



External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining a maintaining accreditation (MAC) of Doctoral Study Domain

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA
Doctoral School:	OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
Doctoral Domain:	Sport Sciences and Physical Education
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team roles	Signature
1.	Prof. Dr. Claudiu MEREUȚĂ	Expert evaluator	
2.	Univ. Prof. Dr. Eleonora MILEVA	International Expert	
3.	Marica Andrei VLADIMIR	PhD Student Evaluator	



I. Introduction

- The context in which the external evaluation report was drafted (the type of evaluation, the period covered by the evaluation, membership of the external quality experts' panel, etc.);

The External Evaluation Report (EER) was prepared at the request of the University of Craiova (UCV), Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, in the context of the procedure for maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral university study field in Sports Science and Physical Education. The external evaluation visit of the previous doctoral field took place between April 22 and 24, 2026, with the physical participation of the evaluation committee members.

The Internal Evaluation Report (REI) for the field of doctoral studies in Sport Science and Physical Education was developed under the coordination of Prof. Germina-Alina Cosma, Director of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities, in collaboration with doctoral supervisors in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education. The drafting process took place between October 2025 and January 2026.

The methodology for developing the internal evaluation report included the following steps:

- Collecting data regarding the activity of the doctoral study program: curricula, material and human resources, research infrastructure, performance indicators;
- Systematic analysis and interpretation of data according to ARACIS standards and the requirements of the educational legislative framework applicable;
- Consulting stakeholders – academic staff, doctoral students, graduates, employer representatives – in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement;
- Preliminary drafting of the report, highlighting the progress made, the challenges identified, and the proposed improvement measures;
- Validation and approval of the report by the CEAC, CSUD and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The internal evaluation report (REI) at the University of Craiova was carried out through active consultation and involvement of all stakeholders in the development of the doctoral study program: teaching staff, employer representatives, graduates and members of the Quality Assurance Commission. It was collaboratively developed by academic and administrative leaders to ensure compliance with accreditation standards and promote academic quality.

- Description of the higher education institution / Romanian Academy (establishment, evolution, mission, governance, structure, study programs/domains, external quality evaluation procedures applied);

University of Craiova is a long-standing university in Romania, founded in 1947 and strengthened in 1965. It has steadily grown into a centre of education and research in the south-west of the country. Today, it is an accredited public university with 12 faculties and serves as an IOSUD, comprising 10 doctoral schools and several doctoral fields.

The university's mission is to provide high-quality education and improve scientific research, aiming to train specialists who are competitive in Romania and Europe. This mission includes goals such as encouraging academic excellence, adapting courses to society's needs, and increasing international visibility. The university is self-governing, with clear leadership (Senate, Rector, Administrative Council). Doctoral programs are managed by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) and doctoral school councils. Strategic decisions are made centrally and carried out at faculties and doctoral schools.

Within IOSUD, doctoral studies started in the 1960s and grew after 1990 with more fields and PhD supervisors. Following external reviews by ARACIS, including one in 2021, the university retained accreditation for all doctoral schools and fields, demonstrating strong quality control. These checks include regular internal reviews of institutional capacity, educational outcomes, and management, as well as ongoing oversight of PhD supervisors and doctoral research.

The Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities was established in 2015-2016, bringing together fields such as History, Sociology, and Sports Science and Physical Education. Its mission is to train researchers who can add scientific knowledge and be active in the academic world. The Sports Science and Physical Education doctoral field, launched in 2018, is a new and lively direction that focuses on applied and interdisciplinary research.

This field is known for its focus on research in human movement, sports performance, and physical education, with the main goal of training specialists with strong research skills. The doctoral program has two main stages: academic training and research. It involves writing research reports and a thesis. Activities are supported by accredited PhD supervisors and guidance committees. Research topics cover sports performance, health through exercise, and physical education, demonstrating the field's multidisciplinary and societal relevance.

University of Craiova stands out for its robust doctoral program, rigorous quality evaluations, and key achievements, including maintaining accreditation and advancing applied research. The doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education notably contributes to the training of highly qualified human resources and to impactful research with significant societal importance.

Within the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities at University of Craiova, the Doctoral School Council (CSD) coordinates and manages doctoral activities. For the 2025–2030 mandate, the CSD comprises four members: the Director of the Doctoral School, the PhD supervisor members serve to represent the faculty and provide expertise in doctoral supervision and academic standards, and representative of the doctoral students

This structure ensures a balanced governance model that combines academic leadership with student representation and supports transparent, participatory decision-making within the doctoral school.

The academic and research activity of doctoral students in the field is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Institutional Regulation on the organization and functioning of doctoral studies within the doctoral schools of the University of Craiova. The doctoral field Sports Science and Physical Education within the University of Craiova was initially accredited in 2018 by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 5472/2018, and following the external evaluation conducted by ARACIS, its accreditation was maintained in 2021 by Order of the Ministry of Education issued on December 17, 2021.

Based on the progress report prepared in 2025, ARACIS found that, for the indicators that had previously been only partially fulfilled, all recommendations had been fully implemented, as reflected in the Internal Evaluation Report (REI), p. 45.

II. Methods used

- Analyzed documents (internal evaluation report and its annexes; additional documents requested before and during the on-site visit, if any; other documents or data);

Before the on-site visit, the Self-Evaluation Report (RAE) of the University of Craiova (UCV) and other relevant documents (annexes, supplementary documents, etc.) were studied. In addition, we studied the websites of the Doctoral Schools of UCV. The visit from 22 to 24 April 2026 was a good opportunity to expand the information regarding the doctoral studies in Sport Science and Physical Education at the IOSUD-UCV.

The evaluation committee analysed the documents provided by the institution: the internal evaluation report, report annexes, links to official documents on the institution's website. The committee held meetings listed in the visit program, where key topics relevant to the evaluated field were discussed. These included the university and faculty development strategy, doctoral supervisors' involvement in program development, doctoral students' feedback on the study program, the implementation of regulations, methodologies, and quality management procedures at the organisational level, the activity of the ethics committee, and the functioning of research laboratories.

- On-site visit (general list of visited locations and categories of persons with whom debates have been organized);



The on-site visit began with a preliminary meeting of the evaluation team's experts. At this meeting, the preparation and harmonisation of the evaluation stages were discussed. Throughout the entire evaluation period, we had the opportunity to participate in a series of group meetings with representatives of UCV, the Sport Science and Physical Education doctoral field, IOSUD staff, the director of doctoral schools, employers, and other members of the quality management and ethics committees. All these meetings helped us to finalise the report.

According to the evaluation calendar, the evaluation committee visited: classrooms and seminar rooms (including Hall A3 and Room 19/Computer Lab), sports facilities and sports halls (Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, 146 Brestei Street), IOSUD secretariat, Centre for the Study and Research of Human Motricity (CCSMO) and INCESA laboratories, Library.

- Other relevant methods or aspects.

Not applicable (N/A).

III. Judgment on the extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders

Standard S.A.1.1. Organizational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organizational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competencies, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.

Indicator
I.P.A.1.1.1

For delivering the study program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational components and an adequate management system, which operates based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

University of Craiova has been recognised as an Institution Organising Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD) following an external evaluation process, in accordance with national legislation, and currently organises doctoral programs in 24 accredited fields. The doctoral schools operate under an institutional regulation adopted by the University Senate in September 2024, in line with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 and the national framework regulation for doctoral studies. Each doctoral school also operates under its own internal regulations approved by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD).

