Improvement of the Curriculum to Ensure the Accreditation and Globalization of the Mechatronics Engineering Program at Ricardo Palma University

Margarita Murillo
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Dra. Margarita Murillo

1 Ricardo Palma University, Perú, margarita.murillom@ciplima.org.pe

Abstract—The present investigation determined that the update of the competences, the technological advances, the deadlines that the university law regulates and the standards of the accrediting entities contribute to the improvement of the curriculum ensuring the accreditation obtained and the inclusion in the global education of the mechatronics engineering, Faculty of Engineering (FI) at the University Ricardo Palma (URP). The stated objective explains that the professional profile of the graduate determines the relation of subjects, the number of hours and credits, as well as the adequate infrastructure of workshops and laboratories, allows the adequate development of the academic processes and that the properly selected competencies for each of the subjects guarantee the approach of relevant content. The theoretical reference is based on the concept of “Curriculum” of Glazman and Ibarrola (1978), who argue that the curriculum can be organized by subjects, areas of knowledge or modules, any of the options implicitly has a conception of man, science, knowledge, practice, school-society relationship, learning and teaching, and professional practice. The study population corresponds to the Professional School of Mechatronic Engineering, School of Engineering of the URP. The results were evaluated with stadiographs descriptive evaluation indicators and correspondence Hypothesis Test / Criterion p-value obtaining a p-value 0.039 which determines evaluate the dimensions of the study variables. These results showed positive effects on improving the curriculum to ensure national and international accreditation in 2023 of the curriculum mechatronics engineers. It is concluded that the improvement of the curriculum is based on the graduation profile, the relationship of the competences with the Curriculum, the lists of each subject, the methodological strategies, the learning evaluation system and the proposal of the new curriculum mesh.

Keywords- Curriculum, accreditation, globalization, skills, teaching-learning.

I. INTRODUCTION


Within the legal framework, in 2017 the program of mechatronic engineering studies of the URP was accredited for six (06) years. This accreditation was met with the evaluation criteria and availability of the corresponding means of verification to the technical committee of national accreditation of engineering (CTAI) of the Institute for Quality and accreditation of Software, Engineering and Technology (ICACIT) and international accreditation by the agency accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), entities recognized by the National System of Evaluation, Accreditation, and Certification of Educational Quality (SINEACE), and since then we are in a permanent self-evaluation for the purpose of Renewal of Accreditation adopting a culture of continuous improvement, since thanks to this process they are established mechanisms to ensure quality training program, evaluate the performance of each of the classes that make it up and improve continuously in all procedures, contributing to increased community satisfaction and developing competitive advantages that allow us to obtain recognition at national and international level again in 2023.


To demonstrate the hypothesis an experimental group was used, to which the training and the survey were applied to demonstrate that the improvement of the curriculum will ensure the assurance of the accreditation and globalization of the mechatronics engineering program at the URP.

Besides, the results of this research will serve as the basis for the Office of Academic Development, Quality and Accreditation to urge the different URP programs that basic curricular principles be reconsidered in light of emerging educational needs and that the concepts that should receiving particular attention are curricular alignment, globalization and quality assurance.

II. ESTATE OF ART

The URP is constituted among other faculties by the engineering faculty with 5 professional schools: civil, computer, electronic and industrial, all nationally and internationally accredited for 6 years. The mechatronic engineering program is a young program with 13 years of operation, has had its first national and international accreditation in 2017 for 6 years that will be renewed in 2023, and must comply with the standards of the ICACIT accreditation entities and ABET.

In this regard, to ensure accreditation and globalization of the program mechatronics among other definitions [9] explains that the curriculum is instrumental synthesis by which they are selected, organized and arranged for teaching
purposes, all aspects of a profession that is considered socially and culturally valuable, professionally efficient. At the same time [9] considers that the plan should have a rationale derived from the formal curriculum, from which emanates the organization of all the elements that comprise it, such as the description of the purpose of the race or educational level, a time duration of careers, organization by quarters, semesters or annuals, structuring by subjects, areas or modules, specification of general and specific objectives of each subject, area or module, number of hours of theory and practice of each subject, area or module, compulsory, optional and total credits, social service specifications, options, and qualification requirements. The accreditation obtained was the act by which the State made public the recognition of the quality of the mechatronics engineering program, which voluntarily underwent a rigorous evaluation to demonstrate compliance with the standards in the training of its future professionals. Currently, the program is evaluating its processes with feedback actions and necessary adjustments through a continuous quality improvement circuit, evaluating the inputs, processes, context, results and social impact, for the purposes of recredit and certification.

