Decisions to accept or reject a manuscript are based on the initial editorial screening and the recommendations of expert reviewers.

1. Desk rejection

Editor-in-Chief evaluates manuscripts upon submission before sending them out for external peer review.

- The topic does not fit the journal's aims, scope, or target audience.
- Fatal flaws – the study design is inappropriate, data is invalid, or the work lacks originality.
- Formatting or ethical issues – the paper fails to follow the author guidelines (usually, the manuscript is sent back for adjustment), exceeds the word or reference limits, or raises concerns in plagiarism checks.

2. Criteria for acceptance

A manuscript moves toward acceptance when it passes technical checks and satisfies core academic standards:

- Originality – it presents novel findings and makes a significant contribution to the field.
- Methodology – the research question, study design, data collection, and analysis are rigorous and correct.
- Clarity and compliance – the writing is clear, properly referenced, and adheres to ethical and editorial policies.
- Revision fulfillment – authors successfully address all concerns raised by peer reviewers during multiple revision rounds.

3. Criteria for rejection

Reviewers recommend and editors finalize rejection when a manuscript suffers from unfixable problems:

- Fundamental errors – flaws in logic, experimental design, or data analysis that cannot be resolved through rewriting or minor data addition.
- Ethical violations – plagiarism, fabricated data, or undisclosed conflicts of interest.
- Inadequate revision – authors are unable or unwilling to make the substantial changes requested by the review panel.