The CSUD and its director are appointed according to a specific methodology, with the most recent selection process for the IOSUD director taking place in May 2025 for the 2025–2030 mandate. The Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SDSSU) is managed by a director and a Doctoral School Council (CSD), with a five-year mandate. For the 2025–2030 term, the CSD consists of the director, two PhD supervisors elected from among the affiliated academic staff, and one doctoral student representative, all elected in January 2025.

Admission to doctoral studies is carried out in accordance with the university's regulations for all study cycles. At the same time, IOSUD-UCV has established procedures for the recognition of PhD supervisor status and of doctoral degrees obtained abroad, as well as for the awarding of the habilitation certificate, all of which are regulated by dedicated institutional methodologies.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled



The functioning of IOSUD-UCV and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SDSSU) within the University of Craiova is based on regulations, methodologies, and procedures that are periodically updated in accordance with new legislative provisions and the academic performance objectives established at the university level.

The SDSSU Council meets regularly, at least three times per year. SDSSU is managed by a leadership team established in accordance with the IOSUD-UCV regulations. The SDSSU Council, which includes its Director, governs the doctoral school and is composed of academic staff—PhD supervisors—and doctoral students. The organisational structure of SDSSU allows for efficient coordination and a clear distribution of responsibilities, facilitating both supervisory and administrative activities. The regulatory framework is periodically updated and publicly accessible, ensuring predictability and institutional accountability. Annual monitoring and structured reporting allow the identification of strengths and weaknesses, facilitating continuous improvement.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.

Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

Based on the report and annexes, as well as discussions during the visit, the evaluation committee found that, the University of Craiova involves stakeholders in developing and revising regulations by consulting academic staff, students, and socio-economic representatives. This includes student participation in decision-making bodies (Senate, CSUD, CSD), regular meetings, employer consultations, and feedback collected through surveys.

At the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities, regulatory documents are developed transparently and collaboratively. The SDSSU Council, which includes the director, two PhD supervisors, and one doctoral student, plays a central role. Institutionally, CSUD ensures coherent decisions, while doctoral students contribute to decision-making and quality improvement through representation and ongoing feedback.

Doctoral students are regularly consulted through questionnaires, such as the Doctoral Students Evaluation Report and Satisfaction Survey, to gather feedback on teaching and administrative activities.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

Stakeholder consultation occurs through scheduled meetings, sessions of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), and the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), and the resulting feedback is incorporated into final documents, adhering to legislative requirements and ARACIS standards. The drafting, adoption, and revision of normative documents within the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SDSSU) are marked by transparency and active stakeholder engagement.

* The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter "organisational components"



The current mechanism facilitates engagement of all pertinent stakeholders—SDSSU leadership, PhD advisors, doctoral candidates, and representatives from the socio-economic sector—ensuring participatory governance and alignment of academic decisions with external priorities. The SDSSU Council (CSD) and CSUD are central in compiling proposals, evaluating input, and recommending updates to procedural standards.

Collaboration between the CSD and CSUD, alongside the involvement of relevant Senate committees in revising normative documents, ensures institutional consistency and adherence to national legislation and ARACIS requirements at the University of Craiova.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. The material resources and optimization of the use of the material resources

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources	
The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study program/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

University of Craiova provides a solid material base and a modern research infrastructure that supports doctoral activities. In the field of Sports Science and Physical Education, activities are carried out on the premises of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport and INCESA, where doctoral students and PhD supervisors use specialised laboratories and rooms equipped with IT facilities, video projection systems, and tools for online communication and research.

The infrastructure includes computers, specialized software, laboratory equipment, modern evaluation and monitoring systems, internet access, and educational platforms. Doctoral students also have access to international scientific databases and electronic resources through the university library, which provides extensive collections of books, journals, and other relevant materials.

This material base is complemented by spaces for academic and administrative activities, including offices for PhD supervisors, study rooms, and student facilities. These resources are regularly updated to meet current needs and ensure efficient research and doctoral training in accessible conditions, including for people with disabilities.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

University of Craiova provides a material base that supports academic and research activities at appropriate standards, while ensuring accessibility and facilities adapted for persons with disabilities. Within the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities, the doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education has dedicated spaces in the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, including Aula A3 for thesis defences and academic activities, classrooms and a computer laboratory for training and supervision, and modern research laboratories within INCESA.

These facilities are properly equipped with IT infrastructure, video projection systems, internet access, and access to international databases, ensuring optimal conditions for both doctoral students and PhD supervisors.



- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources
The organizational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study program/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.

Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

University of Craiova manages its material resources efficiently and sustainably through the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, ensuring the proper functioning and optimal use of teaching spaces, laboratories, and research infrastructure.

Material assets are adequately maintained to provide optimal conditions for study, research, and work, while the spaces used by the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities are equipped with appropriate technical facilities (IT equipment, video projection, internet access, videoconferencing systems). The university library provides access to numerous publications and international databases, and the institution has development and investment plans to continuously modernise educational and accommodation infrastructure.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evaluation committee found that the University of Craiova and the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport manage their material and digital resources effectively. The extended wireless network and licensed software provide a secure and efficient digital environment. Specialised technical staff maintain the ICT infrastructure, including servers and institutional e-learning platforms.

Access to digital bibliographic resources and international databases significantly supports education and research. The university library is essential to doctoral education, offering up-to-date scientific resources, physical collections, reading facilities, and major international academic databases. These resources contribute to high-quality research and learning conditions.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent staff recruiting procedures developed according to the law

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources
The HEI has the required human resources to organize and deliver the evaluated study program/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organizational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study program/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)



University of Craiova, through the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities, ensures adequate human resources for the functioning of the doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education. As of October 1, 2025, the field included 9 PhD supervisors, of whom 8 are active and involved in both supervising doctoral students and teaching within the advanced training program.

In the 2025–2026 academic year, the field has 31 doctoral students, distributed among supervisors as follows: Prof. Dr Habil. Germina-Alina Cosma – 6 doctoral students, Prof. Dr Ligia Rusu – 8 doctoral students, Prof. Dr Habil. Virgil Ene-Voiculescu – 7 doctoral students, Prof. Dr Habil. Mihai Constantin Răzvan Barbu – 2 doctoral students, Assoc. Prof. Dr Habil. Dumitru Barbu – 2 doctoral students, Assoc. Prof. Dr Habil. Marian Costin Nanu – 2 doctoral students, Prof. Dr Habil. Sorina Cernăianu – 1 doctoral student, and Prof. Dr Marian Dragomir – 3 doctoral students.

Each PhD supervisor is supported by a doctoral supervision and academic integrity committee consisting of three academic staff members, with at least one member from an institution other than the University of Craiova. Overall, human resources are sufficient to ensure effective doctoral training and research.

Between 2021 and 2025, three doctoral students were expelled, one in the 2025–2026 academic year and two in the 2023–2024 academic year. During the same period, in the doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education within the University of Craiova, a total of 39 doctoral students completed their studies, publicly defending 39 doctoral theses. All graduates obtained the PhD title in Sports Science and Physical Education, with theses evaluated as Very Good or Good, and two of them written in English.

The distribution of defended theses by academic year shows a significant increase in recent years, with a total of 7 theses in 2023, 18 in 2024, and 14 in 2025, reaching an overall total of 39 theses during the analyzed period (Cosma Germina - 11, Rusu Ligia – 11, Orțănescu Dorina – 4, Ene-Voiculescu Virgil – 4, Dragomir Marian – 8, Vasilescu Maria Mirela – 1)

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The external evaluation committee found that the academic staff and PhD supervisors in Sports Science and Physical Education at the University of Craiova are highly trained and experienced, ensuring quality doctoral education and research. All eight active PhD supervisors hold habilitation certificates, and currently, 80% meet CNATDCU minimum standards. Their scientific performance is demonstrated by publications in Web of Science-indexed journals, high Hirsch index scores, and roles on editorial boards and as reviewers for international journals.

