

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 building research capacity at the partner Universities, sponsoring specific research initiatives, 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 researchers 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 improving understanding of the impacts of gambling.

The operational/administrative hub for the Institute is located on the University of Alberta campus (4-05H, University Extension Centre) and is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and half-time Administrative Assistant staff it. 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 the Chair of the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The Executive Director serves in an advisory role to the Board.

Alberta Gaming Research Council

The Alberta Gaming Research Council is a broad-based advisory group to the Minister of Gaming. The Council is made up of representatives from the gaming industry, the Aboriginal community, youth, seniors, law enforcement, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Gaming, and Alberta Health and Wellness. The Council was established to provide advice and guidance for the research activities of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute.

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 gaming and gambling research are the focus of the partner universities. In addition to promoting specific research initiatives, each University employs 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, 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 programs;
2. Develop and sustain gambling-related research infrastructure;

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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***

The Institute is active in 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct and disseminate leading-edge research into each of the four identified academic domains • Develop the research capacity to address each of the domains (with particular reference to Alberta Gaming Research Council identified concerns) • Enhance the visibility of gambling-related academic research in Alberta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities and support for new academics to conduct research in this field • 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 • Ensure that a peer review process enhances the quality of research.

Performance Measures			
	Target 2002-2003	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of disciplines and sub-fields represented in gambling-related research 	8	10	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of research 	25	28	31

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grants pending completion (cumulative)			
• Number of projects completed	7	9	11
• Number of academic papers published in reviewed publications	10	12	15
• Number of academic papers presented in academic settings	15	18	23
• Number of Institute-(co)sponsored research communication events	6	8	10
• Number of attendees at Institute-(co)sponsored research events	350	500	500

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.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacity to undertake gambling-related research at each of the Institute universities • Provide comprehensive library resource support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain researcher-to-researcher link within, among, and outside the Institute Universities • Identify collaborative gambling-related 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 2002-2003	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005
• Number of researchers engaged in gambling-related research	32	35	38
• Number of graduate students engaged in gambling-related research	5	7	10
• Number of undergraduate courses with gambling educative component	10	12	15
• Number of undergraduate students exposed to gambling research	150	200	300
• Number of library queries	50	75	100
• Number of visits to website per month	400	500	600

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
Forge strong collaborative links with national and international scholars and organizations involved in gaming/gambling research and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the services of outstanding peer reviewers • Publish Institute-sponsored research in scholarly journals • Identify, initiate, and develop mutually beneficial national and international collaborative research initiatives • Host regular conferences on Council

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

Performance Measures			
	Target 2002-2003	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005
• Number of reviewers from outside Alberta	50	60	75
• Number of out-of-province academic researchers involved in Institute activities (workshops, conferences, etc.)	25	40	60
• Number of inter-university collaborative projects	5	7	10

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

The principal administrative responsibilities include managing the peer review and grant award processes, promoting gambling research within and among the partner universities and with their national and international affiliates, organizing and promoting Institute events (symposia, conferences), writing communiqués and a bi-monthly newsletter, maintaining the content of the website, and communicating research results.

Goals	Key Strategies
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively administer Institute resources to maximize research results • Communicate the status of current research and events to stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer annual research grant process • Ensure accountability of Institute funds • Complete formal communications regarding the management of operations • Ensure timely and appropriate communications mechanisms including newsletter, library service delivery, website information, conference proceedings, news items, etc. |
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Performance Measures

	Target 2002-2003	Target 2003-2004	Target 2004-2005
• Number of new grant applications submitted	18	20	22
• Number of print copies of newsletter distributed	16,300	16,500	17,000
• Number of central office queries (website, phone, in person)	25	40	60
• Number of promotional items	20	25	30