The referential that supports the concept of quality applied to higher education institutions is [10] that defines quality as the term of reference that allows comparing an institution or program with other homologates or around a predetermined real or utopian pattern, whose component or dimensions may be the relevance, integrity, effectiveness, availability of human, material and information resources, efficiency, effectiveness and management of academic and administrative processes.

A very important aspect of the accreditation is that by comparing the mechatronic engineering program with other internationally approved programs, it inserts us into globalization, in this regard [11] it describes that globalization is covering all areas of human activity: production of goods, finance, market, research and, of course, higher education, because its impact on the new social complexity is mainly manifested in an accelerated restructuring of the labor market, in the expansion and diversification of the structure of the education system itself higher. Likewise, [11] he maintains that the great challenge for academic programs is that training alternatives be increased, and the conditions prioritized so that new generations learn to learn for themselves faster, should no longer be the one-way transmission of knowledge from the teacher to the student; The training should be the result of intense interaction between educator and educator, which will force the teacher to assume the responsibility of permanently enriching their own knowledge so that they can go to the forefront of change, which does not exclusively obey developments technologically, but also to the greater specialization and diversification of science.

On globalization [11] the following is mentioned: a) universities must be open to society. All subjects offered should be considered learning opportunities for anyone who wants to take them, without further requirement; b) achieve, by agreement of the University Council, that 30 or 35% of the credits of all the degrees are free for the students; c) establish a category of free students not attached to any career, school or faculty that can take the subjects they want, the last name of the degree of these students would be put at the end, not at the beginning of their studies and d) open exams and transparent for each subject. If the student passes the exam, credits will be assigned without having taken the class.

In this regard [12] he insists on fighting for the freedom to teach and the freedom to learn and make students increasingly responsible for their own training and become autonomous learners. For [12] academic rigidity has terrible consequences; among others: a) generates attrition; b) prevents innovation; c) there is no place for interdisciplinary and d) it creates an irresponsible system because teachers are not free to teach or students to learn [...] the initiative that is later reflected in society is killed, where everyone expects to be told what they have to do. Our universities do not generate leaders, but employees; e) they are not able to respond with the opportunity to the changing conditions of society and labor markets and f) makes society and parents think that the only careers that are worthwhile are the traditional ones.

As indicated by [11] and [12] globalization is currently understood as global education or international education and characterizes the tendency to include in the curriculum topics, thematic nuclei or globalized issues related to contents of global interest that are studied, from an interdisciplinary perspective with an international vision, such as energy, the environment, engineering, human rights, racism, and others. A holistic vision of education for the training of engineers integrates three main axes: the object of the profession and the training of professional skills, the scientific approach to the solution of professional problems and the ethical training of the contemporary engineer.

From the elements described above, the essential features that should characterize the engineer as a professional, based on the study of international engineering trends and national and international experience.

Regarding the professional profile [13], he considers that the engineer must have a deep knowledge of the basic, specific sciences and the profession, capable and independent and with solid general theoretical and scientific training. Being a professional who is closely linked to the industry, acquired during its preparation in college, basic vocational skills that will allow solving the most general and frequent problems of their social environment. Being a more comprehensive, versatile and flexible professional whose fundamental virtue is its capacity for self-preparation and adaptation to changes, which requires paying special attention to aspects such as the development of its communication, management, processing, and use of information capacity scientific-technical, with mastery of computing, knowledge of foreign languages, economic, ecological and humanistic training in general. Possessing a cultural formation capable of developing human relationships, which requires professional, social, environmental knowledge, updated information, values and feelings, professional ethics and self-esteem. Having logical thinking, heuristic, scientific, systemic, able to model their ideas, flexible to adapt to changes quickly. Therefore, and taking into account the complexities in which reality is presented and manifested today, engineering education must incorporate the interdisciplinary approach in the analysis and treatment of the problems that arise. The Engineering profession for being so close to solving practical problems requires an academic background in the increasingly interdisciplinary, comprehensive, scientific, practical, social and humanistic...
professionals. This will be possible, to the extent that their scientific, technological, ecological, social, ethical training is perfected, among others.

For [13] the conception of the 21st-century engineer represents a paradigm shift. Today's engineer must be a participant in his creation; you should not look for work, but create it; It must have a comprehensive, world-class training, with a broad perspective and vision of national and world realities; leader, entrepreneurial spirit, able to work in a team and above all committed to their social environment, with ethical principles and with a clear notion of the common good.