Additionally, members of the doctoral supervision and academic integrity committees have relevant expertise in the research areas of the doctoral theses. This ensures appropriate guidance and upholds scientific rigour throughout the doctoral process.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

University of Craiova consistently demonstrates its commitment to the professional and personal development of its staff, recognising the importance of continuous training in maintaining an academic environment of excellence. Teaching staff involved in SDSSU activities benefit from professional development programs offered by the university, such as teaching and training mobilities in the Erasmus+ framework, as well as modern language courses provided by the INTERLINGUA Language Centre.



Several members of the academic staff involved in SDSSU are part of the target group in the project “University of Craiova – New Horizons in the Digital Era”, funded by PNRR (project code 686692395), in which they participate in training courses on digitalisation. Between 2020 and 2025, coordinators from the Doctoral School in Sports Science and Physical Education (DSUD) who are active within SDSSU participated in Erasmus+ teaching and training mobilities at institutions such as the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo and the Université de Lille's Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education. The university actively encourages teaching staff to engage in research activities by offering opportunities such as participation in national and international research projects, publication of scientific papers in specialised journals, and attendance at national and international scientific events. It also supports the organisation of conferences featuring renowned specialists from Romania and abroad.

Additionally, the University of Craiova annually recognises outstanding research achievements of its teaching and research staff at the Research Gala, thereby increasing academic visibility and motivation.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evaluation committee finds that the University of Craiova places significant emphasis on the professional and personal development of its academic staff, with clearly defined actions and measures to support this development. The staff involved in SDSSU activities benefit from a wide range of initiatives, events, and development opportunities provided by the university.

Furthermore, the university continues its policy of promoting all teaching staff, with a particular focus on young academics, rewards excellence in research performance, and ensures structured pathways for continuous professional and personal development. It also actively supports the improvement of teaching, learning, and assessment methods, adapting them to the evolving profile and needs of doctoral students in higher education.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures	
Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova organises competitive selection processes to appoint candidates to both fixed-term and permanent teaching and research positions, in compliance with current legislation. Recruitment and promotion procedures are implemented transparently, in accordance with national laws and the university’s internal protocols, to guarantee equal opportunity, objectivity, and the maintenance of high institutional standards.

New doctoral supervisors in SDSSU are recruited by obtaining a habilitation certificate in accordance with the IOSUD-UCV methodology and by meeting the membership requirements set out in SDSSU regulations.



- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

UCV demonstrates rigorous legislative compliance in recruitment processes, through methodologies approved at the senatorial level that confer institutional legitimacy to the procedures. The University of Craiova applies recruitment procedures for teaching staff in accordance with legal provisions and internal regulations. The selection and hiring process is transparent and aims to attract well-qualified academic staff who contribute to maintaining a high standard of education and research.

Future directions focus on preserving transparency in the recruitment process for teaching and research staff, as well as on its full digitalisation and integration with institutional IT systems, both of which are essential for improving efficiency.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitization of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation	
The digital transformation process in the organizational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.	
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organizational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova identifies the digitalisation of education and professional training as a strategic priority, aiming to modernise both academic and administrative processes. The institution's information system facilitates information flow, supports decision-making, and optimises resource utilisation. The IT and Communications Service manages this system and is responsible for designing, developing, testing, implementing, and maintaining applications for educational and administrative database management.

Within IOSUD-UCV and SDSSU, the digital transformation process prioritises administrative simplification and service quality improvements for both the academic community and external stakeholders. The university utilises an integrated information system consisting of multiple subsystems and applications to manage doctoral student records, monitor academic progress, track tuition fees, oversee research activities, organise admissions, evaluate study programmes, and provide access to electronic library resources.

A central component of this infrastructure is the Student Information System, which manages data across all study cycles, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and postgraduate programmes. The system records real-time changes to doctoral students' academic trajectories, such as examinations, research reports, interruptions, extensions, supervisor transfers, fee payments, and public defences of doctoral theses. It also generates statistical reports for the Ministry of Education and other authorised bodies, and supports the Doctoral Studies Office in verifying doctoral graduates' data.

Database access is secured and limited to authorised personnel. Each student receives individual credentials to view their academic records and other pertinent information. The university also employs dedicated platforms, including the Student Records System, the Research Portal, and the Admissions Platform.

To ensure academic integrity, all doctoral theses are evaluated using Sistemantiplagiat.ro, a system recognised by CNATDCU. This platform generates similarity reports that indicate the percentage and sources of identified content. The doctoral supervisor, the guidance and academic



integrity committee, and a designated member of the doctoral school analyse and interpret these reports. Procedures, thresholds, and acceptance criteria for similarity reports are governed by the internal regulations of IOSUD-UCV, ensuring adherence to academic ethics and quality standards.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The digital transformation process at the level of IOSUD-UCV and SDSSU significantly contributes to the modernisation and efficiency of administrative and academic activities. Through the implementation and use of IT platforms, administrative procedures are simplified, institutional transparency is enhanced, and the quality of services in both education and research is improved. Communication between doctoral students, supervisors, and administrative staff becomes faster and more efficient, reducing document processing time and increasing access to information.

A major advantage is the automation of administrative processes, which reduces the risk of errors and optimises workflows. At the same time, students' real-time access to their academic data supports better organisation of teaching activities and more effective management of their academic progress.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programs

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study program/s*

The study program is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study program is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organized based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova, through its Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, plays a significant role in advancing academic performance and fostering both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research within Sports Science and Physical Education. Since 2019, graduates have been able to pursue doctoral studies, which ensures academic continuity, as many PhD candidates originate from the university's bachelor's and master's programs.

The doctoral program is structured according to defined learning outcomes and is organised under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). It integrates learning, teaching, research, and assessment activities. The curriculum for the 2025–2029 cohort delineates the academic pathway, disciplines, credits, and objectives, ensuring alignment with domain-specific competencies and the intended graduate profile.

The doctoral curriculum comprises the following components:

* The term "programmes" concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programs contained in a master's/doctoral domain. The term "programme" shall be used hereafter.



- Advanced university studies in the first year (30 ECTS), including mandatory courses such as Research Methodology and Research Ethics, as well as elective courses relevant to the field, such as sports training, exercise physiology, biomechanics, and sports management;
- Research activities conducted over Years I to IV (180 ECTS), integrated into annual training plans and subject to continuous assessment;
- Final assessment (30 ECTS), which consists of the defence of the doctoral thesis before specialised committees.

The program lasts 4 years (8 semesters) and comprises 240 ECTS credits. It is supported by an experienced academic staff with both national and international recognition. The teaching structure is systematically organised, and doctoral progress is evaluated through research projects, scientific reports, and the public defence of the thesis, thereby ensuring the preparation of highly qualified specialists in the field.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The curricular structure of the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education provides advanced, coherent training to develop high-level scientific research competencies. The curriculum comprises mandatory courses on conceptual foundations, research methodology, and the application of contemporary methods for data analysis and interpretation. These courses are delivered within an interdisciplinary framework related to the study of motor activities and physical education.

The program is organised according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), ensuring transparency of the doctoral pathway, curricular flexibility, and alignment with European standards. This structure facilitates academic mobility and integration into national and international research networks. Scientific research activity, conducted under the supervision of doctoral advisors, constitutes the core component of the program and is complemented by the dissemination of research results. ECTS credits are awarded for these activities in accordance with the requirements for achieving minimum scientific performance standards.

