

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Kobe City College of Nursing



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Hyogo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kobe City College of Nursing

Overview

Kobe City College of Nursing (hereafter, the College) was founded by the City of Kobe as a college with a single faculty, the Faculty of Nursing, in 1996, a year after the Great Hanshin Earthquake, in response to the citizens' hope for better medical care. The College's mission is "to educate nursing professionals capable of contributing to health, medical care, and welfare in their local communities." Thereafter, the College made efforts to enhance undergraduate education, established the master course in 2000 and the doctorate course in 2006 in the Graduate School of Nursing.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the College has made efforts to improve ongoing issues, such as implementing faculty development (FD) activities in the Graduate School of Nursing; facilitating completion of the master course within the standard course terms; reconsidering the system for examining theses in the graduate school; and improving the research environment by allowing faculty members sufficient time to research, reconsidering the library's hours of operation, and building a review system for self-inspection as an organization.

In this accreditation, it is commendable that, since 2013, the College has maintained connections with local citizens by contributing to local community activities. The theme "Collaborating with Local People in Creating a base of Community Care" and participation of local residents in the classes, have facilitated improvements in educational methods that led to a variety of practical learning effects on students. In addition, one strong feature of the College is that it tackle with providing education to enhance practical nursing skills. In the master's program, the College has established seven CNS (Certified Nurse Specialist) courses, and has made efforts in education for cancer nurse specialist.

However, there is room for improvement in the graduate schools, specifically in the high ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap in the doctorate course, and in the lack of basic ideas about educational content and methods in the curriculum design policy. Moreover, although the Future Planning Committee stipulated an action plan in 2014, and each committee made plans and conducted evaluations based on that plan, the College has not correctly addressed the current situation. JUAA expects that hereafter, by working on self-inspection, the College will make the system work and resolve these issues in order to grasp, analyze, and evaluate information appropriately in the Self-Inspection Committee and achieve improvements.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the College has conducted activities that contribute to the local community and has provided an education where students acquire practical skills both on and off campus. For example, in such subjects as Health Education, Home Care Nursing, Disaster Nursing II, and Healthy Life Nursing Practicum, the College incorporates local volunteers who participate as mock patients, a practice that has improved the implementation methods through discussions and training with the volunteers. In "Machino Hoken Shitsu" (Town Health Care Program), the College conducted practical education in the community by providing health support, child-rearing support, and mental and physical consultations to local citizens.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Nursing, the curriculum design policy does not indicate basic ideas about content and method of education. This should be improved.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 2.28 in the doctorate course in the Graduate School of Nursing. This number should be improved.

Internal Quality Assurance

- While the Future Planning Committee stipulated the action plan of the College in 2014, and the other committees articulated the plans for several activities and reviewed the activities based on the action plan, the College has not addressed the current situation correctly, and several issues still exist in the ability of the internal quality assurance system to function well. It is expected that, to implement independent self-inspection as a college, the College will correctly grasp the current situation in the Self-Inspection Committee and improve the function of its internal quality assurance system.