

AME Research Module Evaluation Guidelines  
Last Updated 4/15/2009

AME allocates resources and tech team time to AME Research Modules on a yearly basis. This yearly cycle ensures that module members can formulate and carry out their research plans and provide a structure for student progress and research. To be considered an AME Research Module, the team must meet all of the three primary criteria listed below. As modules continue year-to-year, there is the expectation that each module will increasingly contribute to AME's collaborative research mission, moving from a formative stage to a mature stage over a period of years. Modules can opt to disband at the end of a given year with the expectation that there should be as little disruption to student progress and research as possible.

1. A module must contribute to the growth of the AME mission (principle: advancing use-inspired research)
  - What are the areas of contribution?
    - i. Contribute to at least two experiential media research areas:
      1. Sensing
      2. Perception and Modeling
      3. Interaction Architectures
      4. Interaction and Feedback
      5. Experiential Construction
    - ii. Contribute to at least one of the following areas of societal impact:
      1. Health
      2. Education
      3. Communication
      4. Creativity
      5. Sustainability
  - How do we define the types of contribution?
    - i. Creation and presentation of a high quality demo
    - ii. Creation of functional and embedded experiential media system
    - iii. Generation of module, cross-module, and unit-level external funding streams
      1. Module, cross-module, and unit-level funding streams must include multiple AME faculty members
      2. At least one such proposal should be submitted each year
    - iv. Creation of high-quality/high-impact research products
    - v. Contribution to the AME courses and educational mission
    - vi. Contribution to the success and growth of the overall AME community
  - What is the expectation of contribution?
    - i. Major – 4 or more types of contribution
    - ii. Standard – 3 types of contribution
    - iii. Supportive – 2 types of contribution
2. A module must have membership by two or more AME faculty (principle: collaborative research)
  - Faculty membership is defined as:
    - i. Serving as either primary or secondary advisor to a student in the module
    - ii. Taking a lead role on at least one research product during a given year that represents the research agenda of the module

3. At least two faculty members in each module must have membership in one or more other modules in order to promote cross-module collaboration and larger contributions (principle: a network of research)

*Expectations for yearly progress:* Typically, AME Research Modules will grow from a formative to a mature stage of activity over a period of several years. As a guideline, in Year 1, a module should achieve a supportive level of contribution. In Years 2 and 3, a module should achieve a standard level of contribution. In Years 4 and beyond, a module should consistently achieve a Major level of contribution. Over the span of any given 2-3 years, modules will be expected to fulfill *all* six of the criteria in order to ensure breadth of contribution. Beyond the success of any individual module, the expectation is that modules will also contribute to the overall growth and success of AME as a unit.

There are two important funding milestones during each academic year, when offers are made to incoming students and later when renewal offers are made to continuing students. At this first milestone, using the AME Eval system the research committee will conduct an initial assessment of the modules to identify any potential issues with their progress. Subsequently, AME research modules may be asked to submit additional documentation of yearly progress and contributions along with a growth and sustainability plan. Progress toward this plan will be assessed before the second milestone when final funding and resource allocations are made.