- ✓ Recommendations
 1. Update the course description to clearly highlight the course objectives and learning outcomes.
 2. Update the bibliography in the course description.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. Alignment of the curriculum with the qualification

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competencies

In the curriculum design and development process, the organizational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.

Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competencies required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The expected learning outcomes of the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education align with the competences required for field-specific occupations and adhere to both national and European occupational standards. These outcomes correspond to the Romanian Classification of Occupations (COR) and the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification (ESCO). They are explicitly defined in official curricular documents and operationalised through the curriculum and course descriptions.

The competences developed in the program are directly linked to relevant occupations in sport, physical education, sports management, research, and functional recovery. These include roles such



as researcher in physical education and sport, research assistant, sports structure administrator, sports program coordinator, and sports facility manager. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the progressive and integrated development of theoretical, methodological, and applied competences through research-oriented content and the practical application of knowledge.

The 2025–2029 curriculum is structured to address both current and emerging professional and scientific demands in Sports Science and Physical Education. It incorporates contemporary approaches to sports training optimisation, physical education, recovery, and functional rehabilitation, alongside advancements in digitalisation, innovation, and the promotion of active and healthy lifestyles.

The doctoral program structure ensures coherence among qualification level, targeted competences, course content, teaching methods, and assessment procedures. It offers advanced and rigorous training aimed at developing analytical, research, and scientific investigation skills, thereby supporting doctoral students' integration into academic, research, and professional environments at national and international levels.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The expected learning outcomes are directly aligned with the requirements of the EQF/CEC and the CNC level 8 qualification, specifically for doctoral studies. This correlation ensures the relevance of doctoral training to the labour market and compliance with the field's professional requirements. The learning outcomes, structured across the dimensions of knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy, are aligned with the key, professional, and transversal competences stipulated in the framework regulation.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.3. Student-centered learning, teaching and evaluation

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles	
The organizational component implements the principles of student-centered learning.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organizational component ensures the implementation of the student-centered learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The organisational structure of the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education is founded on student-centred learning principles, which are integrated across the curriculum, teaching, research, and assessment activities. These principles, articulated in official curricular documents, are designed to tailor the educational process to each doctoral student's specific needs, interests, and objectives. The program fosters doctoral students' autonomy in both learning and research, allowing them to determine their research directions and develop individual projects under the guidance of a doctoral advisor. The curriculum incorporates activities focused on independent research, advanced study, and the cultivation of critical and analytical thinking skills.

Personalised guidance and continuous academic support are provided through regular meetings, individual counselling, and ongoing feedback from both the doctoral supervisor and the guidance and academic integrity committee. Course descriptions outline activities that emphasise individual study and the enhancement of research competencies.

The program employs modern, interactive teaching and learning methods, including case studies, applied experiments, motor performance analyses, digital tools, simulations, academic presentations,



and scientific debates. These approaches foster active engagement among doctoral students and support the development of critical and interdisciplinary research perspectives.

Research is systematically integrated into the teaching process, with activities aimed at developing original, interdisciplinary projects whose outcomes are disseminated in academic and scientific forums. Doctoral student assessment is flexible and formative, relying on presentations, research reports, individual projects, and original contributions, with an emphasis on progress and competence development.

Doctoral students have access to a range of academic resources, including international databases, digital libraries, and contemporary educational platforms. The curriculum is structured to facilitate the development of advanced research competencies, the application of digital technologies, and the integration of interdisciplinary approaches within Sports Science and Physical Education.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education supports the development of advanced research competencies by employing contemporary scientific investigation methods, digital tools, and interdisciplinary approaches. Course descriptions include updated resources, a recent bibliography, and applied activities based on real data and modern technologies relevant to sports and educational research.

Teaching resources are provided via the Classroom platform, supporting individualised study and tailoring the learning process to each doctoral thesis topic. The program emphasises the exploration of contemporary subjects, including digital performance assessment, functional recovery, and the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle.

- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.3.1.2	The organizational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programs organized in person and/or virtually.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education at IOSUD-UCV is supported by a comprehensive infrastructure that facilitates international academic mobility, primarily through Erasmus+ agreements. The Erasmus+ and International Relations Office at the University of Craiova coordinates these activities by managing interinstitutional agreements, selecting participants, providing administrative support, and ensuring the academic recognition of mobility periods.

Doctoral students may participate in Erasmus+ research mobilities and international conferences and scientific events, with the option to receive reimbursement of participation fees. Details about the annual calendar, eligibility requirements, and application procedures are regularly disseminated via the university website and institutional email.

All completed mobility activities are formally recognised as components of the individual doctoral research plan and are documented in annual progress reports with the approval of the doctoral supervisor. The university also guarantees equal access to mobility opportunities for students with special needs.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

IOSUD-UCV ensures transparent, equitable, and non-discriminatory access to international mobility programs, in accordance with the principles of internationalisation and equal opportunities.



Doctoral students in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education may select mobility opportunities relevant to their research topics, thereby enhancing the quality of their doctoral theses and increasing the international visibility of their research outcomes.

Engagement in research placements and international conferences fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, develops intercultural competencies, and strengthens scientific communication and presentation skills within international contexts.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness	
The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The Commission founded that SDSSU, in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education, promotes an organisational culture based on equity, inclusion, and respect for diversity, ensuring equal access to training, research, and professional development opportunities for all doctoral students. These guiding principles are outlined in the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Institutional Regulation for the organisation and conduct of doctoral university studies within IOSUD-UCV, as published on the University of Craiova's website.

IOSUD-UCV facilitates the integration of doctoral students by providing non-discriminatory access to educational and research resources, such as international databases, the Classroom platform, the digital library, and ICT infrastructure. Academic and psycho-pedagogical counselling services are also available through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre. Furthermore, the university infrastructure is designed to meet accessibility requirements, including access ramps, dedicated parking spaces, and clear signage.

The university also organises cultural, sports, and social activities accessible to all doctoral students, including those with special needs. These initiatives foster an inclusive and participatory academic environment.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

SDSSU consistently applies the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, ensuring equal access for all doctoral students to educational resources, research infrastructure, and academic, psychological, and professional support services. The doctoral program respects the diversity of learning styles through a range of teaching methods, including face-to-face activities, hybrid sessions, online modules, workshops, and individual mentoring.

Curricular flexibility and the support provided by doctoral supervisors and guidance committees allow the personalisation of each doctoral pathway according to the objectives and research topic of every doctoral student. At the same time, the active participation of doctoral students in decision-making structures and their academic and professional integration are encouraged. The university continues to support equitable access to education and research opportunities, including by allocating dedicated places to candidates from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).



The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of the resources and support services, adequate for learning

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services

The organizational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.

Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organizational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organization of the study program.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova is committed to supporting students with adaptation or learning difficulties, as well as those with disabilities. Support includes reduced accommodation fees, as outlined in the university's Admission Regulations and dormitory accommodation policies.

Doctoral students in Sports Science and Physical Education have access to modern digital and institutional infrastructure, including electronic resources, ANELIS PLUS scientific databases, the digital library, and Google Classroom. Google Classroom is used to share teaching materials, research resources, and academic activities. The UCV Library also regularly organises workshops on scientific documentation and academic writing.

Respect for academic ethics is ensured through the guidance and monitoring provided by doctoral supervisors and SDSSU, in accordance with the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Plagiarism and the Code of Ethics and Professional Deontology. The verification of the authenticity and originality of scientific papers and doctoral theses is carried out using Sistemantiplagiat.ro, a platform recognised by CNATDCU.

