

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

Nagaoka Sutoku University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2033)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Nagaoka Sutoku University

Overview

Nagaoka Sutoku University was established in 2019 with the aim of supporting people's health and well-being and contributing to regional healthcare, with its educational goals set forth under the principle of "Sutoku" – revering virtue, honoring benevolence, and valuing courtesy. The University maintains systematic efforts with three educational goals of fostering well-rounded character traits, acquiring advanced expertise, and contributing to the community.

Establishing and effectively operating an internal quality assurance system is vital to these efforts, but there is no connection between the internal quality assurance policy and the rules and regulations, with the actual system working differently. This situation reveals issues with the University's overall internal quality assurance activities. The University must comprehensively review the authority and other aspects of the president and internal organizations, and restructure the system to ensure its internal quality assurance activities.

The University designs curricula with the achievement of the diploma policy as the top priority. Specifically, first-year subjects are arranged to foster students with well-rounded character traits and ethics and to consolidate their basic academic skills, followed by specialized subjects from basic to advanced levels for students to study in an incremental and systematic way. The curriculum policy, however, fails to clarify the basic concept of curriculum implementation, such as concrete teaching methods. The assessment policy is also insufficiently used to monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes and make educational improvements. In addition, the University lacks an organizational structure aimed at constantly improving its curricula and teaching methods. These issues should be addressed.

The University's average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years and ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are hovering at low levels. The University also faces financial challenges in the balance sheet ratio for project activities and the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund. Moreover, the authority and roles of the faculty council need to be reviewed. The University should continue its active steps for improvement by appropriately inspecting and assessing these situations.

While there are many areas of improvement the University should address, various approaches have been adopted to improve the teaching methods, such as introducing VR devices. The Extensive Reading Trial in English helps students improve their English skills. The University is also committed to education and research initiatives that include establishing a small-group advisory system to provide specifically designed student support. While valuing these initiatives, the University is expected to respond appropriately to various issues and engage in educational and research activities in a more stable and progressive way.

Suggestions for Improvement

Teaching and Learning

- The Faculty of Nursing does not specify the basic concept of curriculum implementation in the curriculum policy. This issue should be addressed.
- The University's vague assessment policy results in inadequate monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes. The University should address this issue by reviewing the assessment policy, introducing methods to adequately monitor and evaluate the learning outcomes, such as the DP Evaluation Table, in line with the diploma policy, and establishing and operating institutional research (IR) functions that include data gathering and analysis, thereby promoting educational improvements.

Management and Finance

- The school code and the Nagaoka Sutoku University Governance Code define the faculty council's authority and roles in line with the purpose of the School Education Act, but the council actually deliberates and makes decisions, raising questions as to the University's management in accordance with the school and governance codes. This issue should be addressed with the faculty council's authority and roles redefined and properly managed.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- There is no connection between the internal quality assurance policy and the rules and regulations, with operations conducted apart from them, highlighting the inadequate operation of the internal quality assurance system. The University must undertake a fundamental overhaul of the internal quality assurance mechanism by comprehensively reviewing the authority and other aspects of the president and internal organizations, and revising the rules and regulations. In this way, the University is expected to ensure systematic operation of the internal quality assurance activities.

Student Enrollment

- The average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years is low at 0.75 in the Faculty of Nursing, and the faculty's ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is also low at 0.73. In response, the University has formed the Public Relations 80 Project of university-wide and is carrying out improvement measures, such as establishing a new financial aid program, promoting open campus events, and enhancing high school visits and information dissemination. It is recommended that the University continue these measures to ensure further improvement.

Management and Finance

- The University's balance sheet ratio for project activities remains in the red, due partly to ongoing insufficient quota fulfillment since its founding, and the entire school corporation's ratio is also in the red, with the exception of some fiscal years. The ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund also falls short of satisfactory levels and remains persistently low. These conditions reveal that the University is far from establishing a solid financial base to sustainably conduct educational and research activities. It is recommended that the University make drastic improvement efforts under specific management and budget plans.