

Providing a university email account to retired professors is essential facilitator for their productive active aging

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There are several reasons why continued access to a university email account can be considered essential facilitator of productive and active aging for retired professors:

1. *Maintains academic identity and affiliation.* A university email address signals an ongoing connection with the institution, helping retired professors remain recognized members of the academic community rather than becoming isolated after retirement.
2. *Facilitates scholarly collaboration.* Many research collaborations, manuscript exchanges, grant discussions, and conference communications rely on institutional email. Continued access allows retired professors to contribute their expertise to ongoing projects.
3. *Supports mentoring and knowledge transfer.* Retired professors often supervise or advise graduate students, mentor early-career academics, and respond to requests for expert opinions. Institutional email provides a trusted and stable communication channel.
4. *Preserves access to professional opportunities.* Invitations to seminars, conferences, editorial boards, peer review, alumni activities, and departmental events are frequently distributed through university mailing lists that require an institutional email address.
5. *Promotes digital inclusion.* Maintaining access to institutional digital services helps retired professors remain engaged with modern communication technologies, reducing digital exclusion—a recognized component of active aging.
6. *Encourages continued societal contribution.* Many retired professors remain scientifically and socially productive through publishing, consulting, volunteering, participating in professional societies, and contributing to public policy. Institutional email supports these activities by facilitating communication and collaboration.
7. *Enhances psychological well-being.* Feeling connected to one's academic institution and professional network can strengthen a sense of purpose, belonging, and continued usefulness, all of which are associated with successful and active aging.

From the perspective of the [World Health Organization's Active Ageing framework](#) (2014), continued participation in social, economic, cultural, and intellectual activities is central to active aging. While an institutional email account is not an end in itself, it is an important piece of digital infrastructure that enables continued participation. The concept of productive aging emphasizes the ongoing contribution of older adults through paid or unpaid work, volunteering, mentoring, and knowledge sharing. For

retired professors, an institutional email account is the gateway to these contributions.

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Providing a university email account to retired professors is a highly effective, low-cost strategy to support active aging and maintain valuable institutional knowledge. Retaining this digital connection benefits both the retiree and the university.

Benefits for Retired Professors

- *Academic Continuity*: Allows seamless access to research journals, submission portals, and peer-review networks.
- *Professional Identity*: Preserves their hard-earned professional affiliation and credibility when corresponding globally.
- *Social Connection*: Prevents sudden isolation by keeping them linked to departmental news, seminars, and colleagues.
- *Mental Engagement*: Facilitates ongoing mentorship of students and collaboration on new grants or publications.

Benefits for the University

- *Institutional Prestige*: Capitalizes on the continued research outputs and publications published under the university's name.
- *Mentorship & Continuity*: Retains a pool of experienced grant reviewers, guest lecturers, and student advisors.
- *Alumni Relations*: Fosters goodwill and encourages legacy giving or philanthropic support from retired faculty.

Implementation Best Practices

- *Security Protocols*: Require multi-factor authentication (MFA) to protect the university network from cyber threats.
- *Clear Eligibility*: Define criteria for the benefit, such as reaching official retirement age or holding "Emeritus" status.
- *Annual Renewal*: Implement a simple annual check-in process to deactivate accounts that are no longer being used.