Targeted elements required to provide the college student a set of skills or skills that allow you to face the future, according to [13] characterizes seven (7) categories:
1. Independent and interdependent learning skills for life.
2. Critical and creative thinking skills for problem-solving.
3. Skills or competencies for interpersonal work and teamwork.
4. Communication skills.
5. Skills to express judgments and capacity for self-judgment (evaluation and self-evaluation).
6. Integration of disciplinary knowledge.
7. Ability to handle change.

The performance of engineering professionals in the companies where they work, according to [14], requires creativity, autonomy, flexibility in a changing environment, leadership capacity, versatility, high development potential, good communication, work, and team management, negotiation and decision making. It is possible to reach the pointed elements if the engineering curriculum considers the following basic characteristics:
1. Prevalence of the formative component over the informative that considers the solidity in the formation in basic sciences: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Informatics with the aim of learning to learn for life.
2. Specific training in an engineering branch with sufficient quantity and quality of knowledge to respond to the objective of learning to do.
3. Necessary additional training in areas of economics, languages, social and administration whose objective is to learn to be.

In that sense, [15] defines the general profile that the engineer of the year 2020 must possess:
1. Create environments in which the design and promotion of learning activities and situations favor the development of the intellectual potential of individuals.
2. Develop the ability to face reality in a reflexive, critical and constructive way, with large doses of autonomy and self-determination.
3. Fully identify the transversal axes that affect the most problematic or socially relevant situations in the area, place, country, region or the world.
4. Develop the ability to face problems with their ingenuity of the engineer with the ability to act in an interrelated and interdisciplinary way.
5. Acquiring the ability to learn to enable it to successfully face the changing situation of reality and adapt quickly and innovatively, to the problems that arise.

To achieve the above in the engineer's training it is required:
1. The organization of the educational process centered on the student-focused on what he needs to learn and not on what teachers want to teach.
2. An educational teaching process that is characterized by being interactive and collaborative, under the guidance of the teacher, with the use of methods and procedures that allow developing a set of skills, abilities, and modes of action that allow the professional to anticipate and interact with reality and Provide solutions in your social environment.
3. A lifelong learning and commitment of educational institutions university to give those opportunities.

III. METHODOLOGY

The Mechatronics Engineering Program is a career that has 13 years of providing quality educational services. This quality was evaluated with the national and international accreditation obtained in 2017 by the ICACIT and ABET accreditors respectively, entities recognized by SINEACE.

From 2017 to date, the evaluation matrices have been updated regarding the criteria and standards that we must meet in 2023, seeking the renewal of the mechatronics engineering program accreditation, for which the FI-URP has established policies of continuous improvement considering the accreditation process emanating from SINEACE, which is indicated in Figure 1.

![Figure 1 Accreditation Process Source: SINEACE (2016)](image-url)
1. Teaching team. The teacher must share the project of institutional quality, assume the roles that correspond to play and work on common objectives.

2. Teamwork or quality circles. The purpose of the team is to make decisions and act accordingly. However, the multiple responsibilities assumed by the teacher, in many cases, prevent them from working in this way.

For the investigation, the sample formed by the Curriculum Evaluation Commission of the Mechatronics Engineering Program named Decree Resolution No. 005-2019-FI-dated May 17, 219-URP was considered. The members were 4, added to 4 members of the other engineering programs making a total of 16 teachers within which were the directors of each program.

Likewise, it was considered a sample of 25 Teachers, 30 students from different cycles, 15 graduates and 8 employers, all of the mechatronics engineering program to whom the research instrument was applied.

**Methodology to follow**

The improvement of the curriculum began with the training modules by the Office of Academic Development, Quality and Accreditation (ODACA).

The training was carried out permanently assessing the participation of the different commissions who collaborated on common issues developed by the engineering programs. The schedule, modality and contents of the training are shown in Table I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>HOUR</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15-Nov-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Auditorium B</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Graduate profile by competencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30-Nov-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Auditorium B</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Relationship of competencies with the Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14-Oct-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Degrees Room</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Methodological strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21-Oct-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Degrees Room</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Learning Evaluation System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>28-Oct-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Degrees Room</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Curriculum alignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4-Nov-19</td>
<td>09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Degrees Room</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Presentation and support of the proposal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuente: ODACA (2019)

The recommendations for the construction of the profile are based on 4 points, as shown in Figure 2.

After the training, the curriculum evaluation commission of the mechatronics engineering program developed the proposal for the improvement of the curriculum based on each of the contents of the training.

