



PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

Lifelong Learning Access Policy

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Overview

Phoenicia University (PU) believes that education is a fundamental right and is committed to promoting inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning opportunities for all members of society. In support of its educational mission and commitment to community engagement, the University seeks to remove barriers to learning and provide educational opportunities that contribute to personal, professional, civic, and social development.

Through a range of lifelong learning initiatives, PU extends learning opportunities beyond its enrolled student body by providing accessible educational activities, professional development opportunities, community engagement initiatives, and educational resources that respond to the evolving needs of individuals and society.

Purpose/Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to:

- affirm PU's commitment to inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory lifelong learning opportunities;
- establish the University's principles for the planning and delivery of lifelong learning activities;
- promote equal participation by women, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups;
- strengthen community engagement through accessible educational opportunities; and
- provide a framework for the continuous development and enhancement of lifelong learning activities.

Scope/Application

This policy applies to:

- all University units involved in the planning, promotion, delivery, or support of lifelong learning activities; and
- all participants in lifelong learning activities, including prospective students, professionals, educators, employers, community members, returning learners, homemakers, and members of the general public, regardless of gender, background, or prior educational experience.

Accountability

This Policy applies to all faculty, staff, and University personnel involved in the planning, promotion, delivery, or support of lifelong learning activities.

Accountable/Responsible Officer	Accountable Officer
Accountable Officers	President
Responsible Officer	Executive Education Unit

The Office of the President is responsible for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and periodically reviewing this Policy and the University's lifelong learning initiatives.

Definition

Learning opportunities undertaken throughout life, whether formal, non-formal, or informal, that support personal, academic, professional, vocational, civic, or social development.

Principles of Lifelong Learning

PU is committed to ensuring that lifelong learning opportunities are:

- inclusive and accessible;
- equitable and non-discriminatory;
- responsive to community and workforce needs;
- delivered in a manner that promotes academic quality and public benefit;
- supportive of lifelong personal, professional, and civic development; and
- designed to encourage participation by individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Lifelong Learning Opportunities

To advance lifelong learning, the University may provide a range of formal, non-formal, and informal learning opportunities that support personal, professional, vocational, and community development. Where appropriate, lifelong learning opportunities may be offered on a stand-alone basis or as stackable learning experiences, including executive education, continuing professional development, and micro-credentials that support lifelong personal and professional growth.

Such opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- public lectures, seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences;
- educational workshops and short courses;
- professional development and executive education programs;
- continuing education activities;
- micro-credentials and other short-form certified learning opportunities;

- vocational and technical training;
- skills-based training designed to enhance employability and professional competence;
- community outreach and educational engagement initiatives;
- online, blended, hybrid, and self-directed learning opportunities;
- educational publications, learning guides, recorded lectures, podcasts, webinars, digital learning resources, and other open educational resources;
- access, where appropriate, to selected library resources, digital repositories, laboratories, simulation facilities, museums, exhibitions, and other educational resources;
- mentoring, coaching, and knowledge-sharing initiatives delivered for the benefit of the wider community; and
- other lifelong learning initiatives developed in response to emerging educational, professional, industry, or community needs.

Partnerships in Lifelong Learning

The University encourages collaboration with external organizations in the planning and delivery of lifelong learning activities where such partnerships enhance educational quality, accessibility, community engagement, or professional relevance. Partnerships may include educational institutions, employers, professional associations, governmental entities, municipalities, healthcare organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry partners, and other civil society or community organizations.

Free Educational Resources for the General Public

PU publishes a range of educational resources available for free to the general public, spanning topics such as health and wellbeing, science and technology, civic awareness, and professional and vocational skills.

The purpose of this initiative is to extend the University's knowledge and expertise beyond its enrolled student body, treating education as a public good. By making these resources freely accessible, the University aims to:

- help individuals develop practical knowledge and skills, regardless of their financial means or prior academic qualifications;
- support independent learners, professionals, and career changers in staying current in their fields;
- strengthen public awareness of topics that affect health, safety, and everyday decision-making; and
- contribute to a more informed, capable, and resilient surrounding community.

Non-Discrimination and Equal Access

PU does not discriminate in access to any of its public lifelong learning offerings on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, socio-economic background, immigration status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable laws and regulations.

Access for Women

PU is committed to ensuring equal access to lifelong learning opportunities for women. The University encourages the participation of women, including homemakers, returning learners, and those from rural or underserved communities, in its public lectures, workshops, and training programs. PU also promotes women's enrolment in vocational and technical fields where they remain underrepresented and considers practical barriers to participation when planning and delivering its public learning activities.

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

PU ensures that public learning events, published materials, and digital resources are made accessible to participants with disabilities. This includes attention to venue accessibility, the provision of adapted materials on request, and accessible formats for online content. Participants are encouraged to request reasonable accommodations in advance of scheduled activities.

Financial Accessibility

Where appropriate, the University seeks to reduce financial barriers to lifelong learning by providing selected educational activities, learning resources, workshops, community programmes, and other lifelong learning opportunities free of charge or at affordable cost, thereby expanding access to learning opportunities for individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Outreach and Community Engagement

PU actively promotes lifelong learning through engagement with schools, municipalities, employers, professional bodies, governmental entities, community organizations, alumni, and other stakeholders. Outreach activities may include educational visits, awareness campaigns, demonstrations, workshops, collaborative initiatives, volunteering activities, and other community-based learning opportunities designed to increase participation and respond to evolving community needs.

Recruitment and promotional materials relating to lifelong learning activities shall reflect the University's commitment to equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination and communicate that participation is open to individuals from diverse backgrounds, where applicable.

Public Learning Opportunities

In line with this policy, PU offers the wider community free or accessible participation in a range of activities, including but not limited to:

- Public lectures and awareness sessions on health, civic, scientific, and social topics;
- Skills-based workshops open to students and non-students alike;

- Training sessions designed to enhance professional, technical, and practical skills for members of the community.
- Vocational and technical training designed to build practical, employment-relevant skills; and
- Open access to library resources, digital repositories, and course materials for independent learners.

Concerns Regarding Access

Individuals who believe they have experienced barriers to accessing the University's lifelong learning activities may raise their concerns with the Office of the President. Concerns shall be considered promptly, fairly, and in accordance with the University's applicable policies and procedures.

Monitoring and Review

The Office of the President shall periodically review this Policy and the University's lifelong learning activities to evaluate participation, accessibility, community engagement, partnerships, participant feedback, and emerging educational needs. Findings shall inform the continuous enhancement of lifelong learning provision and support the University's commitment to educational excellence and community engagement.

Conclusion

PU is committed to fostering a culture of lifelong learning by ensuring that educational opportunities remain inclusive, accessible, and open to all members of the community. Through this policy, the University reaffirms its commitment to education for all, promotes equal access to lifelong learning, and supports the social, professional, and personal development of individuals. This policy provides the framework for delivering lifelong learning opportunities in a fair, inclusive, and accessible manner across the University.



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