

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

Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences

Overview

The Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences (hereafter, the University) was established as a pharmaceutical college with a single department, the Department of Pharmacy, in 1977, located in Niigata city, Niigata Prefecture. It established the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences in April 2002 with a new additional campus in Niitsu, and it currently operates as a university with the two faculties mentioned above and two graduate schools, the Graduate School of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences. The University engages in its educational and research activities as the only university with a Pharmacy Faculty in Niigata Prefecture.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University, together with its faculty and staff, has made concerted efforts successfully to support its students by developing a system of faculty advisors and constructing a student learning support system called “Portal Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences (Portal-NUPALS)” that utilizes information and computer technologies. Moreover, the University is unique in that it has made efforts to promote social contribution of the University’s centers to local community through their education and research based on the University’s mission. However, the University still needs to address several issues related to its educational content, methods, and learning outcomes. JUAA hopes that the University will make efforts to improve this situation by implementing a functional self-study system.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the University has taken initiatives to enhance students’ self-directed learning. In particular, it has introduced a university-wide, student leaning support system, “Portal Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences (Portal-NUPALS),” that utilizes information and computer technology. The system has been especially effective in the Faculty of Pharmacy, where it has been used as a resource for students to prepare and review classes through audiotaped lectures and lesson materials. In addition, it keeps and maintains learning portfolios of the fifth year students’ clinical practicum reports, and by using this system students can prepare for the national pharmacist certification examination.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has established three centers to connect it to local communities and that each has functioned well to obtain good results by understanding the needs of local communities and industries. For example, the “Educational Collaboration Center” offers lectures for secondary school students to take initiatives to enhance the interests of younger generations in science. The “Education and Research Center for Advanced Pharmacists” has also offered training opportunities such as “Life Long Education for Pharmacists” for graduates of the University and local pharmacists. Each year the Center has been able to gather more than five hundred participants. Further, the “Liaison Center for R&D Promotion” has actively conducted joint research projects with local industries and local governments.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Pharmacy, the policy for awarding degrees does not state learning outcomes at the time of program completion. This situation should be improved.
- The maximum number of credits students can register for per year has not been set in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences. It should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- The Graduate School of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences do not implement their distinctive, systematic faculty development programs to improve educational content and methods. This should be improved.
- In the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Applied Life Sciences, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the institute before completing the dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the university. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have the enrollment states, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral programs, the university should create measure to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.