

Alberta

Gaming Research

Institute

Introduction

The primary aim of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling. It is achieved through sponsoring research into specific investigator-initiated and stakeholder-identified priorities, building research capacity at the partner Universities, organizing colloquia and conference events, and disseminating information via the library and resource service program and other publication mechanisms, both print and electronic (www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca).

Collaboration among Alberta's principal research universities (University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge) provides the Institute with considerable versatility and the opportunity to match research expertise with specific projects. The Institute also fosters interdisciplinary and inter-university research both provincially and internationally. The Institute is an entity linking policy-makers, community organizations, the gambling industry, other major stakeholders, and the general public in improved understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative hub for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus (8909S HUB Mall) and is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. A full-time Institute Librarian is located at the University of Lethbridge.

Alberta Gaming Research Institute Board

The Institute is governed and managed by a Board consisting of two Directors appointed by and from each partner University and a public member appointed by the Minister. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role to the Board.

Partner Universities

The partner universities that comprise the Alberta Gaming Research Institute are the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. Capacity-building activities related to promoting and developing gambling research are the focus of the partner universities. In addition to promoting specific research initiatives, each University engages a 'node coordinator' whose primary responsibility is to identify and stimulate interest in gambling research and to promote interdisciplinary as well as cross-university and external collaborative arrangements. Institute support for capacity-building includes funding faculty positions and research assistantships, sponsoring visiting scholars, and contributing to researcher establishment costs.

Institute's Vision

An institute that is internationally recognized for its contribution to the scientific knowledge base in gambling research.

Institute's Mission

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society.

Core Businesses

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute has four core businesses:

1. Develop and promote gambling-related research and disseminate results;
2. Develop and sustain gambling-related research infrastructure;
3. Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages; and,
4. Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration.

Core Businesses, Goals, and Key Strategies

Core Business #1: Develop and promote gambling-related research programs and disseminate results

The Institute is actively developing a research program in **four broad academic domains**:

- Bio-psychological and health care
- Socio-cultural
- Economic
- Government and industry policy and practice

Goal	Key Strategies
1.1 Leading-edge research is conducted into each of the four identified academic domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and oversee the conduct of academic research into stakeholder identified key priority areas
1.2 The visibility of gambling-related academic research in Alberta is enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities and support for new academics to conduct research in this field Promote and support interdisciplinary/inter-organizational research across all domains - achieving balance through Board directed /commissioned research eg. Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project (LLL), social and economics impacts of gambling in Alberta (SEIGA), and supporting a Chair in the Economics of Gaming position at the University of Alberta Continue to conduct a peer review process that ensures the quality of research Present scholarly findings and research outcomes to a wide audience (lay and expert) Sponsor, organize, and support conferences, symposia, and colloquia as forums for communicating research outcomes to various stakeholder groups Encourage researchers to publish and promote their research Publish Institute-sponsored research in scholarly journals

Performance Measures			
	Target 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of disciplines and sub-fields represented in gambling-related research 	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of active 	15	15	15

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research grants			
pending completion			
• Number of projects completed	8	10	10
• Number of directed research initiatives (Board directed to balance research program)	5	7	7
• Number of academic papers published in reviewed publications	22	24	28
• Number of academic papers/presentations/posters presented in academic settings	50	50	50
• Number of Institute-(co)sponsored research communications	25	30	30
• Number of attendees at Institute-(co)sponsored research events	150	175	200
• Number of visits to website per year	30,000	32,000	35,000

Core Business #2: Develop and sustain a gambling-related research infrastructure

The Institute has research nodes at each partner University. Their purpose is to identify research opportunities, stimulate faculty interest, and support interdisciplinary and collaborative initiatives. Each node coordinator liaises with other researchers and the Institute's administrative hub. Through a range of initiatives and research affiliations, the Institute Universities continuously develop gambling research capacity in Alberta.

The Institute Library 'Collections and Clearinghouse' program, overseen by the Institute Librarian (with complementary librarian assistance at each of the other Institute Universities), coordinates inter-university and external library reference and information services, collection development, library liaison activities and website currency.

Goal	Key Strategies
2.1 The capacity to undertake gambling-related research at each of the Institute universities is increased	• Maintain researcher-to-researcher link within, among, and outside the Institute Universities
2.2 Provide comprehensive library	• Identify collaborative gambling-related

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resource support

2.3 Develop the research capacity to address each of the domains (with particular reference to Alberta Gaming Research Council identified concerns)

research opportunities

- Ensure Institute presence and representation at each of the Institute Universities
- Maintain tri-university library liaison
- Establish collaborative arrangements with similar Institute collections
- Maintain website currency

Performance Measures			
	Target 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12
• Number of experts/researchers engaged in gambling-related research funded by the Institute	60	62	64
• Number of undergraduate and graduate students engaged in gambling-related research	55	58	60
• Number of university courses with gambling educative component	12	12	12
• Number of developmental (small grant) awards to promote gambling research	5	5	5
• Enrollment numbers in university courses with gambling-related component	350	400	450
• Number of library queries	120	125	125
• Number of scholarships and research allowance awards granted to graduate and doctoral	3	5	5

Core Business #3: Establish and encourage national and international gambling-related research linkages

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute is committed to achieving national and international recognition for its role in building the knowledge base in gambling-related research.

Goal	Key Strategies
Strong collaborative links are forged with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gambling research and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the services of outstanding academic peer reviewers Identify, initiate, and develop mutually beneficial national and international collaborative research initiatives Host regular conferences on stakeholder identified issues in Alberta Present workshops on gambling-related research Participate in national and international conferences to ensure Alberta-based research is presented and the Institute profile is promoted Pursue awards for gambling research and/or Institute Communicate role of Institute and contribution of sponsored research

Performance Measures			
	Target 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12
• Number of available peer reviewers from outside Alberta	125	18	130
• Number of out-of-province academic researchers /experts involved in Institute activities (workshops, conferences, etc.)	30	35	38
• Number of inter-organizational collaborative projects	6	7	8

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• Number of individual recipients of newsletters, annual reports, report cards	500	625	650
• Number of media queries/interviews/articles	200	225	250
• Number of consultations by Institute-based researchers/experts with associated organizations	70	75	80
• Number of Institute associated organizations	25	28	30

Core Business #4: Establish and efficiently conduct gambling-related research governance and administration