The university provides psychological, professional, and career counselling through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre. Doctoral students' progress is monitored through individual meetings, periodic reports, and structured feedback from the guidance and academic integrity committees.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The University of Craiova offers educational resources, digital platforms, and support services specifically designed for doctoral studies. This infrastructure fosters student autonomy and supports high-quality scientific outcomes.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The learning outcomes for the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education are defined and assessed in accordance with the level 8 descriptors of the National and European Qualifications Frameworks. The program emphasises advanced research skills, critical thinking, and innovation. These outcomes are communicated clearly to doctoral students and supervisors through institutional documents, including course descriptions, regulations, contracts, and thesis guidelines, all accessible on the SDSSU website and in program annexes.

The SDSSU Doctoral School Council organises learning outcomes into three core dimensions: knowledge, skills, and responsibility or autonomy. These dimensions ensure advanced expertise in Sports Science and Physical Education, the use of modern research methods, and the development of academic conduct grounded in integrity, professional responsibility, and scientific autonomy.

Learning outcomes are fully integrated into the curriculum and course descriptions. They are reviewed and discussed annually with doctoral students and supervisors to ensure shared understanding of educational objectives. Alignment among competencies, training activities, and assessment methods supports a rigorous, predictable doctoral pathway that meets ARACIS standards and European academic requirements.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

Learning outcomes are clearly defined in course descriptions and aligned with level 8 professional and transversal competences of the National Qualifications Framework. They address current requirements in Sports Science and Physical Education, focusing on sports performance optimisation, physical education, and medical rehabilitation.

The doctoral program maintains alignment with field developments and socio-economic demands by regularly reviewing and updating course descriptions and the curriculum.

- ✓ **Recommendations**
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

At SDSSU, learning outcomes in Sports Science and Physical Education are assessed through a coherent, transparent, and rigorous system that adheres to University of Craiova regulations, the Doctoral Thesis Writing Guidelines, and Order no. 3020/2024.

The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education uses modern, applied assessment methods tailored to research in motor activities, sports performance, physical education, and functional recovery. During advanced training, students are evaluated through scientific presentations, debates, empirical study replications, case analyses, and research projects in both general and specialised courses. All assessment criteria, requirements, and materials are provided via Google Classroom to ensure transparency and equal access.

During the individual research program, doctoral students' progress is monitored annually through research reports and evaluations of dissemination activities. The doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee review and approve these assessments.

Completion of doctoral studies requires several mandatory stages, including verification of academic ethics and integrity, originality checks of the thesis using Sistemantiplagiat.ro, pre-defence before the guidance committee, a 90-day public consultation period, and public defence before a specialised committee with internal and external IOSUD-UCV members.



These procedures ensure objective assessment, uphold high scientific standards, and support academic recognition of the doctoral degree in Sports Science and Physical Education.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The assessment process within SDSSU in Sports Science and Physical Education is based on transparency, fairness, and academic rigour. It ensures consistency between program objectives, learning outcomes, and assessment methods. The evaluation system continuously monitors doctoral students' scientific and professional progress through annual research reports and the assessment of dissemination activities, including publications, conference participation, and academic involvement.

The procedures for thesis verification and public defence fully comply with national and institutional standards regarding academic integrity, originality, and scientific quality. At the same time, the digital platforms used throughout the process ensure full traceability and accurate documentation of all assessment stages.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the journey, recognition and equivalence of studies, and result certification

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission	
The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The organizational component applies the admission procedures.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova, through IOSUD-UCV and SDSSU, conducts a transparent, rigorous, and non-discriminatory admission process for doctoral candidates in Sports Science and Physical Education. This process follows institutional regulations published on the IOSUD-UCV and SDSSU websites. Candidates receive comprehensive information on admission requirements, research topics, evaluation criteria, interview schedules, and competition procedures.

Admission is held in two sessions: July for international candidates from non-EU, EEA, or Swiss Confederation countries, and September for Romanian candidates. The application process is conducted entirely online through the EvStud platform, with user guides and explanatory videos available for support.

Admission to the Sports Science and Physical Education doctoral program includes two assessments: a doctoral research project presentation and a B2-level language proficiency exam. Candidates are evaluated on three criteria: quality of the research project and presentation (50%), academic performance at the bachelor's and master's levels (40%), and prior scientific experience, such as publications and conference participation (10%).

Doctoral schools propose admission committees, which are approved by the rector. Final results are validated by the University Senate and published using anonymised candidate codes. The process upholds equal opportunity, transparency, and academic quality.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The doctoral admission process in Sports Science and Physical Education at SDSSU is transparent, fair, and merit based. Procedures and criteria are clearly defined and meet national and European



standards. Candidate selection considers research projects, academic background, scientific achievements, and language skills. The online platform provides easy access and minimises administrative barriers.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission in higher education study programs complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishment of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The admission process for doctoral programs within IOSUD-UCV, including Sports Science and Physical Education through SDSSU, follows the Admission Regulations for Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral Studies for the academic year 2025–2026. These regulations guarantee equity, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination in access to education.

According to Article 50 (p. 24) of the Admission Regulations, doctoral studies are open to Romanian citizens, citizens of EU Member States, EEA countries, the Swiss Confederation, as well as British citizens and their family members covered by the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, under the same legal conditions and tuition requirements applicable to Romanian candidates. In addition, Article 64 (pp. 27–28) allows the participation of ethnic Romanian candidates residing abroad and Romanians everywhere.

SDSSU ensures transparency and inclusiveness by publishing all relevant information on the IOSUD-UCV admission webpage. This includes admission regulations, requirements, available study places, proposed research topics, doctoral research project templates, candidate evaluation sheets, and interview schedules. The IOSUD-UCV online admission platform facilitates equal access to applications and ensures GDPR-compliant publication of results using anonymised candidate codes.

According to Article 69 (p. 29) of the Admission Regulations, admission results are verified and approved by the Council for Doctoral University Studies to ensure fairness and integrity. Admission to doctoral studies may be full-time or part-time, on state-funded positions with or without scholarships, tuition-fee positions, or other legally established funding sources, as specified in Article 47 and Annex 8 (p. 64) of the Regulations.

After the completion of the admission process, each enrolled doctoral student signs a Doctoral Studies Contract regulating their rights, obligations, and individual educational pathway.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The SDSSU doctoral admission process is based on fairness, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination. Transparency is ensured through the online admission platform, which provides access to information and results. Reserved places for Romanians abroad and non-EU candidates under the CPV system demonstrate the institution’s commitment to inclusion and accessibility.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students The organizational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.



Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organizational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

IOSUD-UCV, through SDSSU, facilitates the academic and professional development of doctoral students by offering a flexible structure for doctoral studies. In accordance with the Regulations on the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral Studies within IOSUD-UCV and the SDSSU Regulations, doctoral students are permitted to complete, extend, shorten, interrupt, or resume their studies, including through re-enrollment, based on personal or professional circumstances (IOSUD-UCV Regulations, Art. 28).

The professional and academic activity of doctoral students is regulated by institutional provisions, while doctoral programs aim to develop professional, cognitive, research, and transversal competences (IOSUD-UCV Regulations, Art. 18).

