FMIPA UNMUL

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT DATA REPORT (2018–2024)

QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

PHYSICS STUDY PROGRAMME

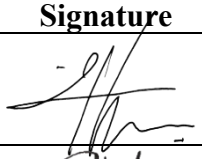
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITAS MULAWARMAN

APPROVAL SHEET

Bachelor of Physics Study Program
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Universitas Mulawarman

This document has been reviewed and approved by the following authorities of the Bachelor of Physics Study Program as part of the internal academic and quality assurance processes.

Name	Role	Position	Signature	Date
Kholis Nurhanafi, M.Si	Document Author	Head of Quality Assurance Unit (UJM)		January 25th 2025
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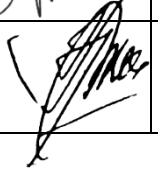
Dr. Djayus, M.T	Document Approver	Head of Physics Departement		January 26th 2025

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Background

The admission rate serves as a critical indicator of the program's attractiveness, competitiveness, and public perception. For the Physics program, continuous monitoring of admission trends is essential to ensure alignment with institutional goals, national education standards, and stakeholder expectations. Despite exceeding the faculty's minimum admission standard of 20% in the past seven years, the program has experienced fluctuating admission rates, with a noticeable decline in recent years. This trend necessitates a systematic evaluation to identify root causes and develop targeted improvement strategies.

This report is developed as part of the academic quality assurance cycle, particularly within the framework of the PPEPP process (Determination, Implementation, Evaluation, Control, and Improvement). By documenting and analyzing admission data, the program fulfills its commitment to evidence-based decision-making and continuous quality improvement, as mandated by both internal academic policies and external accreditation standards.

Objectives

1. To analyze the trends and influencing factors of the Physics progam admission rate from 2018 to 2024.
2. To evaluate the program's performance against the faculty's admission standards as part of ongoing quality assurance efforts.
3. To identify strategic areas for improvement in promoting and positioning the BA Physics program within the competitive higher education landscape.
4. To propose actionable recommendations that support the Peningkatan/Pemutakhiran (Improvement/Updating) phase of the PPEPP cycle in student recruitment processes.

Method

Data collection was carried out through the Directorate of Academic Administration at Universitas Mulawarman. The collected data includes the number of applicants and the number of admitted students for each year. The admission rate was then calculated using the following formula:

$$Admission\ rate = \frac{number\ of\ admitted\ students}{number\ of\ applicants} x100\%$$

Indicator

The admission rate benchmark indicator refers to the Undergraduate Student Admission Standards Document of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Mulawarman, issued in 2020. According to the document, the target selection-to-applicant ratio for undergraduate programs is 1:5, which is equivalent to an admission rate of 20%.

B. ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT DATA

The following data presents the number of applicants and admitted students in the Physics Study Program from 2018 to 2024.

Table 1. Admission and Enrollment Data

YEAR	CAPACITY	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	ADMITTED STUDENTS
2018	52	128	40
2019	50	92	25
2020	45	54	26
2021	35	46	33
2022	49	46	30
2023	45	44	23
2024	37	53	26

C. ANALYSIS AND FOLLOW-UP PLAN

Based on Table 1, the following graph can be presented:

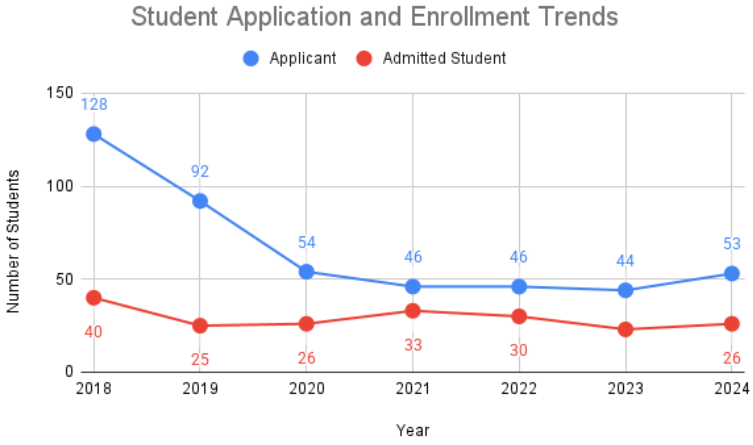


Figure 1. Student Application and Enrollment Trends

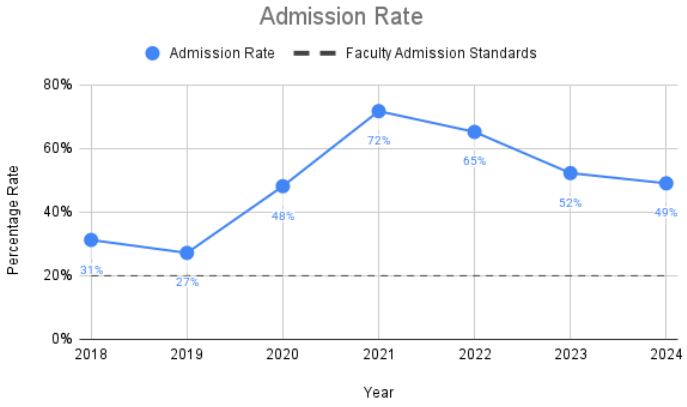


Figure 2. Admission Rate

Based on the trend graph of applicants and admitted students in the Physics program from 2018 to 2024, there has been a significant decline in the number of applicants, from 128 in 2018 to 53 in 2024. This sharp decrease occurred primarily between 2018 and 2020. On the other hand, the number of admitted students remained relatively stable, ranging from 25 to 40

students per year. The admission rate dropped to 27% in 2019, rose sharply during the pandemic (reaching 72% in 2021), and then gradually declined again to 49% in 2024.

In the context of higher education quality management, a lower admission rate generally indicates higher selectivity and more substantial competitiveness of a study program. Therefore, the increased admission rate observed during the pandemic, although still above the faculty's minimum threshold of 20%, suggests a decrease in selectivity due to the substantial drop in applicant numbers. This phenomenon was primarily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2022), which led to restrictions on public activities and shifts in the preferences of prospective students.

In the post-pandemic period, the number of applicants has not fully recovered, and the admission rate has shown a gradual decline, reaching a moderate selectivity level of 49% in 2024. While this downward trend may be interpreted as a positive sign toward higher selectivity, it must be approached with caution, as the trend is driven by a decrease in applicant volume rather than an increase in interest or program quality. If the decline in applicants continues, the apparent selectivity may be misleading and could eventually threaten the long-term sustainability of the program.

In response to the recent trend of fluctuating and declining admission rates in the Physics program, a comprehensive follow-up plan has been developed across three institutional levels: study program, faculty, and university. All proposed actions are directly aimed at addressing the challenge of decreasing applicant numbers and improving admission rate performance. The plan follows a holistic approach grounded in the PPEPP cycle (Establishment, Implementation, Evaluation, Control, and Improvement) within the framework of the Internal Quality Assurance System (SPMI).

At the study program level, the focus is placed on enhancing the competitiveness and public perception of BA Physics through more structured promotional strategies grounded in academic excellence. The development of promotional materials, such as program profile videos, publications of leading research outcomes, and alumni testimonials, is expected to attract more high-quality prospective students. Direct engagement activities such as "Physics Goes to School," science competitions for high school students, and laboratory exhibitions are also planned to broaden the program's outreach. These initiatives aim to increase the number of applicants and, simultaneously, allow the program to become more selective, thereby reducing the admission rate toward an ideal level that reflects strong competitiveness. In alignment with the PPEPP cycle, the study program will also establish annual targets for the admission rate and conduct regular evaluations of factors contributing to fluctuations in admission rates.

At the faculty level, strategic support will be provided in the form of inter-program promotion facilitation and the renewal of facilities related to the university's threefold mission (education, research, and community service). Enhancing the quality of learning spaces, integrated laboratories, and practical equipment is expected to increase the program's attractiveness to prospective students significantly. Additionally, improved facilities for community engagement, such as field education tools and science training infrastructure for partner schools, will strengthen the program's image as a socially active and relevant institution. These measures are expected to increase applicant interest while supporting a more competitive selection process, leading to a better-controlled and more meaningful admission rate.

At the university level, institutional promotion policies and academic infrastructure investments will be implemented to support the efforts of both faculties and study programs in attracting high-quality new students. Centralized promotion strategies based on regional mapping and interest trends will broaden the reach of recruitment campaigns, while the strengthening of the university's public relations and digital media presence will ensure greater visibility of academic programs among the wider public. Investments in technology-enhanced learning infrastructure, such as smart classrooms and learning management systems (LMS),

will further increase the university's overall appeal to prospective students. To support ongoing quality control, the university will also develop a quality dashboard that includes admission rate as one of the institution's key performance indicators (KPIs). In this way, improving the admission rate becomes not only an individual program goal but also an integral part of the university's strategic objective to enhance overall input quality and institutional reputation.

D. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the fluctuating and generally elevated admission rate in the Physics program over the past years, primarily influenced by declining applicant numbers during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, signals a need for strategic, multi-level intervention to preserve and enhance the program's competitiveness. While a lower admission rate is typically associated with higher selectivity and quality, the current figures reflect structural vulnerabilities rather than improved demand. Recognizing this, a comprehensive response involving the study program, faculty, and university has been initiated to restore applicant volume, strengthen public perception, and enhance educational infrastructure. Through targeted promotional strategies, facility upgrades, and quality assurance integration via the PPEPP cycle, this initiative aims to shift the trend toward genuine selectivity driven by increased interest and program excellence, thereby ensuring long-term sustainability and alignment with the university's strategic goals.