1. Graduate Profile - in this regard, the research instrument based on the survey applied to Teachers, Students, Graduates and Employers related to Specific and Generic Competencies, Current Curriculum and Curriculum was developed.

2. Globalization - Benchmarking was applied to universities in the QS ranking between nationals and foreigners that offer the Mechatronics Engineering program.

3. The LC-01-19 Checklists and LC-02-19 Checklists were prepared

4. The characterization of the Curriculum Plan was developed

5. The conclusions and recommendations to be considered for the improvement of the curriculum that will be applied in the 2020-2 cycle were issued.

6. The proposal of actions framed in the pedagogical model approved by University Council Agreement N° 0343-2019 was made

Finally, the proposed curriculum was developed considering:

a. Graduate profile-generic and specific competences

b. Alignment of competencies with the subjects of the current curriculum

c. Indicators of the relationship of competencies with the plan by basic, intermediate and advanced level

d. Analysis of the curricular alignment and proposal of the new plan.

The contents were written according to the competences, methodological strategies, learning assessment system as well as the development of the syllable for the subject of Basic Mechatronics Engineering Workshop, which will be validated during the 2020-1 cycle.

From the analysis carried out above, it can be inferred that the improvement of the curriculum is based on the graduation profile, the relationship of the competences with the Curriculum, the submissions and explains that the professional profile of the graduate determines the relationship of subjects, number of hours and credits and that the properly selected competencies for each of the subjects ensure the presentation of relevant contents.

**IV. RESULTS**

This section presents the analysis of the results of the improvement of the curriculum to renew the accreditation and globalization of the program of mechatronic engineering of the URP.

1. **Application of the survey research instrument:**

From graph 1, it is observed that of the total of the sample, 32% are Teachers and work in the Mechatronics Program at the URP. 38% are students of mechatronics of the URP, 19% are graduated from Mechatronics of the URP of which 2 work as teachers in other universities and 13 work in different companies and 10% represent the companies in which our graduates work, being some of the the manager's mechatronics engineers of the URP.
The survey presents closed and open questions with answers on the likert scale (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree), to consider in the improvement of the plan the perception of the different members of the community of the URP mechatronic engineering program. Table III shows the closed questions of the survey 1-3-5-7-9-10-11-13 and 14.

From Table III and Graph 2, it is observed that questions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 have significant percentage levels Agree in response and with very low percentage levels Disagree, this allows us to infer that we must make specific adjustments to our Curriculum Plan.

From Table III and Graph 1, it can be seen that questions 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 15 have significant percentage levels of suggestions, in response and with very low percentage levels who did not contribute, this allows us to infer that we should consider the contributions collected for our Curriculum Plan.

The contributions referred to the questions in Table IV are shown in Table V.
TABLE V
CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE STUDY PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIMENSION</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERIC COMPETENCES</td>
<td>Consider the industry in the modern world as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence. The student's programming skills should be better consolidated. Must be consistent with ABET criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIFIC COMPETENCES</td>
<td>Consider the subject of systems control as a basic discipline. Must be consistent with ABET criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY</td>
<td>Include logical and analytical skills in students. Promote the use of modern technologies and improve laboratory equipment. Reorganize the subject of Engineering with Sensors and Actuators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRICULUM</td>
<td>Consider the subject of systems control as a basic discipline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own elaboration (2019)

1. Application of Benchmarking to the universities of the QS ranking, regarding globalization.

From these Universities the following comparison indicators have been taken, regarding the URP: Subjects, Number of Credits and Complementary Activities, the results of which are shown in the following tables:

TABLE VI
SELECTED UNIVERSITIES OF THE QS RANKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>ACRONYM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONALS</td>
<td>Ricardo Palma</td>
<td>UPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National University of Engineering</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Engineering and Technology</td>
<td>UTEC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruvian University of Applied Sciences</td>
<td>UPC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontifical Catholic University of Peru</td>
<td>PUCP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>National University of Colombia-Bogota</td>
<td>UNC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia University</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Malaga</td>
<td>UM*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own elaboration (2019)

TABLE VI
SUBJECT INDICATORS

The EPIM-URP Curriculum, concerning the total number of subjects, is on average concerning the other Universities. Regarding the number of subjects with a requirement, we have a higher value than the other universities, so we infer that the requirements to take a subject of the following cycle must be reviewed, improving this component will increase the number of subjects that have two requirements. Regarding the other components compared, it is observed that our Curriculum is within the standards considered by the Universities that are in the QS Ranking.