In the field of Sports Science and Physical Education, the doctoral program organised within SDSSU includes an advanced university training program and a scientific research program carried out under the supervision of a doctoral advisor. By accumulating transferable credits from both components, doctoral students obtain a total of 240 ECTS, in accordance with the doctoral curriculum.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

SDSSU has established a clear process to efficiently manage doctoral students' academic and career paths, in compliance with national laws and IOSUD-UCV policies. The rules clearly explain when students can pause, extend, or restart their studies, and the opportunities to study in other places, both nationally and internationally. These rules help maintain continuous doctoral training, protect students' rights, and ensure that all students have fair access to quality doctoral education.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalization process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalization	
Improving the quality of education and research through internationalization actions.	
Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organizational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The international activities at SDSSU in Sports Science and Physical Education have greatly increased the program's global recognition and cooperation in both teaching and research. These efforts have been supported by Erasmus+ exchange programs, partnerships with other countries, attending international conferences, and the active participation of doctoral supervisors and students in worldwide academic and research groups. Through the Erasmus+ Office of the University of Craiova and IOSUD-UCV, mobility agreements have been established with universities from Norway, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Bulgaria, and Cyprus, supporting both doctoral students and academic staff mobility. Doctoral supervisors participated in teaching and training mobilities, while also promoting the doctoral programs offered within SDSSU.

Between 2021 and 2025, SDSSU organised several workshops and academic events involving internationally recognised experts. A representative example is the workshop "Advanced Sports



Equipment: Innovation or Technological Doping?” delivered by Professor Toni Arndt from the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences in Stockholm. Doctoral students were actively engaged in international academic activities. For example, doctoral students Albină Andreea-Mihaela and Buga Andreea-Aurora-Maria participated in the 2024 International Summer School on Knowledge-Driven Innovation and Entrepreneurship organised by the University of Luxembourg. In addition, doctoral student Emil Minoiu completed an Erasmus mobility at the University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, in 2022. The international scope of the doctoral program was further enhanced by a Memorandum with IOHSK, which supports interdisciplinary research and offers scholarships for students in Sports Science and Physical Education. Through this collaboration, Popescu Daniela received an IOHSK scholarship in the 2022–2023 academic year.

The international visibility of doctoral supervisors is also reflected in their scientific publications indexed in international databases such as Clarivate Analytics and Google Scholar, their Hirsch index, participation in scientific committees of international journals and conferences, reviewer activities for WoS-indexed journals, and membership in international professional associations. These achievements strengthen the international profile of doctoral education and research in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

SDSSU, in Sports Science and Physical Education, implements the University of Craiova's international policies through academic partnerships, Erasmus+ exchanges, and participation in international projects and conferences. These activities help make doctoral programs meet global quality standards and improve the research and cross-cultural skills of doctoral students and academic staff.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process	
Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalized upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study program.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

At SDSSU, doctoral students in Sports Science and Physical Education are actively engaged in research and sharing their findings. Participation in scientific conferences and publication of research articles are mandatory for thesis defence, in accordance with the standards set by Order no. 3018/13.01.2025 of the Ministry of Education.

Doctoral training incorporates inquiry-based learning within both the advanced university curriculum and the individual research program. This program involves preparing and presenting four research reports throughout the doctoral stage, participating in conferences, publishing articles in internationally indexed journals, and undergoing regular evaluations of their scientific progress.

Between 2020 and 2025, all doctoral students prepared and defended research reports, which were evaluated by supervisory committees with the approval of their doctoral supervisors and in compliance with academic ethics. No instances of scientific misconduct or ethical violations occurred. All defended theses were validated by CNATDCU and approved by the Ministry of Education. The thesis's originality is verified using the Sistemantiplagiat.ro platform.



Each year, SDSSU and FEFS organise the international conference “Physical Exercises – A Complex and Modern Way to Promote Healthy Living,” where doctoral students present their research. Their papers are published in internationally indexed journals, and outstanding presentations receive awards.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

Doctoral students at SDSSU in Sports Science and Physical Education regularly share their research by presenting them at international conferences and publishing in internationally recognised journals, both independently and with their supervisors. Research and research-based learning activities align with the objectives of the institutional Scientific Research Strategy. These activities are supported by access to international scientific databases, modern research infrastructure, laboratories, and advanced software tools for evaluation and monitoring. Doctoral training also benefits from the expertise of supervisors, academic guidance and integrity committees, and the enforcement of academic ethics and integrity regulations.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study program
The organizational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study program.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalized upon in an adequate manner.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

SDSSU, as part of IOSUD-UCV, supports advanced research in Sports Science and Physical Education at both national and international levels. Doctoral supervisors meet the current CNATDCU standards required for the habilitation certificate. Academic staff and doctoral students share their research at well-known conferences and scientific sessions, and publish in internationally indexed journals such as Web of Science and ERIH.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

SDSSU shares its research in Sports Science and Physical Education through publications in internationally indexed journals, participation in leading international conferences, organizing workshops and doctoral symposiums, and collaborating with research institutions such as INCS Bucharest. These efforts demonstrate the applied, interdisciplinary, and international focus of the research, which addresses economic and social needs. Publishing doctoral theses further enhances the visibility and scientific impact of these results.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.



Criterion C.1. Quality assurance strategies and procedures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, which involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied in a consistent, transparent manner

Standard S.C.1.1. Application	
Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures	
indicator C.P.I.1.1.1	The organizational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study program

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The evaluation committee found that the Quality assurance is an important goal for the University of Craiova and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SDSSU), and it is fully part of the doctoral training in Sports Science and Physical Education. Quality management is carried out through a clear set of internal rules and procedures that follow ARACIS standards and the principles of the European Higher Education Area.

The groups in charge of quality assurance — the Quality Management Department, the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission, the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), and the SDSSU Council — regularly follow the institution’s rules about internal reviews, organising doctoral studies, and academic ethics. This work is supported by clear guides and methods, such as thesis-writing instructions, lab-use rules, and research ethics guidelines for working with people, all updated annually and available on the institution’s website.

Teaching and research activities are regularly evaluated through feedback surveys, performance reviews, and ongoing updates to study materials and facilities. These actions have helped improve the doctoral program, shown by the rising number of doctoral theses approved by CNATDCU without rejections from 2021 to 2025, more publications listed in BDI and Web of Science databases, and the active involvement of doctoral students in scientific conferences.

The consistent implementation of quality assurance procedures has strengthened institutional performance, doctoral students’ satisfaction, and the academic visibility of research results.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The quality assessments conducted by the University of Craiova and FEFS ensure the educational process for the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education is clear and consistent. These checks include regularly reviewing teaching and research activities, frequently updating study materials, and continuously training academic staff to maintain high academic standards aligned with the curriculum and the changing academic and social environment. The quality assurance process is supported by the teamwork between the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission and the Quality Management Department of the University of Craiova. This helps build a culture focused on good performance, avoiding problems, and constantly improving education and research.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement	
The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.	
indicator C.P.I.1.2.1	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.



- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education actively involves stakeholders through transparent, participatory institutional processes. Doctoral students have representatives in academic leadership groups, including one on the Doctoral School Council and two on the Council on University Studies (CSUD), allowing them to participate directly in decision-making and in improving educational activities.

FEFS and SDSSU regularly hold meetings and workshops with representatives from public institutions and the business sector to discuss the skills needed in the job market and the future directions of doctoral research topics. At the same time, doctoral students' feedback is regularly gathered through surveys and used to find and apply ways to improve.

The doctoral program also strengthens its international dimension through constant academic collaborations with universities and research centres in the European Union, helping to create a competitive research environment aligned with European standards.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education currently demonstrates a mature and well-structured approach to stakeholder involvement. Formalised mechanisms for consultation, continuous dialogue, and feedback analysis ensure the ongoing alignment of the educational process with developments in the academic environment, labour market, and socio-economic demands. The active representation of doctoral students within relevant decision-making structures, including the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission (CEAC), supports continuous curriculum adaptation, improved educational services, and increased student satisfaction. At the same time, collaboration with international partners helps align the doctoral program with European standards and integrate best practices in quality assurance and academic ethics.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, according to the law

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation	
Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organizational structures adequately perform their specific roles and functions.	
indicator C.PI.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The evaluation committee found that University of Craiova has set up a strong system of rules and structures to promote ethics in academics, including for the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education. The Ethics Commission operates under its own rules that outline its duties, processes, and the way it makes independent decisions. Members of the Commission act in accordance with promises to be fair and to keep information private, ensuring that evaluations are unbiased and that sensitive information is protected.

