top-performing schools in the country for Licensure Examinations in various disciplines, PLM is the "school of choice" for the deserving but

financially challenged students of the City of Manila and other areas. This is the result of our university's commitment to provide accessible quality education to its students. Thus, one of the research themes is to further enhance our delivery of the brand of education PLM is providing its students also integrating the dynamic and rapidly-changing demands of the society and its workforce. Other disciplines which also aim to educate Filipinos with their own disciplines may also fall under this theme.

6. Inclusive Human Capital Development

Our most valuable resource is human capital - our people. Therefore, part of the university's priority research themes is those that invest on our human capital. Studies on poverty alleviation, gender studies, and inclusion of disadvantaged sectors of our society are included in this theme.

7. Good Governance

Being a public university subsidized by the government through the City of Manila, it is appropriate if not our duty to put emphasis on good governance. This includes undertakings that are geared towards providing basis for our policymakers to craft laws, rules, and regulations in the government.

8. Digitalization

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) is characterized by the digitization of the manufacturing sector, driven by disruptive trends including the rise of data and connectivity, analytics, human-machine interaction, and improvements in robotics. Research under the theme of digitalization covers the development and application of Information and Communication Technology tools for the fast processing of information and our ability to handle and understand big data sets.

9. Accessible Healthcare

PLM, being one of the country's top medical schools, puts premium on our fellowmen having access to the top-notch health care provided by our graduates. This is no longer limited to the practice of professions such as Medicine, Nursing, and Physical Therapy. It shall also include the development of innovative techniques and tools that will improve and significantly impact the healthcare system as a whole.

B. Extension Services

In the context of higher education institutions (HEIs), extension is broadly defined as the *transfer of technology, innovation or information generated by HEIs and its partners to seek solutions to specific developmental concerns*. Because of this nature, the outputs of extension services are a result of research undertaken by the university with its partner communities. In this sense, there is an overlap in terms of the themes or topics targeted by research and extension. In most instances, the research thrust of an institution is targeted towards creating a solution with and for its partner organizations or communities. The partner institutions, in a way, are providing research institutions, including HEIs, with “problems to solve”. With this framework in mind, most research outputs (if not all) will no longer be only for generation of new knowledge, but also for the use of the communities who need them the most.

The extension services of the colleges of the PLM will focus on the use of their expertise to help improve the lives of the communities it adopts. This exposes all stakeholders (faculty, student, and staff) to the realities and actual needs of our society which also widens their understanding. This opens our university to the concept of service learning - where a student or faculty - develops a deeper understanding of issues through experiencing them.

Therefore, the extension services of the PLM will also adapt the themes equivalent to the research themes.

SPECIFIC PLANS & TARGETS

Key Result Areas	Activities/Strategies
I. Community-oriented extension programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review extension policies to ensure that all programs are geared towards public interest and addresses goals of the City. 2. Craft extension projects aligned with national and local needs. 3. Provide mechanism to collaborate with funding agencies for the conduct and/or implementation of extension programs. 4. Ensure adequate funding through careful planning and budget utilization monitoring.
II. Community and Industry Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and implement extension capability building trainings and seminars on current trends and emerging research results for crafting of community-based extension services. 2. Encourage sustainable and community responsive extension programs. 3. Engage students in providing community services/immersions, experiential learning exposures, community based practicum and on-the-job opportunities.

III. Relevant, Sustainable, and Impactful Extension Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work closely with Manila Barangay Bureau in identifying needs and gaps to address by relevant extension programs of the University. 2. Design sustainable community-oriented programs that will benefit the City of Manila. 3. Create program/solution based on research results to address specific community needs.
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C. Research and Extension Areas based on the Nine Research Themes

Research Themes	Research and Extension Areas
1. Natural and Built Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watershed Studies (Water quality, accessibility, and availability) 2. Vulnerable Ecosystems 3. Urban Regeneration
2. Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Security 2. Potential Sources of Natural Products 3. Potential Sources of Alternative Energy 4. Environmental Sustainability 5. Transport Solutions
3. Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change 2. Disaster Preparedness and Management
4. Cultural and Heritage Preservation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultural Heritage Preservation
5. Accessible Quality Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education Proficiency 2. Curricular Evaluation 3. Education Mismatch
6. Inclusive Human Capital Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contemporary Philippine Society 2. Gender Development Studies
7. Good Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethics and Public Service Values 2. Inclusive Economic Development 3. Local Government and Regional Administration 4. Public Service gearing towards Policy Advocacy and Reforms
8. Digitalization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digitalization of Government Processes 2. Networked and Global Governance
9. Accessible Healthcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nutrition 2. Access to healthcare services 3. Hospitals and primary care facilities 4. Healthcare Service Delivery and Policymaking

	5. Community-Based Rehabilitation 6. Mental Health Services
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The university's research and extension agenda will provide direction for knowledge producers and innovators to concentrate on societal issues where PLM's expertise can be highly beneficial.

It is anticipated that the academic community will leverage the varied expertise and experience of its faculty members, along with the enthusiasm of its students, towards a common goal and objectives.

With the university's research and extension themes, it is expected that this will result in the creation of innovative solutions that benefit both the university and the community.