TABLE VII
CREDITS INDICATORS

Source: Own elaboration (2019)

Regarding the semiannual credits, credits of compulsory subjects and the total credits of elective subjects we are in the average, which gives us a margin of variability to improve our Curriculum.

Regarding the number of credits of the PEB, the URP has 33% of credits, while the national universities are 6% to 23%.

TABLE VIII
INDICATORS OF COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Source: Own elaboration (2019)

Regarding complementary activities such as English language and academic events, national and foreign universities do not consider it in their Curriculum, an indicator that requires us to review these activities.

3. Graduate profile of the mechatronic engineering program

Design projects related to Mechatronics Engineering to manage automated industrial processes, control and robotics integrating the scientific, technological and humanistic areas.

TABLE IX
COMPETENCES OF THE GRADUATE OF MECHATRONICS

Source: Mechatronics Program (2019)
2. Relationship of Competences with the Curriculum

In order to obtain the relationship of competences with the Plan Table X, it was determined that the following levels:

- **A - Basics**
- **B - Intermediates**
- **C - Advanced**

### TABLE X

RELATIONSHIP OF COMPETENCES WITH THE STUDY PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>General Competences</th>
<th>Specific Competencies</th>
<th>Source: Own elaboration (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Figure 3: Results of the relationships with the plan

Source: Own elaboration (2019)

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The background has made it possible to delimit the approach of the problem regarding the variables of the improvement of the Curriculum to ensure the accreditation and globalization of the mechatronics engineering program whose results validate the present investigation.

In turn, the study variables are supported by theorists in whom we have referenced for the support of this research.

The results obtained from the current 2015-II plan will be improved through the application of the survey, benchmarking, profile and competency indicators of the mechatronics engineering graduate, whose criteria are indicated in the tables and statistics of the corresponding graphs.

Regarding the competences in the curriculum, as shown in Figure 3, the following was considered for the improvement of the plan:

A. Include subjects or content in the Basic Level that develop general skills such as:
   - Critical and creative thinking
   - Self-Learning
   - Problem resolution
   - Investigation scientific and technological
   - Experimentation

B. Include subjects or content in the Intermediate and Advanced Level that develop general skills such as:
   - Ethical behavior
   - Leadership
   - Effective communication

Regarding specific competences:

C. Include subjects or contents in the Intermediate and Advanced Level that develop specific competencies such as:
   - Engineering designs
   - Systems implementation
   - Experimentation
   - Maintenance management

Also, include content for the competition Management of equipment maintenance in the subjects of Management and Quality Control and Manufacturing Processes.

Propose two (02) subjects related to Equipment Maintenance Management in the 7th and 8th cycles.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Specially and sincerely to my colleagues and executives of the URP who contributed with their valuable suggestions, constructive criticism, moral and intellectual support to crystallize the present investigation.

To my family, for their unconditional support and permanent help in my personal and professional training.

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Margarita Murillo Manrique. She is a Doctor in Education, master’s in teaching and Educational Management and Electrical Engineer.

She serves as a Professor at the Ricardo Palma University (URP) - Professional School of Mechatronics Engineering. She served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Management and as director of the Professional School of Electrical Mechanical Engineering at the National Technological University of South Lima - UNTELS.

She works as an ordinary teacher at the UNTELS - Professional School of Electrical Mechanical Engineering. She was an advisor and instructor in the Department of Education at the School of Communications of the Army of Peru - COEDE - Ministry of Defense. She has an honorary doctorate from Daniel Alcides Carrion University. Recognition of the College of Engineers of Peru.


“IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES ON DISTRIBUTED GENERATION SYSTEMS” - Publication in PAIDEIA XXI Postgraduate Magazine URP- ISSN: 2221 – 7770 V 5 Nº 4 December 2013. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31381/paradigmas.2013.04.03


She has developed the following research as a member: “Implementation of a Solid Waste Management Plan in UNTELS”.

She has presented as author the following research: “Clean Energy System taking advantage of diffuse radiation from the sun with polycrystalline photovoltaic cells for alternating and continuous current loads in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Laboratory providing energy efficiency at UNTELS”.

She is a methodological teacher for the development of the thesis. He is a jury in the thesis support. Permanently advises the development of specialty projects.

It develops projects in the area of electrical installations in medium and low voltage.

Areas of interest: Intelligent electricity networks, Distributed generation, Energy audit, Inmotic, informatics and networks.