The university provides the academic community with a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to promoting ethical conduct. The university offers the academic community many resources to



encourage ethical behaviour, such as the University of Craiova Code of Ethics and the Ethical Guidelines for Students, which explain expected behaviour and the rights and duties of university members. Also, the Ethics Commission produces annual reports that describe its work, the cases it has handled, and the actions it has taken, helping the institution remain open and responsible. The Commission also addresses Plagiarism, which establishes institutional measures and responsibilities aimed at protecting academic integrity and reducing plagiarism risks in teaching and research activities.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The University of Craiova adopts a systematic and accountable approach to managing ethical issues, grounded in explicit procedures, institutional regulations, and effective monitoring mechanisms. The Ethics Commission operates within a transparent, independent, and professional framework, while procedures for verifying compliance with ethical standards, such as plagiarism checks for scientific papers, are fully embedded in institutional practice. These measures help prevent academic misconduct and reinforce academic integrity and credibility, as documented in the Ethics Commission's annual reports.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Procedures for the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of the study programs and domains and of the performed activities, involving students, employers and other stakeholders

S.C.3.1 Standard. Procedures and implementation of procedures	
The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programs and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.	
Indicator C.P.I.3.1.1	The organizational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The process of initiating, monitoring, and reviewing doctoral study programs within SDSSU and IOSUD-UCV is regulated by the Procedure for the Annual Internal Evaluation of Doctoral Schools and the Regulations on the Organisation and Functioning of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies 2024–2025, approved by the Senate of the University of Craiova. These procedures provide a transparent and rigorous framework for developing and evaluating doctoral programs.

The initiation of doctoral programs is based on labour market analysis, comparative studies of national and international academic offerings, and consultation with stakeholders. Proposals are approved by the SDSSU Council, the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), and the University Senate.

Monitoring doctoral activities involves periodic reports from supervisors and guidance committees, analysis of students' progress, evaluation of research outcomes, and use of digital tools like the Student Records System and the Online Training Portal. Program reviews rely on quality assurance reports, ARACIS recommendations, and feedback from supervisors and doctoral students.

Implementing these mechanisms has contributed to diversifying research topics, improving doctoral students' scientific performance, and strengthening the quality of the doctoral program. This is reflected in conference participation, scientific publications, and the validation of doctoral theses.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled



The University of Craiova applies a well-structured institutional approach to the initiation and monitoring of doctoral programs, with a focus on quality, relevance, and adaptability. Continuous collaboration with employers, public institutions, professional organisations, and socio-economic partners enables doctoral programs to align with labour market requirements and the real needs of society. This cooperation contributes to increasing the relevance of research topics and to the development of doctoral students' applied competencies.

- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator C.P.I.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The process of initiating, monitoring, and reviewing the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education at the University of Craiova is carried out within a participatory, well-structured framework that actively involves doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, academic staff, and institutional partners. Doctoral students are represented in the main academic governance structures: one representative on the Administrative Council, doctoral students representing 25% of the Senate, two representatives on the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), and one representative on the Doctoral School Council (CSD). This structure enables doctoral students to participate directly in decision-making processes and in the continuous improvement of the doctoral program.

The SDSU community includes doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, guidance committee members, the director and members of the Doctoral School Council, IOSUD and CSUD administrative staff, as well as internal structures such as the Ethics Commission and the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission (CEAC). At the same time, the doctoral program collaborates with external stakeholders, including graduates, employers, professional organisations, socio-economic and institutional partners, ARACIS, and CNATDCU. The monitoring and improvement of the doctoral program are carried out through the periodic administration of feedback and satisfaction questionnaires to doctoral students, thematic consultations with academic staff, and the analysis of improvement proposals submitted by all stakeholders. Continuous collaboration with employers, professional organisations, and academic institutions helps adapt research topics to the current requirements of the academic and socio-economic environments.

The effectiveness of this participatory model is reflected in the diversity of doctoral research topics, their practical applicability, and their alignment with labour market and societal needs.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The analysis of how this process operates highlights the maturity and coherence of the institutional mechanisms governing the doctoral program. The structures involved — doctoral supervisors, guidance committees, the Doctoral School Council, doctoral student representatives, administrative staff, and external stakeholders — actively contribute to the continuous monitoring of the program through annual reports, periodic evaluations, feedback questionnaires, and consultation meetings.

- ✓ Recommendations
- Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.4. Procedures for the periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching staff,



auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative staff

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures
Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.

Indicator C.P.I.4.1.1 The organizational component analyzes the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The evaluation of academic staff involved in the doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education is conducted regularly through an established system that reviews both teaching and research work. Each year, doctoral students provide feedback through questionnaires, which is an important part of the evaluation. This feedback assesses how well supervision is delivered, how clear academic feedback is, staff's professional skills, and the support provided for doctoral research.

The evaluation results are collected and reviewed by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) and the Doctoral School Council. These results help create plans to improve teaching and research. Meanwhile, academic staff and supervisors participate in training and development activities, such as workshops and lectures delivered by international experts, focusing on research methods, academic ethics, and the use of digital tools to manage doctoral work.

By using these evaluations and ongoing professional development, the Doctoral School helps maintain high-quality supervision and ensures that individual academic work remains in line with institutional standards.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evaluation process for academic staff in the doctoral program is clear and transparent, in line with the institution's quality standards. Each year, doctoral students complete surveys to rate their satisfaction with their supervisors, guidance committees, and teaching quality.

Evaluation results identify strengths and areas for improvement, helping to continuously refine teaching methods and supervision. Regular staff reviews assess professional and scientific skills, teaching quality, research, and adherence to academic ethics.

Academic staff and supervisors also participate in professional training organised by the doctoral school, which helps them update their skills and adapt to changes in methods and technology in academia and research.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases
The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator C.P.I.5.1.1 The organizational component systematically collects and analyzes data required for the internal quality assurance process.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova uses integrated information systems to monitor and manage academic, administrative, and research activities, enhancing the efficiency of quality assurance. Student admission, records management, scholarship administration, staff payroll, research management, and academic documentation are fully digitalised.



The Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) and SDSSU systematically collect and analyse data on doctoral students' activities, supervisors, research outcomes, and participant satisfaction. These digital tools support a transparent and well-documented quality assurance process, providing a strong foundation for internal and external audits.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

At the University of Craiova and within SDSSU, a combined system for data collection and analysis is used through internal digital platforms to track research work and doctoral students' progress.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including those regarding the study programs and domains offered, and transparency regarding the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency	
The organizational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organizational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study program.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova and SDSSU promote transparency and accessibility for doctoral programs through the IOSUD-UCV and SDSSU websites. These platforms offer comprehensive, up-to-date information on admissions, regulations, study programs, research plans, activities, tuition fees, scholarships, facilities, and course schedules.

The websites also provide details on relevant legislation, publications, mobility opportunities, thesis defence criteria, announcements, and habilitation procedures. By maintaining these channels, the institution enhances transparency, visibility, and access to information, which helps build public trust in the quality of its doctoral programs.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

IOSUD and SDSSU offer public access to key information about doctoral studies through dedicated sections on their institutional websites. These sections include details on SDSSU management, doctoral supervisors, areas of expertise, contact information, CVs, admission procedures, research topics, thesis requirements, regulations, study contracts, program structures, summaries of upcoming thesis defences, and examination schedules.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator C.PI.6.1.2	The organizational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

SDSSU and IOSUD-UCV make their decision-making clear by posting admission results, the makeup of doctoral committees, and yearly activity plans on their websites. Decisions and rules regarding doctoral studies are created and shared in accordance with public responsibility and current laws.

The institution shares information openly and clearly, in accordance with the SDSSU Regulations. Decisions made by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) and SDSSU are sent by email to doctoral supervisors, students, and others involved, such as guidance committees, academic honesty committees, and public thesis defence committees, while fully respecting GDPR rules on personal data protection.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

Transparency in decision-making processes is achieved by publishing institutional decisions and regulations and adhering to established communication protocols. Disseminating the decisions of the Administrative Council and the University Senate maintains a coherent regulatory framework and enhances stakeholders' trust in the fairness and openness of these processes. This practice encourages active participation within the academic community and reinforces the principle of public accountability in academic governance.

- ✓ Recommendations
Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by law.	
Indicator C.PI 8.1.1	The organizational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organize the evaluated study program as provided by the law.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova periodically undergoes external evaluation processes conducted by ARACIS, in accordance with national legislation and international quality standards in higher education. These evaluations play an essential role in validating the quality of study programs and supporting institutional development. Following the external evaluations carried out in 2009, 2015, and 2021, the University of Craiova obtained the qualification "High Degree of Confidence."

All bachelor's study programs and master's degree fields have also been externally evaluated and have maintained their accreditation status. Within SDSSU, procedures for external quality evaluation are implemented and coordinated across all doctoral fields, including Sports Science and Physical Education, to ensure compliance with national and international standards.

The doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education was externally evaluated by ARACIS in 2021, and the evaluation report was favourable, confirming the quality of the educational and research processes carried out within SDSSU.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analyzed performance indicator, to justify judgment on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled



The external quality evaluation process is conducted in partnership with ARACIS, which assesses the accreditation requirements and academic performance of the study program to ensure compliance with national legal and quality standards.


✓ Recommendations

Not applicable (N/A).

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengths: ✓ SDSSU has doctoral supervisors with national and international recognition who are involved in European scientific projects and research networks and have extensive experience supervising doctoral theses and attracting research funding. ✓ The doctoral program promotes internationalisation by involving foreign academics and researchers in academic activities, offering international mobility opportunities for doctoral students, and allowing doctoral studies and thesis defences in English. ✓ The university provides modern research infrastructure, including laboratories, scientific databases, and electronic research platforms, as well as advanced digitalisation of administrative and academic processes. ✓ The doctoral program is clearly defined and aligned with ARACIS and CNATDCU standards. It supports administrative efficiency and the continuous development of academic quality. ✓ Doctoral students benefit from financial support for conference participation and publication in indexed journals within an active, flexible academic environment, supported by workshops, international conferences, and a curriculum adaptable to current research 	<p>INTERNAL FACTORS</p> <p>①</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #fce4d6;">Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The small number of international teachers and doctoral students diminishes the program's overall international feel. ✓ Some physical resources and research tools, such as specialised software and top scientific databases, are not sufficiently developed to fully support advanced research. ✓ International visibility is limited by the low number of doctoral theses written in English and the primarily local focus of some research topics. ✓ Evaluation and doctoral monitoring processes remain partially bureaucratic and insufficiently digitalised, which may reduce the efficiency of academic and research activities.
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trends.		
SWOT analysis		
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expanding international partnerships and participating in European research networks strengthen academic collaboration and international visibility. ✓ Access to European funding supports infrastructure modernisation, digitalisation, and academic competitiveness. ✓ International mobility programs and training opportunities provide development prospects for doctoral students and supervisors. ✓ Collaboration with external institutions promotes the development of interdisciplinary and applied research. ✓ Implementing European standards on academic integrity and digitalising processes improves academic quality and transparency. 	 EXTERNAL FACTORS	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Decreasing funding for research and education may limit infrastructure development and support for doctoral activities. ✓ The migration of human resources to international universities and research centres may affect the attractiveness and continuity of doctoral programs. ✓ Increasing competition among universities, both nationally and internationally, may influence doctoral student recruitment and the attraction of research projects. ✓ Frequent legislative and bureaucratic changes may affect the stability and efficiency of doctoral program management.

V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	IPA1.1.1 For delivering the study program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational components and an adequate management system, which operates based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	IPA1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.	F	
3.	IPA2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an	F	



No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.		
4.	IPA2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	IPA3.1.1 The human resources of the organizational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study program/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	
6.	IPA3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
7.	IPA3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	IPA4.1.1 The organizational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	IPB1.1.1 The study program is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organized based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the course description to clearly highlight the course objectives and learning outcomes. 2. Update the bibliography in the course description.
10.	IPB2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competencies required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	IPB3.1.1 The organizational component ensures the implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
12.	IPB3.1.2 The organizational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programs organized in person and/or virtually.	F	
13.	IPB3.2.1 The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	IPB4.1.1 The organizational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process,	F	



No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organization of the study program.		
15.	IPB5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	
16.	IPB5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
17.	IPB7.1.1 The organizational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	IPB7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programs complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishment of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	IPB7.2.1 The organizational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	IPB8.1.1 The organizational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	
21.	IPB9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalized upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study program.	F	
22.	IPB9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalized upon in an adequate manner.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	IPC1.1.1 The organizational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	IPC1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	IPC2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	IPC3.1.1 The organizational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
27.	IPC3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	IPC4.1.1 The organizational component analyzes the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	IPC5.1.1 The organizational component systematically collects and analyzes data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	IPC6.1.1 The organizational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study program.	F	
31.	IPC6.1.2 The organizational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	IPC8.1.1 The organizational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organize the evaluated study program as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Domain Evaluation	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	0	0
Domain B. Educational effectiveness	14	0	0
Domain C. Quality management	10	0	0
Total	32	0	0

Other, general recommendations that were not given within the analysis of a specific performance indicator:

Not applicable (N/A).

VI. Conclusions

A number of important aspects noted during the evaluation are reiterated here, and general conclusions are made about the quality of education delivered within the evaluated doctoral study domain.

General Conclusions:

1. The doctoral program in Sports Science and Physical Education at the University of Craiova demonstrates a coherent academic and managerial structure, aligned with national regulations, ARACIS standards, and European quality assurance principles.
2. The program focuses on practical, cross-disciplinary approaches, covering key topics such as sports performance, physical education, health promotion, and recovery.
3. Ongoing upgrades to digital tools, research spaces, and learning materials have created good conditions for quality doctoral training and scientific research.
4. The increasing number of completed doctoral theses, scientific papers, and international academic partnerships shows positive growth in research success and the program's reputation.
5. Overall, the doctoral program shows steady academic strength, institutional experience, and ongoing dedication to improving quality, offering students a supportive place for advanced scientific and career growth.



Propose and substantiate a decision.

The doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education at the University of Craiova complies with ARACIS standards through qualified academic staff, adequate research infrastructure, effective quality assurance mechanisms, and relevant scientific activity. The positive developments in the doctoral program, reflected in research results, international collaboration, and academic performance, support the continuation of high-quality doctoral studies. Therefore, the evaluation committee recommends maintenance accreditation (MAC) for the doctoral field of Sports Science and Physical Education.

*Following the completion of the accreditation */maintaining accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following :*

- a) **maintaining accreditation** (MAC);

VII. Annexes

* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed with undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorization to operate.